



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association
Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments
www.ojdda.org

OJDDA Supports SB 816

County Juvenile Department Diversion Planning

The Oregon Juvenile Directors Association strongly supports the consideration for update the language in ORS 420.017 to include **youths** and adjudicated youths. During the 1985 legislative session the State of Oregon entered into agreements with County Commissioners to provide funding to local counties to provide services to youth in the community and to restrict commitments to the State Training Schools. Since the creation of Diversion planning, counties have continued to partner with the Oregon Youth Authority to maintain the balance of public safety with the limitations of Youth Correctional Facility beds. The key elements for Diversion Planning are:

- Youth receiving services through the Diversion funds are at imminent risk of **placement in the Youth Correctional Facilities** and funds are to divert youth to community placement.
- Oregon Youth Authority contracts with a county or two or more counties, if the counties have joined together as a consortium or region, for implementation.
- Counties have adopted best practices to intervene with youth and maintain public safety as alternatives to placement in Youth Correctional Facility closed custody beds.
 - Short-term placements in programs,
 - Offense-specific treatment for Complex Sexual Behaviors, and Firesetting interventions,
 - Intensive Supervision and specialized caseloads
- Many counties have developed diversion programs that allow accountability without formal adjudication.
 - Adjudication youth is a person who has been found **within** the jurisdiction of the juvenile court for and act that if they were an adult would be considered criminal;
 - Placement in Youth Correctional Facility is limited to youth 12 years of age and older and the offense for which they are referred to the juvenile justice system is considered and A Misdemeanor or Felony.
- Services purchased through Diversion Funding are not covered by Oregon Health Plan, or other funding streams.
- Currently sixteen (16) rural counties pool funding to allow for purchasing of services as a consortium.

OJDDA's Request

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association respectfully asserts that the recommendations to allow 420.017 to clarify that **Youths** who are at risk of placement in a Youth Correctional Facility can be included into the local Diversion Plan.

For Further Information Contact:

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