



**The Dalles**    **Hood River**  
318 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street    965 Tucker Road  
The Dalles, OR 97058    Hood River, OR 97031  
541-296-8118    541-386-6665  
info@nextdoorinc.org    www.nextdoorinc.org

---

February 21, 2017

RE: Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) hearing on February 22, 2017

Dear Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Committee members,

Please support the OYA requested budget, which includes a critical rate increase for Behavioral Rehabilitation Service (BRS) programs.

Since 1971, The Next Door, Inc. has been providing therapeutic foster care for behaviorally challenged youth, most recently for those in BRS programs. We have had a contract with OYA for almost two decades. Our Klahre House School provides day treatment, mental health therapy and alternative education for 10-20 teenage boys at any given time. We have been rated 'highly effective' by OYA for the past ten years, which means that the recidivism rate of the youth who leave our care is very low. There is no better benefit to our society than to work with youth and be able to turn them around to be productive members of society before they become adults.

However, feeling positive about our work only gets us so far. A 16-month process of three state agencies, youth, advocates, CCO's and providers identified a 30% rate gap between current rates and what it costs to serve these youth. The Governor's Recommended Budget has included a rate increase for OYA providers.

In the past two years, 23 Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) contracts have been given back to OYA and DHS because of low rates, which are exacerbated by extremely challenging regulatory oversight and risk management for highly traumatized children and their behaviors.

Please help us to continue to provide these necessary services to our most vulnerable youth by approving a long overdue rate increase.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Hamada, MSW  
Executive Director