
March 12, 2025

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Public Safety
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: HB 5004 Community Corrections

Co-Chair Broadman, Co-Chair Evans, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share Multnomah County's support for HB 5004, specifically, full funding for community corrections, including the Cost Study policy option package and the adults in custody (AIC) housing and re-entry policy option package. Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Adult Services Division is committed to implementing best practices in community supervision, in line with the Department of Corrections (DOC) standards, and Oregon Administrative Rules, that contribute to our vision - *Community Safety through Positive Change* - made possible by fully funding these policy option packages.

State Community Corrections funding appropriated through HB 5004 is essential for Multnomah County to implement state mandated components of community corrections including supervision, sanctions and services. In the last decade, Multnomah County has invested in best practices that show investment in services for justice involved individuals (JIIs) has a positive impact on reducing recidivism and reconnecting these individuals with their community. These services include job readiness, housing support, and culturally responsive community referrals, that are more time intensive, but deliver better outcomes. As presented in the DOC presentation, positive community re-entry for JIIs in these areas corresponds directly to reduced recidivism. Multnomah County has one of the lowest recidivism rates in the state based on 2023 data from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, at 23.5%, nearly six percentage points below Oregon's average of 29.4%.

Community Corrections funding supports DCJ to implement case plans and contact standards that contribute to increased public safety. Our Parole and

Probation Officers (PPOs) are working towards fully implementing state requirements that support lasting behavior change for the approximately 7,000 adults on DCJ supervision per year, including:

- 86% of our risk assessments are completed within two months of supervision start date,
- 74% of our high and medium JIIs have case plans established,
- 50.9% of DCJ adults on supervision are employed, and
- DCJ closed 404 earned discharge cases (EDIS) during 2023 - 2025, compared with just 142 during the previous biennium.

Implementation of EDIS presents a significant incentive to adults on supervision to work through case plans together with PPOs. This requires the same level of engagement with JIIs, yet on a compressed timeline (9 months vs average of 18 months otherwise). The expedited timeline encourages engagement with the case plan, and achievement of identified goals.

The Adults in Custody (AIC) housing and reentry policy option package represents an important step to support the homelessness crisis across Oregon, concentrated in Multnomah County. This is also inline with the County's Homelessness Response System Action Plan goal aimed at preventing unsheltered homelessness among individuals exiting the justice system and the outcome of ending discharges from carceral settings to the streets by 2026.

In the last decade, the acuity experienced by adults on DCJ supervision has increased, with a significant number experiencing persistent mental illness, houselessness, and substance use disorder. To be able to service these clients, working through case plans, and implementing the state mandated requirements, County General Funds that support treatment, housing and other wraparound services to first stabilize JIIs has been crucial to enabling the work of PPOs. Of the nearly 4,500 adults currently on DCJ supervision, nearly 11% are unhoused, 300 are on serious and persistent mental illness related caseloads, while nearly 700 are on supervision for substance use related crimes.

Multnomah County has also seen positive results through the Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP), supported through the Department of Corrections, with HB 2555 proposing to expand the program. FSAP offers an important mechanism to reduce reliance on jail beds that often pull individuals deeper into

the justice system, and instead offers an opportunity to maintain family stability and community safety. Multnomah County has participated in the FSAP program as a pilot County since 2016. The program can serve up to 30 parents at a time through a full time caseload, supporting over 60 families since its inception.

Thank you for considering our comments on HB 5004 and for your continued support for community corrections across Oregon.

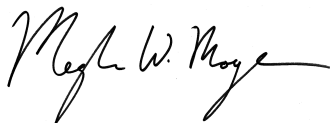
Sincerely,
Multnomah County Board of Commissioners



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Commissioner, District 1



Vince Jones-Dixon,
Commissioner, District 4



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