



## YOUTH SERVICES

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*Pioneering pathways to prosperity.*

Good afternoon Co-Chair Broadman. Co-Chair Evans, and members of the committee

My name is Molly Rogers, and I am the Director of Youth Services in Wasco County. It is my pleasure to hold the title of the only juvenile director since the implementation of the Oregon Youth Authority and Senate Bill 1. My perspective is unique as I have experienced changes over the past thirty years, including the implementation of Measure 11 and Senate Bill 1008.

From the inception, the Oregon Youth Authority prioritized the practice of Co-Management with county juvenile departments in creating and supporting an accountable juvenile justice system. Our system has always been a local – state partnership with the State contributing a small percentage for the non-custodial supervision of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. This is one of the key exciting parts of the Oregon system.

In my tenure the system has built multiple Youth Correctional Facilities, and as a system, we (state and county in partnership) have safely closed facilities. Counties have remained steadfast in our commitment to equitable services for youth across the state and continue to treat the closed custody services as the last resort for placement for youth who cannot remain safely in community based on their behaviors.

During the last fifteen years the youth committed to closed custody has reduced from 892 in April of 2010 to 372 youth placed in YCF's across the state this Monday. Oregon has also experienced a reduction in referrals to the juvenile justice system, however the decrease in youth in out of home placement can be attributed to work by local juvenile departments.

The Oregon Youth Authority has two funding allocations that support counties as we work in alignment with serving youth in the right place at the right time. Each of the funding resources have the measurable outcome of managing the closed custody population and keeping our communities safe. These funds support short term stabilization, specialized caseloads, offense-specific treatment not covered by insurance, and individualized case plans.

I appreciate the intentionality of this committee and tough questions the system is being asked. The Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic and Diversion funding are critical in keeping the front end of the juvenile justice healthy and intact. As the longest sitting juvenile director – I remain willing and engage in improving our system and rolling up my sleeves to rebuild the trust of our communities and stakeholders.

Sincerely,