



# Multnomah County

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## Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic & Diversion Funding Plan Narrative

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# Introduction

The State of Oregon, through the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), provides funding to the county juvenile departments to support serving youth locally at the earliest intervention possible to prevent escalation deeper into the juvenile justice system. The two funding streams are called Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Basic and JCP Diversion.

- JCP Basic Funds are allocated to support basic infrastructure for juvenile justice services. The target population is youth ages 10-17 and the goal is to prevent further offenses.
- JCP Diversion Funds are allocated to divert the highest risk youth from placement in OYA custody. The target population is youth ages 12-19 and the goal is to prevent escalation to OYA close custody placement.

The data attachments in this report (e.g. referrals, equitable services, youth needs) help to inform how the JCP funds are used in each county. This report and attachments provide an overview of data to convey the demand on services at the county level, populations at risk of coming to OYA, and services to address the needs of diverse youth in the county. In addition, information is offered to share what is working, what is not, and where there may be gaps in local services.

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# County Budget and Youth Population

## Juvenile Department Budget

County juvenile department services are funded from multiple sources that may include county general fund, federal, state, Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) basic and diversion, JCP prevention funding, other state or local resources, and grants. JCP prevention funds are administered by Youth Development Oregon and are separate from JCP basic and diversion funds.

Most of these funding types are combined into their total budget and not used to fund distinct services. For this reason, there is little ability to develop a causal connection between the state Juvenile Crime Prevention basic and diversion funding and outcomes (e.g., recidivism, escalation to OYA).

Fund Type	Percent of Total Budget
General Fund	78%
State	12%
Federal	1%
JCP Basic and Diversion	7%
JCP Prevention	2%
Other	1%

## Juvenile Justice Continuum and County Services

While the juvenile justice system is divided into local and state services, it functions as a continuum with extensive collaboration and coordination between local county juvenile departments, the Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium (CEOJJC), and the Oregon Youth Authority. Each county and OYA have an Intergovernmental Agreement that guides the collaborative process between them. In addition, some counties have local services or assistance that OYA may access, providing financial benefits to the state. This may include local services or programs that counties share with OYA, such as detention or youth development programs.

### 1. Provide an example of how your department and OYA collaborated to support the needs of youth in your area.

Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Juvenile Services Division (JSD) and OYA continue to have a strong partnership. Staff from both agencies are co-located at the Donald E. Long Juvenile Justice Complex in Central East Portland. There is a co-management agreement between DCJ and OYA that covers the approach to collaboration including a commitment to providing access to services, data collection, reducing racial inequities in the

juvenile justice system, engaging families and taking a trauma-informed approach. We work together to implement the statewide Crime Prevention Strategy in line with the High-Risk Youth Crime Prevention Plan.

A strong example of our collaboration is the Alternative Placement Committee. DCJ's JSD, along with OYA and other system partners meet to review cases of juveniles being considered for placement outside of home or juvenile detention. Recommendations are made, often in consultation with OYA, to ensure all placement options are explored, and the best option identified based on each young person's unique circumstances and needs. This helps prevent youth from unnecessarily penetrating more deeply into the juvenile justice system.

Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division and the Oregon Youth Authority meet annually to review the progress of the co-management agreement, with a new co-management agreement signed this year, in May 2025.

## 2. Describe the process your department will use to provide hearings officers and conduct preliminary parole revocation hearings.

DCJ and OYA's hearing process includes the following:

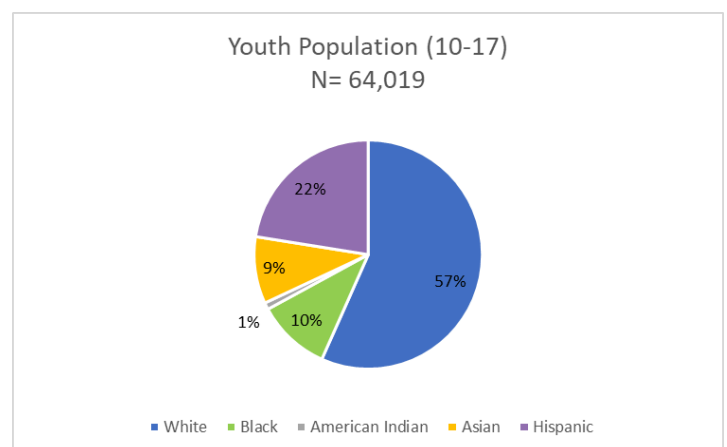
- DCJ/JSD provides access to a Hearings Officer and conducts parole revocation hearings
- DCJ/JSD provides access to DCJ services, detention, and programs as appropriate
- DCJ/JSD provides and encourages use of telephonic, video conferencing and MCDC Revocation Hearings for parolees who are 18 and older
- OYA provides case specifics to the Hearings Officer
- OYA presents the detention center/jail/facility required documentation
- OYA arranges for transport of youth

### Total County Youth Population (Youth 10-17) [Attachment A]

The total county youth population represents the youth who could potentially be referred to the juvenile department. Historically, the youth population has determined the amount of funds distributed to each county. Attachment A shows the total youth population, ages 10-17, as well as a breakdown by race, who reside in the county.

