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DIRECTOR

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

JUVENILE INTAKE AND ASSESSMENT CENTER
2121 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

March 26, 2025

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 5515 and Full Funding for Youth Development of Oregon programs.

Good afternoon, Senator Sollman, Representative Ruiz, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Alice Perry, and I am here today on behalf of the Clackamas County Juvenile Department where I serve as the Assistant Director to testify in support of SB 5515 and full funding for the Juvenile Crime Prevention – Prevention funding that we, and each Juvenile Department across Oregon, effectively utilizes to keep youth out of the deep end of the justice system.

In Clackamas County, we use these dollars to fund our successful Restoring Individuals Communities and Hope (RICH) Diversion program. This program is a partnership between the Clackamas County Juvenile Department and Latino Network that provides community-based interventions across 11 cities in Clackamas County for youth who have committed low level crimes and status offenses. While serving all youth and families in a culturally responsive manner, Latino Network's staff are bilingual and bi-cultural allowing them to serve monolingual youth/families without relying on interpreters, important in Clackamas County where 14.7% of the youth population is Hispanic.

The program utilizes restorative justice principles, holds youth accountable to their victims and communities and helps reduce barriers to their success. Youth fulfill their Diversion agreement, can participate in pro-social events as well as a restorative curriculum, Joven Noble (or Noble Youth), that focuses on character development and connection to positive adults, while their parents are offered parenting classes.

During the first 18 months of the 2023 – 2025 Biennium, 392 youth successfully completed the program. We anticipate that 500 will have done so by the end of the current biennium. In 2023 the recidivism rate for the program was 7%.

Providing effective prevention and intervention is the most cost-effective and safest way to serve youth in the community. The deeper a youth enters the system, the higher the risk that they will continue to penetrate the system, and the costlier it becomes to help youth achieve success in leading a crime free life.

The Clackamas County Juvenile Department asks you to invest where our dollars can make a profound difference in keeping youth safe in the community, crime free, and out of the deep end of the system.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alice Perry', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Alice Perry
Assistant Director
Clackamas County Juvenile Department

The RICH Diversion Program provides community-based interventions for Clackamas County youth who have committed low-level first offenses and are generally at low risk to reoffend. This program utilizes restorative justice values and principles where youth are held accountable to their victims and community.

The RICH Diversion Program is a partnership between the Clackamas County Juvenile Department and Latino Network.



Founded in 1996 by community leaders who grew concerned by the lack of resources to meet the needs of the growing Latino community, Latino Network now serves nearly 10,000 clients across 37 school sites, 3 locations, and 27 culturally-specific programs. This growth reflects changing demographics, community needs, and confianza. Confianza describes the trust that the organization has built in the community through the integrity of its programs and staff dedicated to serving youth and families from diverse backgrounds.

