



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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August 24, 2017

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Robert Ball, Chair
885 Summer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97221

Dear Chair Ball,

The Yamhill County Board of Commissioners joins our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council in supporting the county's supplemental Justice Reinvestment Program grant application for the 2017-2019 biennium. After significant deliberation, the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council decided to submit the following grant proposal for the supplemental competitive justice reinvestment grant funds.

The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council unanimously supported the proposal and we add our support in this letter. We are immensely proud of the success of our Evidence-based Sentencing Project (SMART Sentencing Initiative) and very excited to see it expanded with the addition of a deputy district attorney to manage prison diversion cases.

We are confident that our county's grant application meets the requirements of the grant and honors the legislative directives to support downward departure prison diversion program.

Thank you for reviewing our plan.

Yours truly,



Stan Primozich
Commissioner
Chair



Mary Starrett
Commissioner
Vice-Chair



Richard L. "Rick" Olson
Commissioner
Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on
8-24-17 by Board Order
17-334

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DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

July 5, 2017

To: Ian Davidson
LPSCC Coordinator

From: Bradley C. Berry
Yamhill County District Attorney

Re: JRI Funding Proposal

The Yamhill County District Attorney's Office is proposing a program that would provide for opportunities to have earlier resolution to cases, and added alternatives to traditional prosecution.

It is without a doubt that rapid resolution to cases achieves better results. Often the offenders entering the system for the first time are considered to be low risk to reoffend. Offenders that frequent systems that put them with higher risk offenders are at a greater risk of becoming higher risk themselves. Creative alternatives from traditional accountable outcomes would shift these low risk offenders away from such things as jail, and work crew.

In the past, until the legislature effectively prohibited it, this office had an effective public-private partnership for diverting individuals who passed bad checks. Similarly, there are partnerships with entities that provide for both education and accountability for individuals committing lower level offenses such as shoplifting, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief and the like. These programs need to not only be vetted for effectiveness, but once in use, need be monitored.

Additionally, offenders may often present with not only criminal conduct, but with mental health issues that may have contributed to the offense. Having effective approaches that both look to resolving both issues, and doing so quickly, benefit the community, the offender and the criminal justice system.

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This proposal would utilize JRI funding to have a specialized Deputy District Attorney who would be responsible for:

1. Identifying and reviewing alternatives to traditional criminal justice sanctions.
2. Creating processes to review the appropriate individuals for diversion from traditional criminal justice results.
3. Identifying lower level offenders with a significant mental health component causing, or causing in part, the behaviors that brought the person into the system.
4. Implementing processes to encourage quick resolution of these cases through rapid review and quick discussions with defense counsel.
5. Identifying cases that can be resolved without the filing of a criminal complaint through alternatives to the traditional approach.
6. Direct assignment of a DDA 2, to the M57, Defendant Analysis Report process, for consistent review and decisions on offenders that are presumptive prison sentences, but may or should be considered for dispositional departures to probation, when it has been determined that the offender can be safely managed in the community.

The overall intent of this project is to reduce the time to resolution of lower level offenses, reduce the time offenders with mental health issues remain in the criminal justice system, and create alternative opportunities of resolution that, when successful, do not result in a criminal conviction. Programs like these have been successful in other counties, but to fully implement them does not come without a cost. The cost for a midrange, DDA 2, is \$120,000 annually. This is salary and related costs. The office would absorb the remainder of the costs.

Yamhill County Criminal Justice professionals have, for years, collaborated on alternatives to the traditional approach to criminal cases. We have examined 'evidence based' approaches to identify alternatives. This program should reduce the number of repeat offenders, reduce the number of predicate offenses likely to accelerate the presumptive prison sentences, and increase our efforts in dealing with the mentally ill in the criminal justice system.