



September 1, 2015

To: Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

From: Multnomah County Commissioner Judy Shiprack, LPSCC Co-Chair
Mayor of Portland Charlie Hales, LPSCC Co-Chair

Re: Multnomah County 2015-2017 Community Corrections Biennial Plan

Please find enclosed the Multnomah County Community Corrections Plan. This submission is a two-year plan, based on the funding in the Department of Corrections Inter-Governmental Agreement for the 15-17 biennium.

The Multnomah County Community Corrections Plan demonstrates our ability as a system to strategize how to work together to improve public safety in our community. A major focus has been on the implementation of the Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program (MCJRP), funded as a result of the passage of HB 3194. This has been a joint effort, led by the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Justice Reinvestment Work Group, who is working together on a whole system approach to use fewer prison beds. The work group includes the Presiding Judge, the District Attorney, the Sheriff, a public defender, the Citizen's Crime Commission, local law enforcement, non-profit treatment provider, crimes victim's representative, and Community Justice.

MCJRP aims to improve the assessment of criminal offenders and provide them with an enhanced continuum of community-based services and sanctions. This combination of early assessment and intervention is provided to reduce recidivism while protecting public safety. Implementation of the MCJRP program began in July 2014. Early results have shown offenders are receiving a range of services. Another component of HB 3194, Short Term Transitional Leave (STTL), is also showing promise. To date, results show that STTL in Multnomah County has resulted in 323 releases, with a success rate of 94%. Together these programs are continuing to reduce our total bed use.

Additional priorities for this upcoming biennium include:

- **Continued investment in Case Management Models** – The Department of Community Justice (DCJ) Adult Services Division will continue with the implementation of the EPICS case management model. This model supports the use of evidence-based practices with criminal offenders who are being supervised in the community. It is reshaping how we invest in services as we continue to shift our case-management model to one based on risk and need. An important next step is the creation of a Resource Center that will effectively engage clients in skill building activities known to result in positive client change that impacts community, family, and employment. This center is a result of redesigning two of our existing programs, the Day Reporting Center and the Londer Learning Center. Joining efforts will improve client-centered services that are based upon

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assessment of risk and needs and align with effective practices in community supervision.

- ***Adjusting Services to Mentally Ill Offenders to reduce dependence on jail*** - DCJ will continue to invest in the supportive housing for the mentally ill. Our goal is to connect these offenders with services rather than placing them in jail during periods of instability. Multnomah County is one of 20 locations selected from around the country to participate in the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge. The goal of this challenge is for jurisdictions to come up with plans to reduce use of jail beds. We will focus on providing community options for inmates with mental health needs, decreasing the disproportionate incarceration of people of color, and decreasing the number of low-risk inmates sitting in jail. This grant is allowing us to continue our focus on providing supportive housing, a combination of housing and services intended to help people live more stable lives and avoid contact with law enforcement. DCJ will continue to ensure that our PPOs can access the necessary resources for offenders with severe and persistent mental illness. This work is essential for stabilizing and decreasing recidivism rates for this specific population and is always coordinated with community-based treatment. This combination of stable housing and treatment resources is key to addressing the complex needs of these individuals while supporting public safety.
- ***Investment in staff resources*** - In FY2015, DCJ had a record number of new PPOs representing new investments and attrition from promotions and retirements. Hiring this many new PPOs in a short period of time presents an opportunity to train them in our evolving case management model as they begin their career. They are coming on board with an understanding of the role of evidence-based practices in their work.

We believe that Multnomah County is well situated to be an important partner with DOC to deliver the outcomes needed to effectively manage felons in the community. Our ability to collaborate across public safety agencies will be a critical indicator of our future success. We look forward to working together to support public safety.

Co-Chair Judy Shiprack
Multnomah County

Co-Chair Charlie Hales
City of Portland

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