### Attachment A

based on 2023 census data



# Youth Served

## Youth Referred to the Juvenile Department [Attachment B]

Youth are referred to the juvenile department for charges ranging from dependency status offenses (e.g., runaway), violations (e.g., Minor in Possession of Alcohol) and criminal offenses (e.g., misdemeanor and felony). The total number of youth referred demonstrates the volume of youth processed by each department and informs the overall need or demand for services and interventions in the county.

The counts and demographics of youth are broken down by total youth referrals (which includes criminal, violations, and dependency status) and youth referred only for criminal offenses. Additionally, data is provided for youth who received a referral for a Class A misdemeanor or Felony crime. If adjudicated for an A Misdemeanor or Felony, this population of youth are eligible for commitment to OYA for a youth correction facility, based on public safety concerns or the needs of the youth. The data is provided in Attachment B; note: youth are only counted once in each table and are categorized by the most serious offense the youth was referred for during the reporting period.

### 3. Referrals

The table below shows all of these referral types, and unique youth reflects that youth are only counted once, no matter how many referrals they received.

#### Attachment B

Source: 2024 JJIS annual report (Multnomah County Youth Referrals)

All Referrals	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Unique youth (n=867)	Male (n=523) — 60.3%	Caucasian (n=319) — 36.8%
	Female (n=330) — 38.1%	Hispanic (n=181) — 20.9%
	Unknown (n=14) — 1.6%	African-American (n=264) — 30.4%
		Asian (n=29) — 3.3%
		Native (n=29) — 3.3%
		Other (n=45) — 5.2%

The table below shows only criminal referrals, and again represents unique youth, not the total number of referrals.

Criminal Only Referrals	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Unique youth (n=517)	Male (n=361) — 69.8%	Caucasian (n=173) — 33.5%
	Female (n=148) — 28.6%	Hispanic (n=123) — 23.8%
	Unknown (n=8) — 1.5%	African-American (n=168) — 32.5%
		Asian (n=15) — 2.9%
		Native (n=10) — 1.9%
		Other (n=28) — 5.4%

## Youth Dispositions [Attachment C]

The disposition of all referrals to the juvenile justice system, which includes criminal offenses, violations, and dependency status offenses, provides information about how cases in the juvenile justice system are resolved. This can include taking no action (e.g. because of insufficient evidence to proceed, review and close), informal handling (e.g. diversion process, peer court), or formal court involvement (e.g. county probation, OYA commitment).

This data provided in Attachment C demonstrates the types of dispositions imposed, broken down by sex, age, and race/ethnicity. Note that youth are counted only once in each table and are categorized by the most intense disposition imposed for each youth during the reporting period.

### 4. Dispositions

This table demonstrates the types of dispositions of referrals, broken down by sex, age, and race/ethnicity. The disposition of referrals to the juvenile justice system provides information about how cases in the juvenile justice system are resolved. This can include taking no action (e.g. because of insufficient evidence to proceed, review and close), informal handling (e.g. diversion process, peer court), or formal court involvement (e.g. county probation, OYA commitment).

### Attachment C

Source: 2024 JJIS Annual Report (Multnomah County Dispositions)

Disposition of Youth By Demographics													
	TOTAL	SEX			AGE			RACE/ETHNICITY					
		Females	Males	Other/Unknown	12 and Younger	13-15	16 and Older	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native/American	Other/Unknown	White
Not Petitioned													
Review and Close, Divert and Close, or Warning	338	171	159	8	44	177	117	97	15	58	16	14	138
Reject by District Attorney/ Juvenile Department	248	75	171	2	7	79	161	81	13	53	9	9	83
Formal Accountability Agreement	87	37	49	1	3	40	44	24	1	15	1	5	41
Referred to Another Agency	42	23	16	3	3	19	20	10	0	8	2	4	18
Alternative Process	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Intake Office Contact and Close	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dismiss, Plea Bargain, or Alternative Process													
Dismiss, Plea Bargain, or Alternative Process	80	23	57	0	2	18	60	32	0	18	0	3	27
Adjudicated Delinquent													
Probation	83	17	66	0	0	19	64	36	0	21	0	3	23
OYA Commitment to YCF	21	2	19	0	0	3	18	7	0	10	2	1	1
Probation & OYA Commitment for Community Placement	9	0	9	0	0	5	4	6	0	1	1	0	1
Formal Sanction	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Total	912	349	549	14	59	361	491	295	29	184	32	39	333



