



Office of Community Involvement



Department of Community Justice CBAC

TO: Chair Jessica Vega Pederson (4) pages

FROM: Department of Community Justice Community Budget Advisory Committee

DATE: March 12th, 2025

SUBJECT: Department of Community Justice Community Budget Advisory Committee Report & Recommendations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - The Department of Community Justice Budget Advisory Committee (DCJ CBAC) supports the budget submitted by the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ). Our guiding values when considering our budget recommendations were a) to fund a comprehensive, fair, and accountable system of community safety at current levels, b) to eliminate disparities and prioritize populations adversely affected by racism, and c) retaining and hiring staff that is equipped to meet these goals, provided decreased funding and budget constraints.

The proposed budget is a bold one that addresses head-on the problems of recruiting, training, and on-boarding new probation and parole officers. DCJ's budget reallocations will allow much faster and intensive on-boarding and on-the-job training, and we commend them for taking this approach. Expediting the interview process, as well as implementing efficiencies in the onboarding process will help attract talent, as well as ensure that employees onboarding are able to support staff and add value at a quicker pace.

In addition to our support for this new recruitment structure, the DCJ CBAC also wants to highlight and support the choice to reallocate additional funding for the Victim and Survivor Services emergency fund (Program Offer 50003) and the usage of culturally responsive programming, such as the HEAT Curriculum, in the Adult Culturally Responsive Supervision program (Program Offer 50013) and the Juvenile Field Probation program (Program Offer 50058). Lastly, the CBAC recognizes the county's need to evaluate and terminate the Juvenile Behavioral Rehabilitation Assessment &

Department of Community Justice CBAC

Evaluation program (Program Offer 50063) based on the priorities of available funding. Given this cut, we strongly support the DCJ's replacement program, Juvenile Culturally Responsive Youth and Family Treatment Services (Program Offer 50064), the inclusion of which in this year's budget would go a long way towards ameliorating the loss of A&E.

PROCESS

During 2024 and 2025, the DCJ CBAC met monthly with DCJ staff, visited various DCJ sites to learn about their programs, and were educated on the County budget process. The DCJ CBAC appreciates having the opportunity to review and speak with DCJ staff about the Department's budget to gain a better understanding of the issues facing the department and the budget process. We encourage the department, the Chair's Office, and the Office of Community Involvement to continue exploring ways to increase transparency, timeliness, and engagement for the Multnomah County community in the budget process.

In order to enable better engagement, the DCJ CBAC would suggest more intentional efforts to expand the membership of the Community Budget Advisory Committees. Some good first steps towards this would be offering stipends and childcare for committee members, as well as more aggressive recruitment of affected populations. Stipends would enable more consistent attendance and participation, especially from those community members who are experiencing lower incomes, as would childcare services for those members with young children. For our CBAC in particular, an effort to recruit additional members who have directly interacted with the criminal justice system would lead to a sharpened focus on those programs that help justice-involved individuals the most. Efforts like these to expand the Community Budget Advisory Committees would lead to richer dialogue and a better representation of the community in the budget process.

EMERGING THEMES/TRENDS - This is a year that required difficult decisions, while maintaining a budget that reflects the values of the community. The submitted DCJ budget is a bold response to assure public safety, that not only meets the requested budget cut of 3%, but also accommodates for the unanticipated termination of the Intergovernmental Agreement between Multnomah and Washington Counties for detention facilities, which led to an effective 5.4% cut.

Department of Community Justice CBAC

DEPARTMENT BUDGET/PROGRAM OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS -

Our specific recommendations are as follows:

Program Offer 50003 - Victim and Survivor Services

The DCJ CBAC is heartened to note that the proposed DCJ budget maintains the County's commitment to the victims of crime, as well as reallocating additional funding to the Victim and Survivor Services emergency fund. As in the past, the DCJ CBAC requests that additional funds be provided for the express purpose of providing assistance to victims when all other private or non-profit options are exhausted. These funds provide safe lodging, transportation, food & household items for victims who are traumatized and sometimes in danger.

Program Offer 50013 - Adult Culturally Responsive Supervision & Program Offer 50058 - Juvenile Field Probation

We are pleased to support the inclusion of culturally responsive and trauma-informed programming (such as HEAT) to enhance the supervision and services for adults and juveniles.

Program Offer 50063 Juvenile Behavioral Rehabilitation (BRS) Assessment & Evaluation

The proposed DCJ budget eliminates the Assessment and Evaluation Program and Behavioral Rehabilitation (A&E) and its 18 staff positions. In the 1990s, a group of women decision makers in Multnomah County asked the question: what kind of juvenile justice system would I like my child to be in? The result was the creation of many options that did not require detention except in extreme or rare situations. As a result, Multnomah County was able to offer surrounding jurisdictions the opportunity to use the Donald E Long juvenile facility to house and service their justice-system impacted juveniles. This implementation lowered the cost to Multnomah County taxpayers and benefited the other jurisdictions that didn't have to build and operate a facility. Doing so also allowed the DCJ and Multnomah Education Services District to provide superior education, vocational and behavioral modification services.

A&E currently houses a roughly 60% Black population. Due to this, the CBAC recognizes the discontinuance of A&E will most prevalently impact the Black youth population. There are also currently 6 self-identified females in A&E. It is a very rare occasion that Donald E Long Detention houses 5 females. A&E has been a successful outlet for self-identified female juveniles, rather than them being sentenced to youth prison. The CBAC hopes that these two items can be considered in the transition.

Members: Bryce Magorian, Terrance Moses, Thomas Karwaki, Kesean Coleman, Maria Ramos, Jasiel Lopez, Autumn Lillie **Staff:** Denise Pena, Colby Dixon, Micaela Thurman, Tami Wallis

Department of Community Justice CBAC

Currently, the facility is used only by Multnomah County and thus it is a stranded asset where all of the capital and operating costs are borne by the County. This results in high fixed operating costs (because of the nature of having to operate and staff three pods for different populations of juveniles), leading to an additional high cost impacting each juvenile served; i.e., costs per bed. Multnomah County currently has no options within 100 miles to send its youth, nor would it want to because the County values maintaining family and community ties with the juvenile, which are proven to reduce future crimes, detention, and incarceration.

Therefore, the DCJ CBAC members applaud the courage of the DCJ team to maintain the County's values while being burdened with reducing operating costs. However, while the steps the DCJ has taken in this year's budget go some way towards ameliorating the loss of staff in A&E (see our section on 50064 below), we also urge the Board to take further steps to fill the gap that will be left behind by the loss of this program.

Program Offer 50064 Juvenile Culturally Responsive Youth and Family Treatment Services

We believe that introducing this program as a means to bridge the anticipated gap in services, left by cutting 50063, is necessary, and we strongly urge the Board to fund this program. The services in this program will directly benefit those juvenile populations most in need of support, including Black, African American, African immigrant/refugee, and Latino/a youth, and their families. The type of interventions and therapeutic support that this program provides are essential to justice-involved youth at this stage in their lives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – The CBAC members applaud the courage of the DCJ team to maintain the County's values while reducing operating costs. Also, we love Tami!