



## DCJ CBAC

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TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and County Board of Commissioners (3) pages

FROM: Department of Community Justice CBAC

DATE: April 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report & Recommendations

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

We are pleased to present our CBAC report for fiscal year 2019. Under the exemplary direction and leadership of Scott Taylor, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice has emerged as a national model for data-driven performance measurement, outcome evaluation, evidence-based practices and implementation of justice programming and policies.

We continue to be impressed with the immense fidelity with which department assets and investments are managed. Apart from the OTO Supervised Parenting Program (#50041), DCJ has not requested any out-of-constraint funds, and we concur. However, we see issues emerging that will open the door for more cooperation among departments and that will require additional investments in the coming years.

### **PROCESS**

The DCJ CBAC has met eight times in the past budget year, but has experienced almost complete turnover in membership. We lost one member to term limits and three to relocation out of the county. The members who have joined since September are a group of socially active, politically savvy professionals who are bringing new energy and rigor to the CBAC role.

The following staff presented at the monthly meetings. Scott Taylor, DCJ Director, DCJ budget and operations; Tracey Freeman, JSD Senior Manager, Detention usage; Kathryn Sofich, Budget Workgroup; Truls Neal, Strategic Plan; Dr. Kimberly Bernard, Ph.D, Research and Planning Mgr, DCJ Dashboards.

We were also able to learn more about the work of JSD at the annual Farm to Table Dinner and the JDAI 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Department's internal budget process continues to be open and equitable, with input from a large group of staff members. We are convinced that these involved staffers are knowledgeable about the programs and are committed to the department mission and values. We have asked about and have received satisfaction that they have mitigated, as much as possible, the potential racial/ethnic/geographic impacts of the proposed budget changes.

## **EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES**

### **Expanding the successful CHI program and model**

The CBAC have championed the CHI program (50065) since it was piloted, and program results have been impressive, with expansion to additional community partners. The model has since been adapted to young African American and Latino men (50032) and early results are promising. An analysis of CHI Early Intervention shows high participation and persistence rates by youth, and lower recidivism vs. a comparable sample of youth pre-CHI. Similarly, very early show lower recidivism among adults in the CHI Elevate program vs. their peers. We expect to see this model grow and continue to succeed.

### **Sharper focus on high-risk/high need clients**

DCJ has accommodated the last couple of years of budget cuts by sharpening the focus of its work on the justice-involved individuals with the greatest risk of recidivism (about 21% of total population under supervision). While this is indisputably the most effective use of limited funds, it does have a negative impact: some valuable programs, whose benefit is largely outside the high-risk group, have to be eliminated. Over the past couple of years we have discontinued the Londer Learning Program, cut back on Family Court support, and limited the hours of the Courtyard Café. This year we are phasing out the Justice for Families Supervised Parenting Time program (was 50053-18; now budgeted as OTO out-of-target 50041). Programs that effectively serve real needs of County residents are falling through the cracks between departments. These cracks will only grow as the county revenues continue to be strained.

### **The growing need for wraparound services**

Multnomah County was an early adopter of the now broadly accepted view of justice-involved individuals as more than their mistakes. Treating these individuals' medical, mental, and social needs not only improves their chance of success and protects public safety, but is also ultimately more cost effective than incarceration. However, in the short term, it's expensive. We need to incentivize community partners to improve the availability, quality, and accountability of services for mental health and substance abuse treatment, education and job preparedness, and affordable housing for our clients. As of now, the biggest obstacle we have for providing essential services is the lack of quality supply on the contractors' side. The CBAC would like to explore multi-departmental approaches for oversight of and incentives for contracted suppliers.

## **Exploring cooperation, possibly joint funding, across County Departments**

Community Justice is no longer a simple matter of supervising and sanctioning probationers and parolees. It involves close cooperation with all members of the Public Safety and Criminal Justice systems. More and more, it includes aspects of Health, Human Services, and Housing. There must be expertises we can barter, contractors we can jointly contract, and reciprocal needs we can fill.

## **Learning and serving the distinct needs of justice-involved women**

Great strides have been made toward understanding the causes and treatments of criminal behavior among male offenders of different races and ethnic backgrounds. However, it has become clear that both causes and treatments are different for justice-involved women. Multnomah County competed for and won a grant from the MacArthur Foundation to begin developing female-specific strategies. We expect that DCJ will continue to explore and pilot approaches in this area. In the years to come this should be a focus of budget requests.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The CBAC endorses the DCJ's request to fund the following program as an out-of-target budget item with the hope that during the year, the County will be able to find a more appropriate funding home for it.

### **1. (OTO) #50041 - Justice for Families-Supervised Parenting Time-Restoration \$358,761**

We applaud DCJ's cost-consciousness. We worry, though, that in their frugality they will not be able to innovate as well as they have in the past. The MacArthur Grant is a laudable achievement and a good start, but we cannot depend on one-time grants.

We will continue to nudge DCJ to examine all their ongoing program offers, especially those that are running smoothly, to ensure that they always strive for improvement. In addition, we will support them in conducting research and pilots for new approaches.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The CBAC is grateful to Karen Rhein and Kathryn Sofich for unfailingly supporting our work. Every department member who presented to us has been helpful and forthcoming.

Most of all, we acknowledge Scott Taylor, who has presided at every CBAC meeting with candor and straight talk. Scott has clearly been a driving force behind DCJ's transformation from supervision to re-entry, from traditional sanctions to evidence-based practices, from punishment to compassionate correction. Scott already has the admiration of his staff and his peers across the country. We want to add ours, as representatives of the Multnomah County community.