### JCP Risk Assessment Completion [Attachment D]

The data represents the percentage of JCP risk assessments completed for each youth who received that disposition within the timeframes indicated, during calendar year 2024. (Attachment D)

#### Attachment D

Source: OYA Research & Evaluation/JJIS data

	% Completed 90 days pre-disposition	% Completed 30 days post-disposition	Total % Completed*
Formal Accountability Agreement	2.2%	11%	13.2%
Probation	56.5%	9.8%	66.3%
OYA Commitment (Probation or YCF)	40%	12%	52%

#### 12. Discuss what factors contributed to the completion rate for JCP risk assessments. Please include strategies to increase the completion rate in the future.

DCJ's JSD is committed to completing risk assessments for all youth. With 372 risk assessments completed in the 2024 calendar year, there are several factors that contributed to the completion rate. Training and development for new staff members is a primary factor, with more than half of Juvenile Court Counselors (JCC) having less than two years experience, and with the majority of managers being new to their roles. Managers will continue to enhance JCCs training by engaging in evidence-based practices such as the Annie E. Casey Transforming Probation training series, Motivational Interviewing training, and EPICS training.

In line with this, the Division is currently rolling out the implementation of the Intentional Case Management model which will use the JCP as a frequent measure of youth progress. Multnomah County is also partnering with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement Family Engaged Case Planning as an enhancement to our case management model. The implementation of both of these programs will increase our fidelity to assessment tools.

### Juvenile Crime Prevention Risk Assessment – Highlight of Needs [Attachment E]

The Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) risk assessment is used by juvenile departments to identify youth criminogenic risk and needs in the areas of school, peers, family functioning, substance use, attitudes and mental health. The JCP results are used to inform the service needs within the community.

Note: based on the resolution of a case, a JCP assessment may not be completed on every youth referred to the juvenile department.

A summary of youth needs as identified by the JCP assessment is provided in **Attachment E**:

*Source: OYA Research and Evaluation Team/JJIS Data*

#	Question	(n=)	Percentage
2.8	Diagnosed learning disability or concrete evidence of cognitive difficulties	107	27%
4.1	Chronic aggressive, disruptive behavior at school starting before age 13	83	21%
4.6	Chronic runaway history	106	27%
4.12	A pattern of impulsivity combined with aggressive behavior towards others	92	23%
5.4	History of reported child abuse/neglect or domestic violence	134	34%
5.6	Criminal family member having impact on youth's behavior	65	17%
5.7	Substance-Abusing family or household member(s)	88	22%
6.1	Substance use beyond experimental	186	47%
6.3	Substance use began at age 13 or younger	120	31%
8.1	Actively suicidal or prior suicide attempts	39	10%
8.2	Depressed or withdrawn	118	30%
8.4	Hallucinating, delusional, or out of touch with reality	12	3%

#### 5. Provide any comments regarding JCP assessment data

As seen in the data above, many Multnomah County youth experience substance use challenges and come from a history of child abuse, neglect or domestic violence. These are factors which lead to nearly one third of the population experiencing symptoms of depression. The Culturally-Specific Youth and Family Mental Health services program is one way we are working toward meeting this need.

## Equity

#### Relative Rate Index Data [Attachment F]

The Relative Rate Index or RRI is a way to compare experiences of different groups of youth, typically broken down by race or ethnicity, within the juvenile justice system. In the context of this data, youth of color refers to African American, Asian American, Native American, and Hispanic youth. If groups are treated equally, both groups will have an RRI equal to "1". When the RRI is not equal to "1", one group of youth is receiving different treatment than the other group. Attachment D reflects the RRI data. Note: When an asterisk (\*) is seen in the data, it indicates the numerator in the calculation was 5 or less or the denominator was 50 or less. Therefore, there is not enough data for counties to report reliable data.

