



November 13, 2017

To: Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

From: Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury, LPSCC Co-Chair
Mayor of Portland Ted Wheeler, LPSCC Co-Chair

Re: Multnomah County 2017-2019 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 17-19 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. For the Department of Community Justice (DCJ), our goal is to continue to build a solid foundation to serve those at highest risk for relapse and recidivism and provide services that reduce reliance on more costly options like prison, jail, and detention. Risk assessments are utilized to determine who to supervise and how intensely. Moving forward, our intent is to remain focused on addressing the highest risk, and to deliver more complete services which include increasing our presence in the community.

In partnership with our public safety partners, our overall goal as a system is to encourage the active participation of countywide leadership, to foster close collaboration in the development and operation of public safety operations and policies and to promote coordinated, data-driven public safety operations and policies. We have been working together to identify solutions to problems and determine ways to move forward to address several key areas. The following priorities for this upcoming biennium reflect this joint focus.

- **Implementation of House Bill 3194, the Justice Reinvestment Program:**
We continue to closely track the implementation of the Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program (MCJRP), funded as a result of the passage of HB 3194. Working closely with our public safety partners, we are continually discussing what is working and what aspects of the program need to be refined. The core of the program, early assessment and intervention, consists of providing an enhanced continuum of community-based services and sanctions. An outcomes report completed in November 2016 showed that MCJRP participants on supervision had similar or better recidivism rates than participants in the pre-Justice Reinvestment comparison group. Short Term Trans Leave (STTL) is another important component of HB 3194 that allows 90 day early release to supervision. Between July 2014-June 2016, 32,014 prison bed days have been saved as a result of Multnomah County inmates released to STTL. When looking at statewide prison bed use across counties, Multnomah County continues to consistently lead in the reduction of prison bed usage to help the State reach the reduction needed to avoid building another

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prison. MCJRP has provided the opportunity for partners to build collaborative relationships that have led to other improvements in our system.

- **Reduction of Jail Bed Use:** Since spring 2015 Multnomah County has been participating in MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge, a national initiative designed to reduce over-incarceration by changing the way America thinks about and uses jails. Participation in this challenge has led to the development of strategies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities while simultaneously reducing reliance on jail. A specific DCJ strategy that we implemented and we will continue to monitor is an effort called Furthering Effective Sanctioning Practices (FESP). This initiative builds on the use of effective sanctioning practices, which include the principle of swift and certain responses to violations and limiting jail use to no more than 3 days for lower level technical violations and encourages the use of community based sanctions and programming. Use of sanctions is tracked on a monthly basis by department, unit, individual PPO and by demographic factors. Since implementing our sanctioning reform process over a year ago, we have reduced DCJ's monthly jail bed usage by an additional 62 beds.
- **Continued focus on reducing racial and ethnic disparities:** DCJ will continue to invest in the programs and services that have been implemented to address racial and ethnic disparities and explore ways to increase our cultural responsiveness. We have established a 15-25 year old unit that serves predominantly gang affected young men. This unit works to address an individual's brain development, equity and trauma as it relates to risks and needs and is showing some promising results. We have also introduced new curriculum, called HEAT (Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Program), a culturally responsive curriculum focusing on young black men. We have prioritized implementing this curriculum to impact disparities and increase engagement in services that can lead to positive behavior change. In addition, as a result of the MacArthur Report on Racial and Ethnic Disparities, we are now tracking our sanctions by race on a monthly basis. In part aided by the County's effort to reduce the use of jail, we are making slow but steady progress. Based on data collected since the summer, several of our units have made progress on reducing disparity in the use of jail as a sanction.

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 Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County

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