

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Oregon Youth Authority Small Living Unit Outcomes

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Gorsek

On Monday, February 14th, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Oregon Youth Authority on small living unit outcomes.

Historically, OYA's close custody facilities have been budgeted on 25 youth per living unit. The 2021-23 legislatively approved budget funds the operation of 26 living units in nine facilities throughout the state with an anticipated population of 15-20 youth per living unit. This increased staff-to-youth ratio moves OYA closer to being within the staffing standards of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 1:8 during the day and 1:16 at night.

As part of this report, OYA has identified three proposed metrics for measuring the benefits of smaller living units:

- 1) Increase in youth and staff safety - which will be measured through behavioral data recorded in the Juvenile Justice Information System.
- 2) Increase in positive youth engagement - which will be measured through quantified hours spent in education or vocational services, work experience, or treatment recorded in the Juvenile Justice Information System.
- 3) Increase in youth skill acquisition - which will be measured through the individual case plans for each youth that identifies twelve skills or competencies around psychosocial maturity in youth.

OYA plans to include a report on progress for these metrics during the agency's budget presentation to the legislature in the 2023 legislative session.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.