## Attachment F

2023 Decision Points	Relative Rate Index (RRI) Compared to White Youth				
	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other/Unknown
All Referrals					
Criminal Referrals	5.33	1.30	6.33	.33	--
All Referrals	7.81	1.78	6.30	.51	--
Petitioned Referrals	.94	1.10	.83	.69	1.03
Adjudicated Referrals	1.12	1.13	1.29	--	1.09
Detention	2.13	1.85	2.38	1.13	1.94
Probation	1.19	1.14	1.31	--	1.00

### Assessment of Equitable Access to County/Local Services

A component of the funding to counties is to prevent commitment to OYA services. OYA also looks at disparities in commitment rates, commitment by crime type and can look at variations across the state. This section of the report is for counties to provide a review and discussion of equitable access to services within the county or area. This may be by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or treatment need.

#### 6. Note any disparities based on race and gender in referrals and dispositions.

BIPOC youth, specifically African-American youth, continue to be overrepresented in Multnomah County's juvenile justice system. The numbers of adjudicated delinquent youth indicate disparities, particularly those committed to OYA. Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC) youth are eight times as likely to be referred for criminal referrals, and in 2024, 21 youth from Multnomah County were committed to OYA, with nearly 50% of those committed being Hispanic, and 33% African American.

#### 7. Describe available local options that are working well and help support youth receiving equitable services (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, crime type).

JSD implements several critical community-based, family-focused, culturally-responsive services to at-risk youth in our community that also provide culturally specific programming. Programs are supported by County General Fund and Oregon State funding through OYA and the Oregon Department of Education. These services include probation supervision (REACH -Recognize Engage Aspire to Change Unit, formerly RISE), Community Healing Initiative (CHI) for youth on probation, and Early Intervention, Community Monitoring Program (CMP), and short-term shelter placements. Without these services, our community would be less safe and more youth of color would be committed to youth correctional facilities and residential facilities outside of Multnomah County. These programs continue to

have a positive impact on reducing recidivism, particularly among gang-impacted youth. An additional culturally responsive service offered by JSD launched in the last year, is the Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy (HEAT), a strength based, culturally specific curriculum for young men of color. This curriculum is a cognitive based, trauma informed intervention that focuses on Community, Self, Spirituality, Family, and Orientation. The approach addresses ambivalence and resistance.

JCP and GTS funds contribute to lower recidivism and fewer crime victims, ensure youth attend their court hearings, connect youth and families to pro-social and culturally responsive services, and keep youth in the community and out of more costly placements. Since the implementation of Senate Bill 1008 on January 2, 2020 - which ended the automatic transfer of youth to adult criminal court - the juvenile system has assumed responsibility for processing and providing services to young people adjudicated on very serious person-to-person felonies. Between January 1, 2021 and October 1, 2022 there were 140 youth referred to Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division that previously would have been automatically transferred to the adult system. Of those 140 youth, 40 had their cases dismissed. The remaining 100 youth had petitions filed in the juvenile court, with only two of those youth ending up waived to the adult system. With the juvenile system now responsible for supervision of youth adjudicated for serious felony cases, these critical programs are needed more than ever.

Additional details on select programs including the Community Healing Initiative (CHI), Community Monitoring Program (CMP), and short-term shelter placements is included here:

**COMMUNITY HEALING INITIATIVE (CHI):** The CHI Program started in 2011 as a partnership between Multnomah County and community providers, focused on youth on probation who have recent involvement with high-risk activities and behaviors such as gun violence and gangs. Culturally specific support and services are tailored to meet both the needs of individual youth and family needs. This program supports the entire family system. In addition, families can continue to services after probation ends. In 2024, CHI served 110 youth: 94 JSD-referred youth & 16 community-referred youth.

Tracked outcomes for JSD youth (n=94):

- 89% Male, 11% Female
- 47% Black, 30% Latino(a), 15% Caucasian, 8% Unrecorded
- 77% remained law abiding while participating in CHI
- 77% received no new referrals within the 1-year recidivism window

**COMMUNITY MONITORING PROGRAM (CMP):** Community monitoring is another alternative to detention utilized by the Juvenile Services Division (JSD). The Community Monitoring Program (CMP) permits some at-risk youth who would otherwise be housed in detention to remain in the community under the supervision of Volunteers of America's (VOA) Youth Monitors. CMP serves as a central component of Multnomah County's juvenile detention reform work. The

program gives at-risk youth greater opportunity to demonstrate accountability and responsibility than if they would have been in detention. Additionally, youth can remain involved in the community, their schools, and access community-based services. The Juvenile Court establishes the conditions under which each youth will remain in the community. Under continuous supervision through the use of electronic monitoring, home visits and phone calls, the youth can continue with school and/or work and maintain community ties, support systems, or alternative care. VOA's Youth Monitors are specially trained to detect violations of conditions of release or threats to public safety. Youth Monitors conduct random field visits, evaluate any changes to the youth's living situation within the community and file reports with the Juvenile Court. To ensure community safety, any activity that places the public at risk may result in removal from the program and placement in detention under the authority of the Juvenile Services Division or the Juvenile Court.