Other community resources

211info

Call 211 or 1-866-698-6155

211info.org

Clackamas County Crisis Line

(503) 655-8585

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255

Non-Emergency Sheriff

(503) 655-8211

Latino Network Contacts

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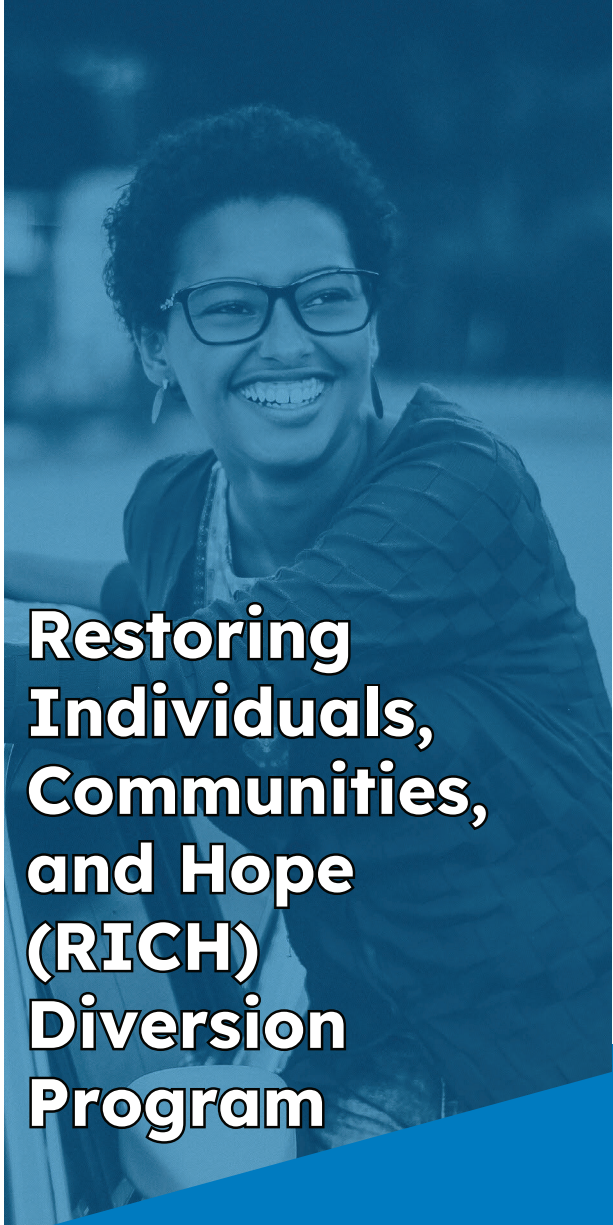
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A photograph of a young woman with dark curly hair and glasses, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored top. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Restoring Individuals, Communities, and Hope (RICH) Diversion Program

The mission of the Clackamas County Juvenile Department is to provide equitable juvenile justice, family support, intervention, and reformation services to youth so they can repair harm to victims, experience positive change, and contribute to a safe, healthy, and secure community.

Referral process

Police referrals are received in the Clackamas County Juvenile Department. We review the case and identify if it is eligible for the RICH Diversion Program. If not eligible, we will contact the family.

Latino Network's RICH Diversion Coordinator will contact youth and family to schedule a meeting, answer questions, and create a Diversion Agreement. The agreement is then signed by all parties.

The RICH Diversion Coordinator will remain in contact with the family as the youth accomplishes identified objectives listed in the Diversion Agreement.

Once the youth has successfully completed the Diversion Agreement, the RICH Diversion Coordinator will submit a Diversion Agreement with closing status to the Juvenile Department.

What is a Diversion Agreement?

It is an agreed upon document for the RICH Diversion Coordinator to reference while working with the youth and families. The Diversion Agreement identifies and defines how the youth can repair harm and be accountable for their actions. This agreement will also include input from victims if they choose to participate.

Offenses which may result in youth being referred to the RICH Diversion Program

- Theft in the 2nd and 3rd degree
- Offensive littering
- Minor in possession of alcohol or marijuana (possession, attempt to purchase, purchase)
- Harassment
- Misdemeanor marijuana/drug crimes
- Disorderly conduct in the 2nd degree
- Criminal trespass in the 2nd degree
- Criminal mischief in the 2nd and 3rd degree and other misdemeanor property crimes

What a youth and family can expect

- Respect and honor of the youth and family's voice
- Diversion Agreement will be established utilizing the youth's strengths and addressing their needs
- Cultural sensitivity
- Confidentiality will be honored
- Support provided through community-based interventions

What if a family decides not to participate in the RICH Diversion Program?

The RICH Diversion Program is set up to address an incident with youth involved in a law enforcement interaction. The intention of this program is to address the offense within the community with the result that the youth and family do not need to become formally involved with the Juvenile Department.

However, if a youth and family decide to not take advantage of this opportunity to address the concern at the community level, the case will be referred back to the Clackamas County Juvenile Department.

What is the process to expunge the youth's record?

When a youth's case is closed with the RICH Diversion Program, the youth and family will receive a letter from the Clackamas County Juvenile Department that will include information about the expunction process.

You can also learn more by visiting: <https://www.clackamas.us/juvenile/juvenilejusticeprocess.html>