April 9, 2025

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Related to the defection formula

Clackamas County supports House Bill 3576: We requested this legislation to ensure that the work of deflection has funding formula that matches the intent of the work.

In response to HB 4002, counties were tasked with coordinating behavioral health services and public safety partners by standing up a deflection program. This program utilizes multiple services and ensures that people in possession of certain controlled substances are connected to substance abuse treatment instead of a citation. The deflection funding was based on the M110 formula to expedite funding distribution. However, the variables were not meant to address the costs of the deflection program and need to be adjusted so that county deflection programs are fully funded and can be successful.

Separating the deflection formula from the M110 Council and giving it to the Criminal Justice Commission for oversight can help to ensure there is continuity so that the same agency is both managing the formula and also issuing the grant. The current formula has room for improvement, and we would encourage the CJC to consider other metrics that are presently considered to better align with the work of deflection. Those criteria could include:

- **Rightsizing the weight of homelessness counts**
- **Adding a rurality variable**
- **Adding a law enforcement agency coordination variable**
- **Considers Medicaid, arrest data, and overdose (ER visits)**

Clackamas County is working hard to ensure the deflection program is successful. We believe a streamlined process between grant formula and distribution is essential and will allow the program to be more nimble as deflection programs evolve and balance the funding for deflection programs so that communities have the funding they need to serve the communities they represent and where needs are evident.

We urge a "yes" vote on HB 3576.

Please contact Trent Wilson (twilson2@clackamas.us) for more information.