**SHELTER CARE:** Shelter care is another one of the alternatives to detention that the Juvenile Services Division (JSD) utilizes. Shelter care services offer at-risk youth who would otherwise be placed in costly detention beds an opportunity to remain safely in the community under a high level of structure and supervision by professional shelter care providers. JSD contracts with Boys and Girls Aid and Clarivida Oregon to provide short-term shelter and treatment foster care to pre- and post-adjudicated youth. Services are focused on providing a safe, secure and supportive environment that assists with behavioral stabilization, strengthening individual and family relationships, using evidence-based practices (EBP) and strength-based approaches in dealing with the criminogenic needs of the youth, and facilitating the youth's reintegration back to the family and/or community. The majority of justice-involved youth placed in these shelter programs are Latinx and African American. By serving youth of color in culturally appropriate placements (short-term shelter care or treatment foster care), research has shown the disproportionate confinement of youth of color drops significantly and keeps youth connected to their communities without compromising public safety.

**8. After reviewing your data, services, and outcomes, do you see any gaps in services or programs that need to be addressed to improve provision of equitable services to youth?**

Multnomah County's JSD is committed to equitable service delivery to justice involved youth, and has identified several areas to improve access to resources that support behavioral change. The following priorities have been elevated as goals for the LPSCC sub-committee, the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee:

- **Goal 1:** Enhance family engagement and support within Multnomah's juvenile justice system to improve outcomes for connected youth and families.
- **Goal 2:** Improve Access to Mental Health Services for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

- **Goal 3:** Enhance educational and vocational outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, ensuring they connect with positive opportunities that allow them to explore their interests, build skills, and contribute to the well-being of their communities.

In 2025, a loss of juvenile detention bed revenue necessitated the difficult decision to close the Juvenile Assessment and Evaluation (A&E) Behavioral Rehabilitation Service at JSD, effective July 1, 2025. A&E opened its doors July 1, 2013 and served over 560 youth. BIPOC youth continued to be overrepresented in this program. A&E played a significant role in the juvenile detention alternative initiative for JSD as well as the community, serving youth in the OYA and DHS system and was regarded as a premiere program within the community. To bridge this loss, we will launch a new, limited program, Juvenile Culturally Specific Youth and Family Treatment Services, which includes three FTE to support services for justice involved youth.

## Output and Outcome Measures

### Juvenile Department Recidivism [Exhibit 1 and 2]

As a measure of public safety, recidivism is defined as a new criminal referral. A criminal referral is a law enforcement report to a juvenile department alleging one or more felony or misdemeanor offenses. Youth who initially received a referral for a criminal offense are tracked 12 and 36 months from the time of a referral. Data is provided in Exhibit 1 and 2:

	Number of Youth	12-month recidivism	36-month recidivism
<b>2023 Criminal Referrals</b>	151	30%	
<b>2021 Criminal Referrals</b>	175		41%

### 9. Provide any comments regarding recidivism rate.

In FY 2024, 81% of youth served by JSD did not receive a new adjudication within the first year. Juvenile recidivism has consistently decreased in Multnomah County and DCJ is committed to fewer justice involved youth on supervision receiving a new adjudication, as a strategic goal. To meet this goal, JSD is investing in providing training opportunities for juvenile counseling staff; increasing opportunity and participation for youth in services; and implementing incentives in our supervision model, based on evidence-based practice.

