

## Department of Community Justice CBAC

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TO: Chair Deborah Kafoury and County Board of Commissioners 4 pages

FROM: DCJ CBAC

DATE: April 2, 2019

SUBJECT: Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) Report & Recommendations

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The DCJ CBAC recognizes the realities of flattened County revenues in the face of increased personnel and service costs. DCJ management has met the constraints imposed upon their budget; nevertheless, there are several items for which they have requested restoration, and several OTO out of constraint requests. The CBAC has endorsed (in whole or in part) four of these requests.

### PROCESS

The DCJ CBAC met with department staff 10 times in this budget year, and were briefed on current initiatives before delving into the budget itself. The committee met with the following department staff:

April 16	Gang HEAT curriculum - Bryan Smith, Community Justice Mgr (CJM), Gang and African American Program
May 21	JSD Gang/CHI Elevate - Deena Corso, JSD Division Director African American Program - Jay Scroggin, ASD Division Director/Bryan Smith, CJM
June 18	Budget Update - Erika Preuitt, DCJ Director Workforce Equity Strategic Plan
August 20	Gang Unit Overview - Jay Scroggin, ASD Division Director/Bryan Smith, CJM
September 17	ASD Mental Health Unit Overview - John McVay, CJM
October 15	ASD Treatment First - Lisa Lewis, ASD Senior Manager
November 19	Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice - Deena Corso, JSD Division Director

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- December 17 Utilization of Pre-Adjudication Detention/Length of Stay Analysis - Deena Corso, JSD Division Director
- February 4 Budget - Erika Preuitt, DCJ Director
- March 18 Budget - Erika Preuitt, DCJ Director

DCJ experienced a significant amount of management turnover in 2018. We're very excited about the management team Erika Preuitt has built and are looking forward to working with them for a long time. Erika has continued to foster a candid and mutually respectful partnership with the CBAC.

DCJ's budget process continues to be inclusive and democratic. Like many other departments, several years of budget cuts have already claimed whatever fat there may have been, and essential programs are being impacted. The committee's criteria for maintaining or reducing programs are:

- Equity, as it relates to those the department serves and department staff/contractors.
- Targeting the high-risk, high-need clients. For this department, a tighter budget means prioritization on adult and youth at greatest risk of recidivism.
- Demonstrated results.
- Favor is given to evidence-based approaches and programs.

The CBAC's endorsements and recommendations are likewise driven by demonstrated effectiveness with high-risk clients. OTO requests that meet a clear and present need and that create value going forward were endorsed.

## EMERGING ISSUES & CHANGES

Austerity is no longer an emerging or new issue, but is one that will color DCJ's planning into the foreseeable future. It is important that the County Commission is on board with the Department's approach to budget cuts: instead of trying to spread less money across the multiple needs of all justice-involved individuals, DCJ strives to provide the best possible services to the individuals assessed as most at risk of re-offending. As the budget gets tighter, this targeted group will shrink. Though the CBAC wholeheartedly endorses this approach, we worry that others might suspect "neglect" of lower-risk individuals. DCJ can provide statistics on the efficacy of this approach for any who need it.

Housing and wraparound services continue to be under-resourced services in Multnomah County. This shortage has impact on public safety insofar as justice-involved individuals who receive appropriate treatment and care, and who have a stable living situation, are much less likely to recidivate. This truism is even more relevant to the high-need, high-risk individuals who are the key clients of DCJ.

Issues currently being debated in the Oregon Legislature are likely to have a major impact on the work and potentially the budgets of Multnomah County's public safety departments, including DCJ. Some possible changes involve:

1. Potential youth sentencing reforms could create significant changes in sentencing outcomes of justice-involved youth. Additionally, if passed, these policies could result in needed resource

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allocation adjustments related to more youth charged with Measure 11 crimes staying in the juvenile justice system and more youth accessing opportunities like Second Look and being approved for conditional release before finishing their initial sentence. Below are the package of policies currently being debated in Salem:

- a. **Eliminate Auto Waivers:** Judges would to decide whether or not a child should be tried as a youth or in adult court.
  - b. **Expand access to Second Look:** Allow youth who have served a significant amount of their sentence an opportunity to show the Court they have been rehabilitated and can return safely to society to live healthy and productive lives.
  - c. **Provide options for youth aging out of OYA:** Allow youth who have made significant progress in the Oregon Youth Authority the chance to prove to the Court that they can complete the final stretch of their sentence in alternative programs instead of transferring to Department of Corrections custody.
2. Community Corrections funding. This includes the possible elimination of payments to the County for earned discharge, and changes in the Justice Reinvestment grant distribution procedures. Also, the state has proposed additional funding cuts in areas of Juvenile Justice.
  3. In the longer term, the legislature may mandate several studies (to be conducted by state entities) about the impact of various practices on recidivism - length of sentence, fines, restitution, re-entry assistance, etc. The findings of these studies may affect DCJ in coming years.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Adult Services Division:

1. **50013 Replacement Radios** **\$814,000**

We support ASD's OTO request for new radios for the PPOs. This is a clear need that will only increase in cost if the purchase is delayed.

2. **50021B Assessment and Referral Center-Housing** **restore some/all of \$250,000 cut**

The department budget cuts 18 beds at Shoreline, the most expensive housing they contract for, but requests that they be restored if possible. The need for housing is great, especially for hard-to-place justice-involved individuals, and particularly those with sex offenses. While DCJ continues to explore lower-cost housing options and until the housing supply grows, we endorse the request to restore as many of the 18 Shoreline beds as feasible.

3. **50006-19 Forensics Unit** **restore up to \$100,000 of proposed \$308,000 cut**

The CBAC requests restoration of a portion of the department's proposed budget cut for closing the forensics lab. We agree with ASD that the in-house forensics lab, despite its good work and the prestige it brings, is an unsupportable expense in these times. We do, though, want DCJ to continue its work with the FBI's NW Regional Forensics Lab. This would require reclaiming up to \$100k to retain one FTE.

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## Juvenile Services Division:

### 4. 50050B Training for Juvenile Custody Services Specialists \$50,000

The JSD OTO request for funds to train three shifts of custody specialists is, we agree, an essential investment.

### 5. 50065B CHI Early Intervention & Youth Gang Prevention Services reduce contract \$222,000

We endorse JSD's plan to monitor and improve the effectiveness of the CHI Early Intervention program. As part of the signature CHI initiative, it is imperative that JSD monitor their contractors to make sure it's done well. We have requested that outcomes be reported by race and ethnic subgroups (knowing that the numbers are small and variable) to make sure that CHI Elevate performs best for those youth for whom it was especially designed. In the meantime, we appreciate DCJ's decision to reduce the budget to current usage levels.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee would like to give special thanks to Kathryn Sofich, who has always been incredibly responsive to CBAC information requests, and who seems to have photographic recall of all details. We are happy to have met Jelese Jones, DCJ's finance manager, and expect a fruitful relationship with her team. We are grateful for the wonderful CBAC recruitment provided by Dani Bernstein and Brenda Morgan, and hope to continue in that vein.

Finally, there would be no CBAC without Karen Rhein. We owe her for every agenda, every speaker, every slice of bacon, for keeping CBAC members apprised of important news and developments in criminal justice, and for setting the tone of our relationship with the DCJ.