



Juvenile Justice Steering Committee

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LPSCC

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Reforming Governance: Transition to the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee (JJSC)

The Legacy Framework

Established in the mid 1990's, the **Juvenile Justice Council (JJC)** served for decades as a broad collaborative platform for networking and information-sharing among youth-serving agencies and partners.

The Challenge

An expansive size (**over 100+ members**) and a lack of direct decision-making authority severely limited the council's ability to act rapidly, coordinate resources, or drive policy reform, resulting in stagnation prior to May 2024.



The Streamlined Pivot

In April 2024, the LPSCC Executive Committee officially approved replacing the legacy structure with a streamlined, action-oriented, **26-member Juvenile Justice Steering Committee (JJSC)**.

The Outcome

Formally launched in December 2024 and adopted in March 2025, this agile oversight steering committee bridges historical operational gaps to directly align system resources, enforce accountability, and drive localized juvenile justice policy.

Governance & Accountability

Mission

As a subcommittee of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC), the **Juvenile Justice Steering Committee (JJSC)** provides strategic direction and oversight for Multnomah County's juvenile justice system.

Collaborative Policy-Making

Be an ongoing forum for communication and collaboration among key decision makers for the purposes of evaluating, analyzing, planning, policy-making, and recommending action to improve system effectiveness and efficiency of the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice System.

Juvenile Justice System Flowchart

System Flowchart Overview

FRONT-TO-BACK PROCESS MAP



Front-End Diversion & Restorative Models



Community Healing (CHI-EI)

Early intervention targeting first-time, low-level offenders. Partners with culturally specific agencies to deliver immediate, trauma-informed support, educational stabilization, and mentor relationships without criminal branding.



Restorative Deflection

In eligible cases, formal filing is bypassed in favor of a restorative model. Under the guidance of a professional mediator, the impacted victim and the youth engage directly to address the harm caused. If the process is successfully completed, the file is sealed, ensuring that no formal charges are entered.



Informal Handling

For minor offenses, the justice system utilizes informal accountability contracts tailored to the individual. Successfully completing the required terms which may include restitution, community service, or educational programs results in the case being closed without the creation of a formal court record.

Detention Intake Pathways

IMMEDIATE CUSTODY OPTIONS

When police bring a youth directly to secure detention, Juvenile Department Intake staff conduct a validated Detention Screening Instrument (DSI) :



Unconditional Release

Youth is immediately discharged directly to parent or legal guardian without formal electronic monitoring or restrictive curfews, awaiting a scheduled preliminary hearing.



Conditional Release

Youth is released under precise community-based tracking constraints. Placement options include remaining home with Electronic Monitoring (EM) or transfer to a local youth Shelter.



Administrative HOLD

The youth remains secured in physical detention awaiting a mandatory judicial review within strict statutory timelines.

Post-Hearing Placements

PRELIMINARY DETENTION HEARING OUTCOMES

Secure Detention Outcomes

Following a preliminary hearing, the judge evaluates safety factors to dictate physical placement status:

- **Detained Status:** Court order to remain within secure detention center, with periodic judicial reviews.
- **Continued Release:** Authorization to continue living in the community while legal steps progress.
- **Case-by-Case Assessment:** Judges must weigh severity, community danger, and the family's level of home supervision.

Release Placements

Youth granted release are directed to supervised home or professional community programs:

- **Standard Release:** Returned to care of parents or legal guardians with check-ins.
- **Electronic Monitoring (EM):** Release to parents under intensive tracking using ankle GPS transmitters.
- **Shelter Placement:** Temporary housing for safety.

Judicial Case Milestones

When a case warrants formal prosecution, the court process follows a structured statutory path designed to protect constitutional rights while ensuring public safety:

STEP 01

Petition Filed

The DA submits a formal charging petition, initiating official jurisdiction of the court.

STEP 02

Preliminary Hearing

Immediate court appearance to review charges, establish legal counsel, and issue release or detention rulings.

STEP 03

Trial / Admission

A formal fact-finding process. Charges are established by trial or through voluntary admissions/plea agreements.

STEP 04

Disposition

The sentencing phase. The judge issues terms of rehabilitation, local probation, or state-level commitments.

Disposition & Post-Trial Options

THE ACCOUNTABILITY PHASE

Local Juvenile Probation

The vast majority of adjudicated cases are retained locally to maximize rehabilitation within the home community environment.

- **Juvenile Court Counselors (JCCs):** Supervised directly within the local Juvenile Department.
- **Targeted Interventions:** Programs include localized mental health therapy, substance use services, and restorative services.
- **Restitution & Hours:** Completion of community-based restitution programs.

State Commitment & Placements

For highly serious offenses, or cases where local interventions fail, the Court transfers the youth out of local jurisdiction.

