

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of Building a) RESOLUTION
New Juvenile Facility and)
Establishing a Youth Action) 91-188
Plan for Multnomah County)

WHEREAS, Robyn A. et al. v. McCoy et al is a class action suit filed against Multnomah County alleging the existence of unconstitutional conditions at the Juvenile Detention Home, and

WHEREAS, the County Board referred a \$23 million bond issue to the voters in May, 1990, to construct a new juvenile facility. The bond was defeated. A major issue in the campaign was the lack of a Comprehensive Plan for Juveniles.

WHEREAS, the Board has received several reports relating to youth and delinquency in the past year. (e.g. the Child Abuse Task Force, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Planning Group, the Service Plan for Displaced Youth, and the consultant's study on the juvenile home.)

WHEREAS, consultants Richard Gable and Paul DeMuro issued a Program Review of the Detention Facility and Practices in September, 1991. The report noted that there were needs to expand "the number and improve the accessibility of pretrial detention alternatives" and "the county's post-adjudicative alternatives for committed youth". The report concluded that:

In many ways, the County's need for a secure detention facility will be contingent on its commitment to alternative programs. Without a doubt, chronic and violent offenders will need to be held in secure care. However, a thoughtful commitment to alternative programs will both reduce the need for secure care beds and offer more of an opportunity for some of Portland's troubled youth. In this case, development of decent alternative programming makes good economic and programming sense.

WHEREAS, the recent efforts of the Portland Employment and Empowerment Coalition is evidence of strong community concern about the root causes of gang involvement and activity.

WHEREAS, the Children's Justice Steering Committee recommended that the county commit to construct a new juvenile facility and begin a planning process for the needs of youth.

WHEREAS, the need for a new juvenile home is symbolic of the lack of adequate services for children and young people,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the need for a new juvenile facility to be an emergency. The Board does not want to fund extensive improvements to a building that must be abandoned soon.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board commits to construct a new juvenile facility as quickly as possible. The Board will pursue regional funding from other jurisdictions proportionate to their use of the facility.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board requests that the Chair schedule a briefing on the specific design of the facility within 30 days. Also, the Board requests that the Chair present a plan to the Board to fund the facility within 60 days.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will make the following emergency expenditures:

a. One time only repairs to meet Fire Marshal requirements, after Facilities Management has rediscussed these requirements given the commitment to build a new facility and to cap the existing facility.

b. Programming to adequately serve youth at the facility.

c. A partial third boys unit to operate between now and June 30, 1992.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will provide funding for appropriate community alternatives for juveniles as part of the Comprehensive Youth Action Plan. The Board will ask the Department to monitor and evaluate the success of that programming to help determine the final size of the new facility.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board recognizes that a new facility does not address the inadequate prevention and intervention services for youth. The Board therefore requests that a Comprehensive Youth Action Plan be developed by a Task Force, with representatives from the following:

Juvenile Department	Youth Program Office
District Attorney's Office	Juvenile Court
Law Enforcement	Children's Services Division
Tri County Youth Consortium	Public Schools
Community Agencies serving youth - 2	
Children and Youth Services Commission	
Children's Justice Steering Committee	
Court Appointed Special Advocates	
Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency	
Multnomah County Legal Aid or Juvenile Rights Project	

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appointments will be made in accordance with the Charter. The Planning Group will select its own chair. Staff will be provided by the Board of Commissioners, and other agencies as requested by the Chair.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Comprehensive Youth Action Plan Task Force will develop a strategy for dealing with preventing juvenile delinquency and intervening with children who are already delinquent.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force will consider the recommendations of the Child Abuse Task Force, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Planning Group, Service Plan for Displaced Youth, and the consultant's report.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the goal of this Plan is a reduction of delinquency through early intervention in the lives of pre-delinquent youth and reintegration of delinquent youth into productive lives in the community. In pursuit of that goal, the Plan should include recommendations designed meet the objectives outlined in Appendix A.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Committee will report to the Board by March 15, 1992. The Board commits to reviewing and adopting a plan and funding it during its 1992-3 budget process.

ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1991

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By Gladys McCoy
Gladys McCoy, Chair


Laurence Kressel, County Counsel

By H. H. Lazenby, Jr.

APPENDIX A

Protect the public by targeting beds at the Home to those who pose the greatest public safety risk

Increase effectiveness of probation by developing a progressive series of sanctions as a consequence for violations of standards

Increase the accountability of youth by providing a continuum of services between the Youth Services Center and the Juvenile Home.

Strive for greater public safety and youth accountability, by building upon the skill based competency program and including services such as job readiness skills, mental health, health, alcohol and drug treatment, and appropriate living arrangements.

Target resources to youth who now occupy space at the Home because of a lack of appropriate alternative sanctions - e.g. dependency cases, children in need of shelter care.

Target resources to young sex offenders and victims of child abuse, who may become delinquent without treatment.

Provide services attuned to cultural differences and diverse youth populations

Expand community prevention efforts aimed at keeping youth out of gangs.

Seek a balance between prevention services which seek to assist younger children who will likely be delinquent if assistance is not provided and intervention services directed at youth already involved in delinquent activities