



JACKSON COUNTY

Sheriff

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Corrections Division

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Senator Anthony Broadman
Representative Paul Evans
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

RE: Oregon Criminal Justice Commission's 2025-2027 Biannual Budget

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

I would like to express my continued support of the Criminal Justice Commission, specifically programs that have been developed to help bring vital, life-saving medications to individuals who are incarcerated in our state's jails.

As the Jackson County Jail Commander, our agency is devoted to helping individuals in our facility who are suffering from Opioid Use Disorder. Throughout the opioid pandemic that has affected our nation, we have seen significant increases of overdose, both within Oregon Jails and shortly after individuals are released back in to the community. Due in large part to significant work done by our state's legislators, led by Representative Pam Marsh, our Jails received unprecedented support when HB4002 included grant opportunities for Jail Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program development and expansion.

With the assistance of the Jail MOUD Grant, Jackson County Jail has partnered with several local agencies (both public and private) to implement a program within our facility which provides previously unavailable opportunities for those in our custody who are experiencing Substance Use Disorder.

While working to develop a plan to provide MOUD treatment to our incarcerated population, Addiction Medicine Providers in our area (led mainly by Dr. John Mahan and Dr. Kerri Hecox) stressed the important role that methadone plays in the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder, specifically related to the growing use of fentanyl. While the hope in developing our program was that we could help individuals find a pathway to long-term recovery, we also knew that the availability of these medications would undoubtedly save lives and reduce the risk of overdose, both by those who used contraband within our facility (our jail experienced approximately 40 overdoses in 2023, all which were reversed by Narcan) as well as during the extremely high-risk time immediately after release from custody. Relying heavily upon pre-existing relationships in our community, we found an option which we believe provides the best service currently available for our incarcerated population.

Beginning on December 12, 2024, Jackson County partnered with Medford Treatment Center (MTC), a subsidiary of Oregon Recovery and Treatment Centers (ORTC). Through this partnership, MTC comes to our facility 3 times per week to assess, on-board, and begin dosing of individuals with Substance Use Disorder who are in custody. Clients are offered medication options, including the opportunity for methadone, appropriate to their medical diagnosis. While the individual remains in custody, MTC continues their care including on-going dosing for those who choose methadone, as well as any adjustment of prescription levels. Importantly, those individuals who become MTC patients in custody, have the ability to seamlessly transition their care directly to MTC when released to the community. Since the inception of the program, here are the numbers:

- 58 individuals have been admitted to the program;
 - 40 have started buprenorphine
 - 17 have started Methadone
- 26 remain in treatment at the Jackson County Jail;
- 10 have been released from jail and are continuing treatment with MTC;
 - 3 of these are receiving residential treatment as part of their transition to the community;
- 4 individuals were transported to prison, which ended their engagement with MTC;

In addition to the new medication options, Jackson County has utilized a variety of funding mechanisms to bolster services which contribute to long-term success of our participants. Initial screening of our population, to identify those individuals who could benefit from the program, is done by our Jail Release Resource Program (JRRP) which is a partnership between Jackson County Community Justice, Jackson County Health and Human Services, and the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. JRRP performs needs assessments and transitional case management coordination for those in custody. Because we recognize that success in treatment is significantly increased by the support of Peers, Jackson County has entered into contractual relationships with four local Peer Organizations (ARC, The Pathfinder Network, ONTRACK, and Reclaiming Lives) which provide Peer services to our incarcerated population. By providing a variety of peer options, we can be sure that individuals can create relationships that best help with their specific needs, both during their time in custody and post-release.

Each and every piece of the program which exists in our Jail is supported by funding received from grants administered by the Criminal Justice Commission. In order to allow our community to continue seeking options to allow individuals to find their own path to recovery, I urge this subcommittee to continue their support of the Criminal Justice Commission by fully funding these projects which are so vital to Oregon's communities.

Sincerely,



Captain Joshua Aldrich
Jackson County Sheriff's Office