

Memorandum

February 14, 2020

To: Oregon Senate President Courtney, Oregon House Speaker Kotek, Oregon Legislators
Fr: Kelley Minty Morris, Klamath County Commissioner

Re: Building the Klamath Crimson Rose Center

The Klamath Crimson Rose Center: Klamath County's project to build a new residential treatment center for teenage female clients from the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA).

Fiscal status: Based on architectural estimates, Klamath County is requesting **\$12** million in lottery funds from the Legislature in the 2020 session. The legislature committed **\$1** million in 2017 and Klamath County committed a **\$1** million match.

What is Klamath Crimson Rose?

Klamath Crimson Rose (KCR) is an intensive residential treatment program for teenage girls from OYA. Klamath Crimson Rose is a Klamath County program, but all beds are under contract to OYA. KCR clients are OYA girls from all over Oregon.

KCR specializes in gender-responsive behavioral health care and substance abuse treatment. The program is currently located in a living unit in the Klamath County juvenile facility. Program capacity is nine beds. The proposed KCR project will build 16 bedrooms in residential homes with enhanced educational, vocational, and recreational spaces.

How does Klamath Crimson Rose benefit the State of Oregon?

By providing intensive behavioral treatment, KCR diverts OYA girls into community living in foster care, shelter programs, independent living, and client's families, instead of corrections. Without intensive residential treatment, these clients are at risk of commitment to OYA's correctional facility for girls at Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility (YCF).

How does Klamath Crimson Rose save Oregon money?

In diverting girls from YCF beds, Klamath Crimson Rose helps OYA with correctional capacity for girls. OYA corrections placement costs the State of Oregon **\$321** per day per client. OYA pays Klamath Crimson Rose **\$270** per day per client, but 74% of the funding (\$200) is reimbursed to OYA from Federal BRS program Medicaid funds. OYA funds pay **\$71** per day.

Why create more residential treatment beds for girls?

The percentage of girls in Oregon's juvenile justice system is currently **36%** of all youths referred to county juvenile departments. Providing alternatives to corrections for female clients is an OYA priority. OYA has a philosophical interest in diverting girls from costly correctional confinement to effective treatment in community settings.

How effective is Klamath Crimson Rose?

KCR diverts **80%** of clients away from OYA Youth Correctional Facility placement.

Does residential treatment save money?

With only nine beds, Klamath Crimson Rose (KCR) currently stabilizes approximately **40** clients a year. If held in a youth correctional facility, those **40** clients would cost OYA **\$321** per day per client, or **\$4,686,600** per year.

After Federal Medicaid reimbursement, community-based programs like KCR cost OYA **\$71** per day per client. At **\$71** per day, those **40** clients cost Oregon **\$1,036,600** per year.

Correctional placement of those **40** clients in a YCF would cost the State of Oregon **\$3,650,000 more each year** than placement in treatment programs like KCR.

Why is Klamath Crimson Rose effective?

Klamath Crimson Rose (KCR) provides intensive evidence-based gender-responsive treatment for female clients in a safe, gender-specific residential setting. Most residential programs were developed for male delinquents. Female clients have specific needs.

All KCR staff are women. All mental health providers are female. KCR uses evidence-based materials designed to enhance trauma-informed care and specifically designed for the rehabilitation of teenage girls.

What construction is proposed?

Klamath County proposes to demolish an obsolete wing of the county juvenile detention building and replace it with new residential beds in home-like settings designed to enhance behavioral health, independent living, and educational programs. The new construction proposes to enlarge the program capacity from nine to **16** beds.

Why the construction would enhance success.

Currently, KCR is housed in a converted detention unit that lacks space for individual counseling, vocational, and educational programs. The unit is small, limiting program activities. The planned KCR Center will make it possible to open additional treatment and educational opportunities and conduct multiple services simultaneously, serving a greater number of clients.

The 2020 Lottery Bond request is \$12,000,000: how were costs estimated?

In mid-2019, ORW, a Medford architectural firm, conducted a thorough review of the project. ORW downsized the square footage of the project by **20%**. ORW estimated total project cost with labor and materials escalation through 2021 at **\$14,000,000**. This includes demolition, architectural work, and new construction through final finish.

Klamath County is requesting **\$12** million from lottery bonds in the 2020 session. The project was awarded **\$1** million in lottery bonds in 2017. In 2018, Klamath County pledged a **\$1** million match. If the legislature awards **\$12** million in 2020, the project will be completed and clients admitted to the new KCR Center in the summer of 2022.

Is there a need for greater capacity? KCR currently receives more client referrals from OYA than it can satisfy. In 2018, the program received 94 client referrals from OYA, but could only accept 45 clients due to limited bed space.

Why is this a good investment for Oregon?

Given that **36%** of juvenile caseloads involve female offenders, Oregon must create effective treatment program opportunities to divert female OYA clients out of the correctional system. Otherwise, more young women will cycle into the correctional system and costs will escalate.

Why support Klamath Crimson Rose (KCR), a Klamath County program?

Klamath County has a unique network of services supporting this model of care.

- KCR networks with an experienced mental health provider - Klamath Basin Behavioral Health (KBBH), an agency with 25 years of youth care experience.
- A Family Nurse Practitioner and RN provides daily medication management.
- Educational program is provided by the Klamath Falls City School District.
- The Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls hosts an Applied Psychology undergraduate program and Master's program in Family Therapy. Students work closely with KCR: some have been recruited to KCR staff.
- The residency program of Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) facility in Klamath Falls provides medical services and counseling to KCR clients.
- The Klamath County Public Health Department provides health information to clients.

In short, a unique network of professionals work together with KCR staff to provide OYA's female clients with intensive gender-responsive, trauma-informed behavioral health, medical, and educational services making KCR effective.

Klamath Crimson Rose: Resilience, Opportunity, Scholarship, Empowerment

These young women are Oregon's children. They aspire to contribute to Oregon's future.

Klamath County is investing in improving these young women's lives. We need the Oregon Legislature to join us. Please support the construction project to expand effective behavioral treatment and educational opportunities for these young women.

Thank you,

Kelley Minty Morris
Klamath County Commissioner
541-883-5100
E-Mail: kmorris@klamathcounty.org