### Escalation to OYA Commitment [Attachment G]

Based on public safety concerns or treatment needs, youth can be escalated from county involvement to OYA commitment for placement in the community or in a youth correctional facility. The data on the percentage of youth

who were initially placed on formal county probation and escalated to either OYA probation or directly to OYA close custody is found in Attachment G:

Escalation from County Supervision to OYA	Youth on County Probation	# of Youth Escalated to OYA	% County Escalation
Youth on County Probation	82		
Escalated to OYA Probation		5	6%
Escalated directly to OYA Close Custody		3	4%
<i>Source: OYA Research &amp; Evaluation/JJIS Data</i>			

**10. Provide an example of services provided to a youth that prevented the youth from escalating to OYA (including services provided and other factors that prevented escalation).**

A specific example of services provided that prevented a Multnomah County youth from escalating to OYA was provided by a JSD staff:

JSD staff worked with a 15 year old latina female referred for misdemeanor offenses that began as informal handling and escalated to formal probation, with probation, the youth was able to remain in the community and work through significant challenges. The youth had unstable relationships, and had left her home with her mother to live with her boyfriend who was abusing drugs. The JCC continued to build a relationship with the youth, describing how probation worked, and confirmed an in-person appointment time, overcoming the negative influence of the boyfriend and reluctance to engage in probation. During the appointment, which she attended with her mother, the JCC described the different services she would be referred to, connecting her to positive development opportunities. Agreements were confirmed during the subsequent appointment, that included moving back home with her mother. A day before the next appointment, the youth's mother was shot and killed at the hands of her step-father. She was referred to the Multnomah County Gun Violence mental health team where she was connected with a therapist and the Community Healing Initiative (CHI) to support her as she transitioned to her biological father's home. This young girl struggled with compliance and transitioning to living with her father and step-mother and the loss of her mother. Her explosive anger continued, she displayed her anger at school and was expelled from three different schools in a 6-month period, she continued to hangout with the wrong friends and received new legal violations. She shared with her JCC how she felt misunderstood and she did not feel safe to share with school staff the loss of her mother. The young lady's behavior at home became too much for the stepmother who ended up leaving. CHI provided support for the father who was losing time at work to support his daughter. The breaking point for this youth was in court when the judge informed her that if she received a new law violation she would not be going back home. This young lady left court upset and angry because she felt nothing was her fault. As she was talking with the JCC about how upset she was, the JCC asked how she was dealing with the loss of her mother. The young lady began crying and stated "no one talks about my

mom and it's like she never existed", they worked through the significant challenge of losing her mother, and the disruptions she was experiencing together. The JCC reminded her of the resources of a therapist, CHI mentor and CHI services and how her preconceived notions can get in the way of healing and moving forward.

Within a few months, the young lady was on track seeing her Gun Violence therapist on a regular basis, meeting with a mentor and engaging in their services, eventually leaving her boyfriend who continued to abuse drugs. This young lady was able to complete probation with no further violations and continued seeing her mentor through CHI beyond her probation.

**11. Provide an example of services provided to a youth who was at risk of and eventually did escalate to OYA and explain any gaps in services that may have impacted escalation.**

JSD staff worked with an African American 16 year old male youth who entered the juvenile justice system on misdemeanor offenses and went through the process of informal handling. However, his behavior in the community continued to escalate and received new legal violations, eventually being placed on probation. He lacked emotional regulation skills and would lash out by using intimidation and escalate to physical aggression if things didn't go as he needed, this was eventually identified as undiagnosed Asperger's Syndrome. It wasn't until he was 17 years old and in the juvenile justice system that he was finally diagnosed. Prior to the JCC knowing his diagnosis, he was part of CHI and his family was appreciative of the support provided. As this young man was physically growing so was his strength. His mother became fearful of his outbursts and did everything she could to not agitate him, and refrained from setting boundaries with him. It was through a mental health assessment that we knew something else was going on and we needed to do more assessments. This young man was already enrolled with developmental disabilities services, and after being diagnosed with Aspergers it allowed more access to skilled out of home placement providers. Because this young man was higher functioning he became resistant to the services and to the service providers. His continued inability to emotionally regulate resulted in more serious offenses as he stayed out in the community.

System gaps were evident in this case given the lack of understanding around what services this young person needed, from all of those involved in his case. Community based providers lacked knowledge in working with a young person with Aspergers, as this youth was polite and kind when he was regulated. The lack of a specialized skill trainer to work with him left the work to JSD, his mother, and those involved to support him. This young man's new legal violations continued, as well as the seriousness of the offenses. All community based options were exhausted, he was discharged from two Developmental Disability (DD) homes due to his behavior and had to return home to his mother. At the age of 18, he was committed to OYA on the juvenile charges, and at the age of 18 he committed another legal violation which landed him in the adult system.



Racial stereotypes played a significant role in the late diagnosis for this youth. Despite his mother's attempts to seek help for her son, she was told it was her fault because he was lacking discipline. Most representatives in the juvenile justice system aren't trained on brain development or assessing how young people learn, while community based organizations are ill equipped to support young people who are neuro-divergent or with serious mental health issues, with schools failing to adequately assess this young person at an early age. Early diagnosis and support may have helped this youth understand his diagnoses and provide him with ways to self soothe during emotional distress and skills to navigate in the real world. There is a lack of community resources and collaboration in cases such as these to find ways to educate and support parents and youth.