- **Oregon Youth Authority (OYA):** Formal state commitment into a secure, rehabilitative correctional facility.
- **Behavioral Rehab Services (BRS):** Placement in highly structured community residential group homes.
- **Reentry Planning:** Mandated coordination to reintegrate the youth back to local communities upon release with supervision by OYA.

Empirical Trends & Data-Driven Insights

The Disparity Cascade

Systemic disparities are not static, they amplify over time. This visualization tracks how early-stage inequities widen as cases move deeper into formal justice structures.



**Data retrieved from Oregon Youth Authority & MacArthur Safety and Justice Report*

The Pandemic Triggered a Structural Shift in Annual Admissions

KEY TAKEAWAYS

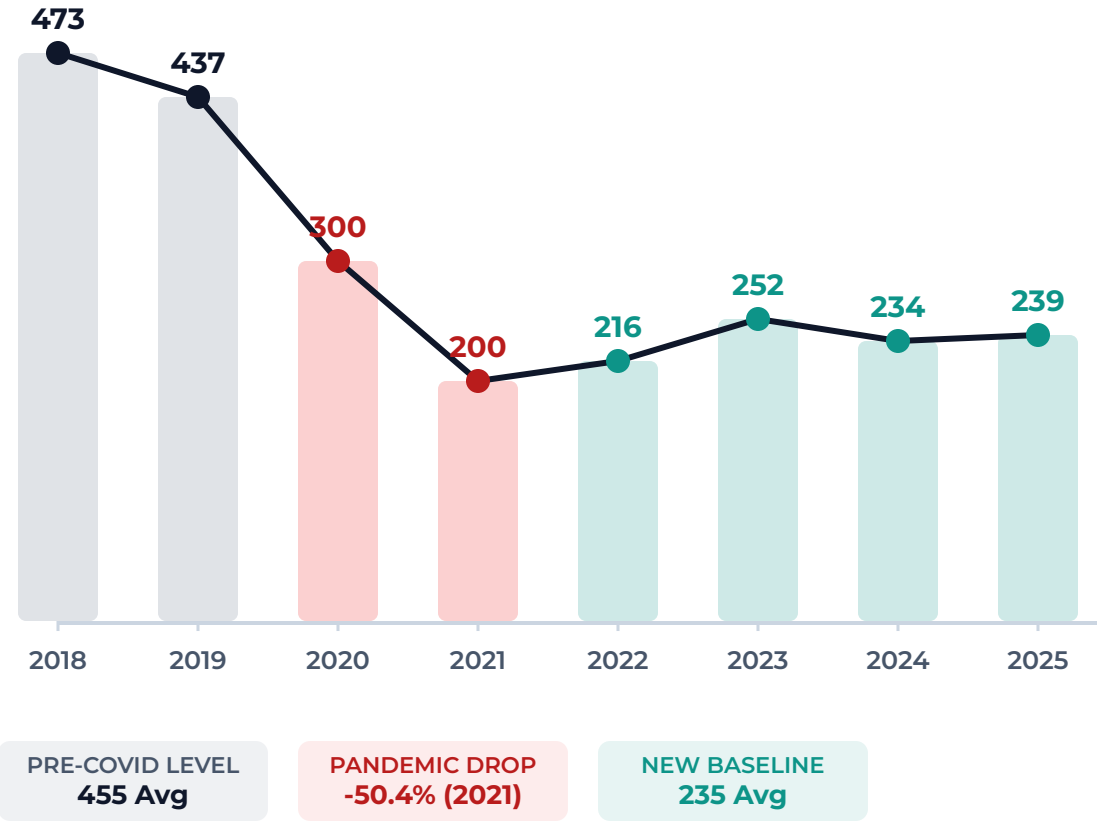
The system experienced a massive decline in admissions during the pandemic, and rather than returning to pre-pandemic levels, it has stabilized at a new, lower baseline.

Pre-Pandemic Highs: Admissions peaked in 2018 at **473** and in 2019 at **437**, representing the stable Pre-COVID Baseline.

The Pandemic Drop: Admissions plummeted by over 50% to a historic low of **200** in 2021, down from **300** in 2020.

The New Normal: Volume has stabilized at a much lower level, averaging around **235** annual admissions from 2022 to 2025.

