



## **MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON - Department of Community Justice**

### **Citizen Budget Advisory Committee**

501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 250

Portland, Oregon 97214

## **Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Report**

**This CBAC deviated slightly from the recommended submission format to focus attention on our recommendations/concerns and emerging issues**

### **Recommendations/Concerns:**

The CBAC supports the Department of Community Justice's (DCJ) programs as written and recommends the County Commissioners accept them in the entirety. The CBAC does not believe DCJ can sustain additional cuts. We commend the department for seeking synergies with the Sheriff's Office and Health Services to address overarching themes and services, such as the decision to locate drug and alcohol treatment services at jails, contained in program offer number 50062-Addiction Services-Jail/Community Transition Program.

However, this location of treatment facilities in jails only addresses medium to high-risk offenders. There is a strong need for drug and alcohol treatment for low-risk offenders that is not adequately addressed by the Department of Community Justice or County Health Services. The county needs to develop a systematic approach to drug and alcohol treatment that begins with prevention within schools, the SUN program, and work places and extends through treatment for those adults and juveniles in various countywide programs. The county lacks a clear vision and leadership concerning drug and alcohol treatment programs and needs to appoint a task force team to investigate implementation of a more integrated approach to these services. Treatment for addictions is normally less expensive than confining a person.

Additionally, this CBAC recommends the county not fund the opening of Wapato. The minimum cost of funding a partial opening of this facility would absorb funds that could be used to fund important services currently funded by the ITAX. Several key programs within this department, like the Adult Day Reporting Center and Transitional Housing for Offenders, with good outcomes, could be maintained with these funds.

### **Emerging Issues:**

The CBAC would like to encourage the County Commissioners to seek greater alliance and alignment between those agencies concerned with safety issues.

The Citizen Budget Advisory Committee was excited to learn the county is contemplating retiring the Juvenile Justice Complex Capital Debt Retirement Fund with the current budget surplus.

Additionally, the CBAC encourages the department to continue to offer new programs, such as the program number 50024, Latino Beds, to fit the needs of the county's dynamically changing population.

### **Process:**

Two factors served as the guide for this year's Department of Community Justice Citizen Budget Advisory Committee. The first was the priority area process modeled last year for assignment to

specific priorities: Education, Safety, Accountability, etc. The second was keeping the County's safety priority center stage: "I want to feel safe at home, work, school, and at play."

The first factor solidified the team's desire for a primary focus on the Department of Community Justice. We spent a majority of our time getting to know, and research, this department and felt that we had less knowledge of other departments and their offerings. What we learned from last year's process, however, helped tremendously in evaluating departmental offers. We wanted outcome data, we wanted quantitative, as well as qualitative, factors discussed and presented, which we received. We also wanted a sense of the department's highest priorities to be transparent.

Based on this first factor, the team spent the first part of this fiscal year interviewing and reviewing the composition of the Department of Community Justice. We received an overview of the department from the Director, Joanne Fuller. Then had opportunities to interview Assistant Directors, Steve Liday (Adult Services Division) and Dave Koch (Juvenile Services Division). As a focus, the CBAC interviewed the lead administrators within the Juvenile Services Division: Thach Nguyen, Counseling Service Manager, and Wayne Scott, Treatment Service Manager. We focused upon the Juvenile Services Division because, as a group, we feel that early intervention will help keep juveniles from becoming adult offenders.

As a group, and individually, we reviewed the program offers and participated in the creation of this report. With the County's safety priority statement as our major focus, we feel that the program offers submitted, holistically and individually, support this statement.

### **Major Changes:**

There are several major changes that have either taken place, or are in the process of changing, this fiscal year. The most significant of these is the closing of the River Rock Secure Treatment facility. The CBAC team is concerned that the steady erosion of drug and alcohol treatment facilities will negatively affect the recidivism rates, resulting in an increase in repeat criminal activity. The CBAC feels drug and alcohol treatment services should be increased, not only in secure but also in community based programs. Program offerings addressing drug and alcohol treatment are within both "Basic Needs" and "Safety", and are specific to client. Among these programs is the STOP Drug Diversion Program, currently funded by the ITAX.

Additionally, the team is concerned that the implementation of evidenced-based practice methods, resulting in reduced incarceration and recidivism, has not resulted in the evidenced-based recommendation to streamline caseloads for the probation officers. Funding of program offer 50030B-Adult Felony Supervision-Restore Current Staffing Level would ensure no gaps in supervision occur. These gaps normally result in negative publicity and raise public concerns about safety.

The team is concerned about the permanent loss of the Forest Program for juveniles and adults, program offer number 50040. If the contract is not renewed this year, the facility maybe lost. Based on these primary issues, the CBAC reviewed the program offers within the scope of Adult and Juvenile Services to examine their overall fit in achieving safety.

**Member's Names:** Ken Carter  
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