## **12. Please describe what data or other factors are used when making placement recommendations.**

Multnomah County's JSD is a partner in the Alternative Placement Committee (APC) that makes placement recommendations when other housing options are not available. The mission of the Alternative Placement Committee (APC) is to collaborate in developing a unified recommendation to the Court taking into consideration the best interest of the youth and family, the level of risk the youth is presenting, community safety, and limited available community resources. APC is a multidisciplinary team comprised of representatives from Multnomah County Department of Community Justice Juvenile Services Division (JSD), the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), Department of Human Services Child Welfare (DHS), CHI Parent Advocate (POIC + RAHS, Latino Network), staff from Multnomah County Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities, and a community-based Drug and Alcohol treatment provider. The APC is a forum to staff cases before a youth is committed to a Youth Correctional Facility and convened if/when OYA/DHS/JSD are unable to agree about a community placement and Temporary Custody (TC) responsibility. The APC is also convened when time is of the essence and more discussion is needed from a larger team, if the worker is at an impasse (after staffing with unit, supervisor, etc) and is seeking advice and guidance, or when a judicial officer directs a Juvenile Court Counselor to staff the youth at APC.

## **Summary and Plan**

### **13. Describe how the data provided in this document (budget, JCP, outcomes, equitable access) and any other factors informed your JCP basic and diversion plan?**

Multnomah County is committed to collaboration with system partners, and this plan relies on the expertise of the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee (formerly Juvenile Justice Council), a subcommittee of LPSCC, to discuss commitments and priorities to ensure there was alignment. The second step of the planning process includes a presentation to the LPSCC committee on June 23, 2024, where formal approval of the plan was requested.

## **Information on local community juvenile justice issues, needs, barriers, and service gaps.**

JSD has undergone significant changes over the last two years, launching major initiatives to transform probation, developing a new case management model, creating a more trauma-informed detention space, and expanding youth and family programming. These efforts work in conjunction with the County's long-running commitment to reducing reliance on detention. The Transforming Juvenile Probation initiative involves more than 150 staff members, community partners and stakeholders. The goal of this effort is to help transform DCJ's juvenile probation practices away from prioritizing surveillance and sanctions, and toward a more developmentally appropriate strategy that focuses on promoting positive behavior change and long-term success for youth.

Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division Priorities for 2025-2027:

- Prioritize prevention and intervention services for at-risk youth.
- Provide training on the benefits, best practices, and strategies for engaging families.
- Ensure that staff and service providers have the training and resources to conduct family assessments and the case management capacity to develop service plans that address family needs.
- Implement and support meaningful incentives and opportunities for youth.
- Partner with community agencies and schools to uplift and enhance early intervention services.
- Prioritize keeping kids in their communities with support and services.

Justice involved youth receiving services from DCJ are experiencing a higher acuity, including housing instability, mental health and substance abuse challenges, and elevated crimes including gun violence. This requires more substantive wraparound services, and system coordination. In line with this, the LPSCC sub-committee, the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee, aims to bring together system partners to address gaps and better provide services to prevent further penetration in the juvenile justice system and reduce recidivism. The Committee holds three current priorities:

- Goal 1: Enhance family engagement and support within Multnomah's juvenile justice system to improve outcomes for connected youth and families.
  - Objective 1.1: Organize and implement quarterly workshops for families that educate them about the juvenile justice process, their rights, and available support services.
  - Objective 1.2: Collaborate with the Family Voice Council to create or identify, and distribute, at least two new resources per year that focus on developing youth and families as true partners.
  - Objective 1.3: Create a data collection and analysis framework for continuous monitoring that seeks and responds to feedback from young people, families, staff, and other stakeholders.
- Goal 2: Improve Access to Mental Health Services for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