ANNUAL ADMISSIONS TREND (2018 - 2025)



Average Length of Stay (LOS) Has Grown Significantly

KEY TAKEAWAYS

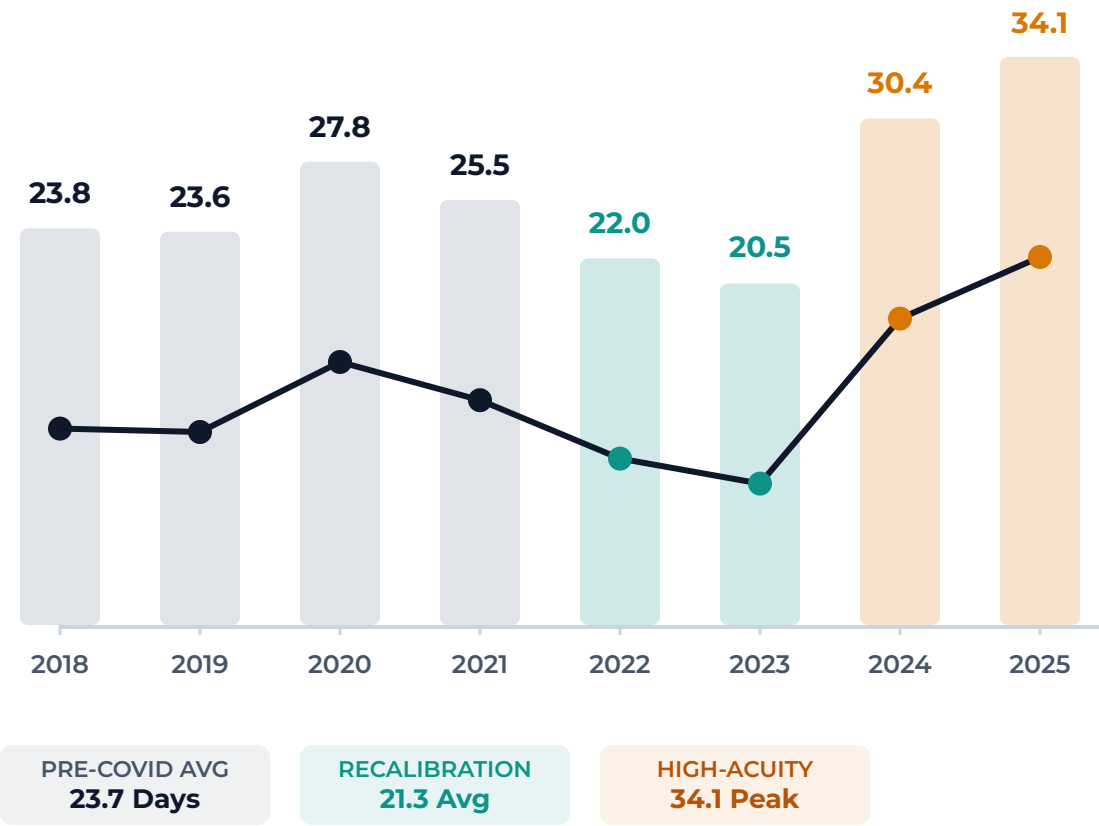
Despite a much lower volume of admissions, the youth who are admitted are staying significantly longer on average. This indicates a potential shift toward higher-acuity cases requiring longer-term care.

Steady Upward Trend: The Average Length of Stay (LOS) was at its lowest pre-pandemic in 2019 at **23.6 days** and 2018 at **23.8 days**.

The Peak in 2025: By 2025 (**34.1 days**), the average length of stay reached an all-time high—a **43% increase** compared to the 2018 baseline.

High-Acuity Transition: This upward trend is particularly evident recently, rising from **20.5 days** in 2023 to **30.4 days** in 2024 and finally **34.1 days** in 2025.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY TREND (2018 - 2025)



Shift in Admissions: From Technical Holds to Violent Charges

SYSTEMIC TRENDS

Shift in Admissions

Low-Risk Diversion: Low-risk, short-stay youth have been successfully diverted to community-based monitoring programs.

High-Acuity Domination: The remaining detention population is heavily dominated by Pre-Adjudicatory **New Law Violations** (122 admissions in 2025).

TECHNICAL VIOLATIONS

-71%

76 in 2018 | 22 in 2025

Permanent Contraction: Probation and Parole Violations saw a massive decline, successfully reducing system contact for technical holds under county supervision.

SEVERE OUTLIER IMPACT

13 Youth

Exceeded 90 Days in Detention

Extended Stays: Extreme case complexity and placement barriers extend stay timelines significantly, reaching an unprecedented peak of **925 days** in 2025.

2026 Strategic Goals & Action Plan

Juvenile Justice Steering Committee (JJSC) Key Priorities and Implementation Roadmaps



Family Engagement

Establishing collaborative pathways, continuous stakeholder feedback loops, and resource distribution for youth and families navigating the juvenile justice system.



Mental Health Support

Strengthen support networks, service mapping, and delivery systems focusing on healing-centered support for justice-impacted youth and their families.



Educational Access

Establish a comprehensive map of tutoring and vocational training programs supporting detention- and probation-connected youth.