



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

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**Criminal Justice Commission
Agency Report on SB 267
Interim Committee on Judiciary**

Agency Description:

The Criminal Justice Commission's (CJC) purpose is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state and local criminal justice systems by providing a centralized and impartial forum for statewide policy development and planning. The commission is charged with developing a long-range public safety plan for Oregon, which includes making recommendations on the capacity and use of state prisons and local jails, implementation of community corrections programs and methods to reduce future criminal conduct. In addition, the Commission has a role in funding and evaluating Oregon's drug courts. The commission also conducts research, develops impact estimates of crime-related legislation, acts as a statistical and data clearinghouse, administers Oregon's felony sentencing guidelines and provides staff to the advisory committees regarding asset forfeiture and racial profiling.

Compliance with SB 267

All (100%) of CJC's grant programs are evidence-based. Because of the nature of competitive grants, CJC is able to provide funding to programs that demonstrate the greatest fidelity to evidence-based practices.

Programs Included Under ORS 182.515 (4)

Drug Court Implementation and Enhancement Grant- (General/Federal Fund) The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) administers \$6 million in grants to Counties and private non-profits (\$4.2 million General Fund/\$1.8 million Federal Fund). CJC originally funded these grants in 2006, in an effort to reduce methamphetamine demand. While these grants were originally funded solely with General Fund, the CJC backfilled General Fund cuts to this program in the 2009 Legislatively Adopted Budget with Federal Funds. Through this grant program, we fund 22 drug courts in 19 counties. These grants provided addiction and mental health treatment services, housing, employment services, and childcare to approximately 750 drug court participants a year.

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Programs- (Federal Funds) The CJC administers two drug court grant programs using JAG funds, the JAG Drug Court Grant, which was designed to maintain statewide infrastructure in the face of budget cuts, and the Measure 57 Drug Court Grant, which was designed to serve offenders convicted of Measure 57 crimes. CJC also administers two prisoner reentry grant programs which fund some treatment services.

CJC does fund other programs, including multi-jurisdictional drug teams that are not defined as a “program” by ORS 182.515 (4).

Drug Court Research

Drug Courts comprise approximately 2/3 of all CJC grant spending and approximately 80% of funding subject to ORS 182.515 (4). All CJC grants were originally awarded to programs through a competitive grant process. Applicants described program goals, objectives, and services delivered in their applications. 100% of treatment services delivered under these grant programs were required to be approved Evidence-Based Practices under the Department of Human Services- Addiction and Mental Health Division (AMH). Drug courts themselves have been approved as an evidence-based practice by AMH.

Drug courts are among the most studied criminal justice interventions available. According to a 2006 study performed by the Washington State Institute on Public Policy (WSIPP), drug courts reduce recidivism by 9% more than “business-as-usual”. In that study, WSIPP reviewed 57 “rigorous evaluations” of drug courts, more than double the number of evaluations available for any other intervention.

Furthermore, every independent outcome evaluation of *Oregon* drug courts has shown a positive effect in almost every domain, including in reduced alcohol and drug use, reduced criminal activity and recidivism, improved employment, relationships, income and housing. Unfortunately, many of the drug court studies that had been conducted had been too small to generate “statistical significance”.

While these results are encouraging, we wanted to go further in determining the actual effect of drug courts on crime rates and recidivism in Oregon. With the assistance of a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Programs, CJC and DOC research staff worked with Portland based NPC Research to conduct a statewide effectiveness and cost-benefit study of 5,655 Oregon drug court participants from 2000-2006. A statewide study aggregates thousands of drug court participants to overcome the problem of small sample sizes. The report from this study is expected to be published in late October, but preliminary findings include a reduction of recidivism (defined as new charges filed within 3 years) of 26% compared to “business as usual” (i.e. regular probation and treatment if available).

Based on NPC’s cost-benefit model, this 26% “effect size” translates to a taxpayer benefit of \$6,812 (approximately 60% state savings, 40% local savings) and savings in “victimization costs” of an additional \$10,121, for a *total benefit of \$16,933 per participant* over 3 years.

CJC also funds several specialty treatment courts, including juvenile and family dependency treatment courts. These programs, while based on extensively researched programs, have not been as intensively studied. NPC Research recently completed two detailed studies on these programs in Marion and Jackson counties. Both programs

showed a positive cost-benefit ratio as well as numerous positive effects in public safety and child welfare outcomes. This research was funded by the Oregon State Police and the CJC with JAG funds and the reports are available on the CJC website

Other programs

CJC funds prisoner reentry services in Multnomah, Washington, Josephine, and Jackson counties for graduates of DOC prison treatment programs. CJC also funds Reentry Centers in Multnomah, Lane, and Klamath counties. All services delivered in both types programs are required to be evidence-based. All these grantees submitted applications to the CJC, which were reviewed by staff and a panel of experts. Grantees were required to select treatment programs which demonstrated strong research evidence and applicants also submitted scores from Correctional Program Checklist reviews conducted by DOC staff. These programs will be evaluated as they near the end of their grant periods, when participants will be compared to offenders similar in risk to themselves.