- Objective 2.1: Organize a time-limited workgroup (no more than 6 individuals within a 3-month span) to complete an assessment of existing mental health services from referral to treatment for youth in the juvenile justice system to identify specific gaps and areas for improvement.
- Objective 2.2: In addition to collaborating with mental health providers and system partners to identify current partners to leverage and/or distribute at least two new resources per year that focus on providing mental health services to youth and support families.
- Goal 3: Enhance educational and vocational outcomes for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, ensuring they connect with positive opportunities that allow them to explore their interests, build skills, and contribute to the well-being of their communities.
  - Objective 3.1: Organize a time-limited workgroup (no more than 6 individuals within a 3-month span) to establish an inventory (mapping) of tutoring and/or vocational training programs that support detention and probation-connected youth, aiming for 100% participation from eligible youth.
  - Objective 3.2: Create a framework for continuous monitoring of system-connected youth, focusing on chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, and employment opportunities.
  - Objective 3.3: Facilitate at least one event per year for youth in Detention and one event per year for youth on community supervision with a focus on providing additional educational or vocational opportunities/supports for youth involved in the juvenile justice system (revised as of 06/02, needs review by the committee)

The Juvenile Services Division continues to partner with Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center + Rosemary Anderson Prep (POIC + RAP) and Latino Network to implement the Families United in Safety and Empowerment (FUSE) program. This program provides an opportunity for youth and parents to learn non-violent, respectful ways of communicating and resolving conflict.

In an effort to limit admissions and the overall daily population, juvenile justice partners have continued to meet regularly to analyze the number of youth who are held in detention. Intake staff have developed appropriate release plans for youth who are able to be safe in the community pending their preliminary hearing, and juvenile court counselors have supported young people with alternatives to detention. The JSD project to remodel and refurbish detention pods was completed in December 2024, with youth in detention transitioning to the trauma-informed pods this year. The use of restorative practices continues to be a priority for JSD, with our Restorative Practices team leading restorative circles in detention, in addition to our Culinary Arts and Hand of Wonder gardening and education program. Valuable programming activities, including community service and Project Payback, which provides youth opportunities to earn money to pay off restitution, continues.

**14. Describe your plan for JCP basic and diversion funds; ATTACH the budget detail sheet when submitting.**

**JCP Basic:** Multnomah County operates a 29-bed **detention facility** that houses justice involved youth in Multnomah County, both those pre-adjudication and for court-ordered sanctions. Previously, Multnomah County provided additional detention facilities for youth from Washington County, which will include as of August 4, 2025. The ability to safely detain delinquent youth is mandated by Oregon law and is essential to community protection. While in detention, youth receive an array of services to meet their physical and social/emotional needs including education, health and mental health care, recreation, nutrition, and skill development. Juvenile Custody Services Specialists provide direct care and supervision. They work closely with community partners to keep youth safe and teach them skills for success both inside the facility as well as when they return to the community.

**JCP Diversion:** **Probation services** focus on the highest risk youth using evidence-based practices, with proven results in reducing recidivism and promoting accountability among justice-involved youth.

**REACH (formerly RISE):** These Juvenile Court Counselor (JCC) positions provide intensive supervision, case management and programming for youth adjudicated on Class A misdemeanors or higher, who are at risk of commitment to OYA close custody, and who are gang-affiliated and/or are on supervision for serious assault and weapons-related charges. JCCs develop probation case plans establishing enforceable expectations and address victim restitution. In addition to holding youth accountable to repair the harm they have caused, JCCs coordinate treatment (mental health and substance use/abuse) and interventions designed to interrupt anti-social behavior. Skill building, mentoring, educational advocacy and the incorporation of positive age-appropriate activities are used to counteract harmful behaviors and prevent further involvement (recidivism) and/or deeper penetration (commitment to OYA youth correctional facilities) in the juvenile justice system. JCCs are integral members of the Community Healing Initiative (CHI) which uses an inter-disciplinary approach to develop and implement plans for positive youth development, family support, and community protection. JCCs also collaborate with law enforcement, adult probation and parole officers, and the community to gather intelligence that helps with intervention when delinquent behavior is present.

**YESS (formerly Sex Crimes Supervision & Treatment):** These Juvenile Court Counselors (JCCs) provide intensive supervision, case management and programming for youth who are adjudicated on Class A misdemeanor or higher sexual-related charges who are at risk of commitment to OYA close custody. JCCs develop probation case plans establishing enforceable expectations and address victim restoration. In addition to holding youth accountable to repair the harm they have caused, JCCs coordinate treatment (sex offense-related as well as mental health and substance use/abuse) and interventions designed to interrupt offending behavior. Skill building, mentoring, educational advocacy and the incorporation of positive age-appropriate activities are used to counteract harmful

behaviors and prevent further involvement (recidivism) and/or deeper penetration (commitment to OYA youth correctional facilities) in the juvenile justice system.

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Submitted by

► **Ansley Flores, Interim Director, Juvenile Services Division, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice**

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Name (print or type)



06/16/2025

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Signature and Date

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