



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

# An Overview of the Work of Oregon's 36 County Juvenile Departments

House Judiciary Committee  
Juvenile Justice Informational Hearing  
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# Oregon's Juvenile Justice System

- Oregon has a decentralized juvenile justice system with local county juvenile departments funded in each of the 36 counties.
- The 36 county juvenile departments and the Oregon Youth Authority are the governmental agencies providing primary direct services for delinquent youth.
- County Juvenile Departments manage over 90% of all youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System, and less than 7% are committed to the care and custody of OYA for residential and/or youth correctional facility placements.
- The county juvenile departments and the OYA partner to provide interventions for youth who have complex needs (through Diversion and Individualized Services Funding)
- The Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), the statewide case management system, is operated by OYA through a partnership with County Juvenile Departments, providing one integrated information system for both county juvenile departments and the OYA.
- County juvenile departments are unique in serving as a bridge across other child-serving systems and the juvenile justice system.

# Oregon's Juvenile Justice System

- At the local level county juvenile departments provide sanctions and services to youth ages 12-17, who are referred primarily for law violations by law enforcement agencies.
- Juvenile departments conduct intake services and determine dispositions for cases referred. They decide whether to proceed informally in lieu of formal court action or in the case of more serious referrals to file petitions before the juvenile court.
- Juvenile departments work with local district attorneys to develop local practice in-regards to how this process will take place.
- In 2019, county juvenile departments provided informal and formal supervision of approximately 6,000 cases.

# Oregon's Juvenile Justice System

- With the more serious referrals delinquency petitions are filed in Juvenile Court moving towards an adjudication. If the juvenile court takes jurisdiction over the youth through the court process, the judge may place the youth on formal supervised probation. The judge will order certain conditions and requirements that are designed to prevent further penetration into the juvenile justice system and include a range of supervision, accountability and reformation services.
- Youth offenders who are unsuccessful on county probation or have committed very serious crimes and are found to present a serious risk to the community may be committed to the custody of the Oregon Youth Authority for placement in a residential or youth correctional facility.

# Assessing Risk, Service Matching, and Case Plans

- Risk – definition of “risk” is specific to the “risk to commit another crime”.
- The risk factors and needs of youth are assessed using the Juvenile Crime Prevention Risk Assessment (JCP), a tool that has been validated with Oregon youth
- The JCP is used to match individual youth to the appropriate level of intervention
- The information learned in the assessment process helps the juvenile department counselor determine the right service at the right time to meet the individual needs of a particular youth, and to develop a case plan.
- The case plan is designed to address the behaviors and factors that are driving the delinquency, and to promote positive youth development, and reduce future delinquency.

# Probation Services

- Assessing Risk
- Investigating the circumstances of the youth and family
- Making recommendations to the Court to address accountability, victim, skill development
- Developing and updating case plans as part of initial and ongoing case management
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions
- Connecting youth and families to services
- Monitoring and supporting change, holding youth accountable, and promoting public safety

# Community Based Programming

Community Based Programming may be utilized with Diversion/informal juvenile department supervision as well as probation

- Community-based diversion programs such as teen/peer Courts, and accountability boards
- Victim/Youth Dialogues
- Community Service/ Work Crews – job skill development, attachment with adults
- Family support, advocacy, engagement, and navigation services
- Education supports and reconnection to school
- Evidence Based Groups
  - Girls Circle/Boys Council
  - Aggression Replacement Training, Multi-systemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy
  - Classes – drugs, theft, social skills, job readiness