



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FOR LINCOLN COUNTY**

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MICHELLE BRANAM
District Attorney

JW HUPP
Chief Deputy District Attorney

March 20, 2015

The Honorable Senator Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee
The Honorable Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair of Public Safety Sub-Committee
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97310-4048

Re: Implementation of HB 3194 in Lincoln County

To: All Concerned Individuals,

I would like to provide some information regarding the role of the Lincoln County District Attorney's Office in regards to ensuring that the anticipated avoided costs from the sentencing reforms enacted in 2013's HB 3194 are being achieved.

The Lincoln County District Attorney's Office has not requested any of the 2013-15 Justice Reinvestment Fund revenue. We fully support Lincoln County Community Corrections' use of these funds in achieving the following objectives:

- To provide a Specialized Parole and Probation Officer to coordinate and monitor the community based programs and structured transitional leave programs.
- To fund evidence-based programs designed to reduce recidivism that include a balanced administration of sanctions, supervision, and treatment.

If more Justice Reinvestment Funds were available to our county, we would invest in housing and treatment resources. There is a critical shortage of beds available to the offenders currently being supervised, which causes long wait lists. Additional funds would be used to provide housing and treatment for offenders so that they would no longer be on the streets or in our jail system.

Using other grant opportunities and resources, Lincoln County has developed and committed to programs such as Drug Court and Hope Court. Drug Court, for instance, is a drug treatment court utilizing evidence-based practices to help drug addicted persons become sober and responsible. The program provides individualized and intensive guidance and supervision, effective and sustained addiction treatment, as well as access to a comprehensive range of interrelated treatment and

recovery support services. This framework promotes recovery, health, and safety for substance abusing persons, their children, and others, and helps supervised offenders decrease criminal conduct, thereby reducing the likelihood that they will return to our prison system. Additionally, Lincoln County supports a fully operational HOPE Court as well. This specialized court is designed to allow offenders a "last chance" before sending them to prison. Every participant in our HOPE Court would, without this program, be serving days in the State Corrections system.

These programs and our efforts in this office coordinating with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Lincoln County Community Corrections, Oregon State Police, the Toledo Police Department, the Lincoln City Police Department, the Newport Police Department, and our other county partners and justice stakeholders are all part of our collaborative community response to criminal conduct and our endeavor to be effective in reducing crime and holding offenders accountable.

Thank you for taking the time to read about Lincoln County's balanced approach to public safety. Please let me know if you have any questions I can be reached at 541-265-0260.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Branam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Branam".

Michelle Branam
Lincoln County District Attorney