

Community Justice CBAC

TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and County Board of Commissioners 3 pages
FROM: Community Justice CBAC
DATE: March 3, 2016
SUBJECT: Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report & Recommendations

DCJ CBAC PROCESS

The Citizen Budget Advisory Committee to the Department of Community Justice met ten times to familiarize themselves with departmental activities and review FY17 budget proposals and changes. DCJ staff members included:

- Carole Scholl, Londer Learning Center, Community Justice Manager
- Tracey Freeman, JSD Senior Manager, Community Healing Initiative
- Don Lincoln, JSD Community Justice Manager, RISE
- Dr. Kimberly Bernard, Research and Planning, Vivitrol Case Study
- Christina McMahan, Division Director and Brian Detman, System Change Manager, JSD overview
- Scott Taylor, Director and Ginger Martin, Deputy Director; Safety and Justice Challenge
- Laura Ritchie, ASD Senior Manager and Wende Jackson, ASD Community Justice Mgr
- Patrick Schreiner, ASD Senior Manager and Leticia Longoria-Navarro, EPICS Lead PPO
- Craig Bachman, JSD Senior Manager and Kim Pidcoke, JSD Culinary Program Manager
- Deena Corson, JSD Senior Manager, Hands of Wonder Garden
- Joyce Resare, Business Services Manager

EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES

The Justice Reinvestment Program requires an ongoing shift in resources from incarceration to the services provided by DCJ. More “wraparound” services are required to keep offenders accountable and to give them the resources to get and stay straight. DCJ personnel and community providers have to refocus their efforts and build new capacities. Past spending is not an accurate gauge of needs in the coming years. DCJ is responding to the new realities by testing and then implementing promising new structures, different training and skill sets, and outreach to community organizations. It is important that they are given some flexibility in the budget to respond to these great changes.

We, as a committee, are impressed with DCJ’s continued focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities. We applaud their commitment to evidence-based practices, without attachment to

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the way things have always been done.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is very difficult to take a 2% reduction to programs and FTE especially as clients increasingly require additional services to be successful in the community. The committee has been encouraged by the department's large group budget process, which provided an opportunity for DCJ staff across the department to participate in the prioritizing the cuts, possible restorations, and new out of constraint program offers.

Our specific recommendations are as follows:

- 1. 50011B Restoration ASD Recovery Support Services:** Although the wraparound services in this ASD offer have been under-spent in the past fiscal year, this is certain to be a growth area for ASD as it restructures and as community providers increase capacity. These services include housing, mentoring, employment assistance and are at the heart of the Justice Reinvestment Program implementation. Increased expenditures here are key to its success.
- 2. 50019B New Ongoing Forensics:** The Forensics lab's services are increasingly important for Multnomah County and the surrounding jurisdictions. Oregon and Washington rank very high nationally in the frequency of identity theft. Drugs are bought and sold online, and sex offenders exchange pornography and solicit underage victims through the Internet. Fraud and identity theft are carried out using computers and peer-to-peer networks. Email is used by domestic violence offenders to threaten and intimidate individuals. Portland has also been identified as a major West Coast hub for human trafficking activity. For purposes of the growing need and succession planning, we must bring in an additional staffer as soon as feasible in order to allow for the year-long certification and training.
- 3. 50065C New Ongoing CHI Mentoring:** CHI is the prevention and intervention strategy with which JSD addresses the youth involved in gangs. Mentoring was previously funded as a one-time only program offer, and should be added an ongoing budget item.
- 4. 50065D New Ongoing Gang Supervision Enhancement:** JSD has requested this budget item in service of both reducing recidivism of high-risk youth and reducing racial/ethnic disparity in service provision. Both are essential elements of their mission.

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- 5. 50052B New Ongoing Family Court Services:** FCS stabilizes families and the lives of children impacted by divorce and separation. FCS plays a critical role in preventing family dysfunction and distress to children, and greatly reduces the workload of the Family Law Judiciary. The CBAC fully supports diverting \$101,766 from the law library to support the addition of one Marriage and Family counselor.

This will increase FCS' capacity to provide mediation and custody evaluation services to otherwise marginalized families, including domestic violence survivors. This added position will also significantly increase access to residents of East Multnomah County. The needs of vulnerable families should take precedence over the maintenance of a room full of books.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The Committee would like to give special thanks to Karen Rhein, who is indispensable; and to DCJ leadership -- Scott Taylor, Ginger Martin, Truls Neal, Christina McMahan, and Kathryn Sofich -- who consistently treat the CBAC as colleagues and team members.