



## Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
RJC Criminal Justice Reform Committee  
April 22, 2025 – Zoom  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Moderator – Javier Cervantes

### MEMBERS

E	Babak Zolfaghari-Azar		Paul Solomon	X	Sterling Cunio
	Michelle Love		Shay Huber	X	Tristen Edwards
	Nansi Lopez	X	Shaylie Pickrell		

### OTHER ATTENDEES

X	Andre Bealer	X	Javier Cervantes	X	Valerie Colas
X	Yasmin Solorio				

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
<b>DOC Subcommittee &amp; Circles of Peace Update-Tristen</b>	<p><i>Check-in Question: What is one thing that you really enjoyed about your day or what you're looking forward to.</i></p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> CJC is having a hearing on deflection, I believe on April 30<sup>th</sup>. That will be recorded, hopefully someone can present next meeting. Kicking off the agenda.</p> <p>Work DOC has been doing and where it has gone. Would like to talk about where they are headed. Subcommittee is pretty small in terms of the number people. Would be great time for others to step on subcommittee. Would love to hear ideas and next steps for that subcommittee. We have been working with a group of men at OSP. Sterling started that group. We met with them and had conversations over a year on ways our group could support them. Sterling helped us nail a conversation on leaving and returning on domestic violence crimes. Reflecting on how prison culture can contribute to violence in the home. Men in prison and specifically in OSP are working on themselves and strengthening families and relationships. Started a relationship with NYU and Circles of Peace to create a curriculum and adapt the model to be a more preventative framework. Jess Cline has really taken ownership of this program. DOC subcommittee has now run its course and please keep us in mind with how we can help, now its time to pass the project along. DOC Subcommittee has room to do something different. We did come up with a plan to come up with a lot of different things. Going to pause</p>	<p>Sterling to research OARS</p> <p>Paul to identify groups working in Eastern Or facilities through Yarg foundation</p> <p>Shaylie to reach out to folks at EOCI</p> <p>Tristen to connect w. Ahimsa collective, ReGroup, Trish Jordan, and people in eastern Oregon prison.</p>

here and would love to hear if others have thoughts, ideas or reactions to this update.

**Paul:** Would be great if this role could be expanded beyond valley institutions. Having programing into the Eastern institutions. If there's a way that could be a focus, would be a great thing.

**Tristen:** Like that idea, would love to hear if you have thoughts, Sterling.

**Sterling:** There's people in every community committing to self-improvement. I've been gone for three years, its one of the places that can change in a month yet not change at all. Don't know what the current memo or focus is, but I can tell you Oregon Dept of Corrections will not have same opportunities out East as they do in the Valley. Just want to publicly acknowledge Tristen was a driving force to help Circles of Peace and the impact it had. They don't care out East, and make it hard to advocate and push for stuff.

**Paul:** Challenge is often getting volunteers to organize in rural communities. Beauty of Circles of Peace its not dependent on volunteers. Feel like it's a good fit as long as we have people in the institutions that want to engage in this practice, it's about bringing training in.

**Tristen:** Do you think CAM or folks in re-group would have an idea?

**Sterling:** Yes there are reentry pathways. People know inside Regroup is a resource. CAM, they will be connected to all of that.

**Tristen:** Will connect with Cam. May reach out to a program in California who works with sex offenses and people in prison. Any other thoughts before we move on?

**Sterling:** So often we try to figure out how to encourage this stuff and volunteers. How do we make it easier systemically or have a system that doesn't provide violence and anger? We can't always be putting the burden on the people in the trenches.

**Tristen:** If you can send us the OARs or rules that are impeding people that would be awesome.

**Paul:** From my vantage point, there are real issues with security staff and culture within the institutions. Those

	<p>are really big thorny issues that speak to the system being broken. At the same time, we won't see the huge systemic change anytime soon. How can we identify issues to move the dial on. The healthcare issues in DOC are atrocious and have been forever. You wouldn't go to the doctor unless you were dying. They won't give you the service you deserve. That is reflective on most recent terminations in healthcare, there's a history of denying care and lawsuits on sexual assaults largely at the women's prison. Those are big issues we should consider paying attention to and have our voice to change. Would be good to have Mike Reese in front of our committee but before we do that would be good to identify issues to bring up. Sterling, I would be happy to be a thought partner with you on historically issues in DOC.</p> <p><b>Shaylie:</b> I can reach out to folks at EOCI and what programing they have and issues they face.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Would be awesome to tap into that group.</p>	
<p><b>Legislative Update/Update on Letters- Valerie</b></p>	<p><b>Valerie:</b> There are 34 bills either being extended or bills of interest. As of now there are 7 bills we are still tracking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB473: threatening public official. Amendments were done on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Went from Senate to House Judiciary Committee. Upcoming hearing.</li> <li>• HB3553: Pill press crime. April 7<sup>th</sup> public hearing, work session April 8<sup>th</sup>. Referred to committee.</li> <li>• HB2175: Changes drug crime laws. Referred to addiction and community safety response committee.</li> <li>• SB574: No additional hearings but still in rules committee, still an active bill.</li> <li>• HB3182: civil bill, had work session on April 9<sup>th</sup>. April 11<sup>th</sup> referred to rules.</li> <li>• HB2641 prior conviction, nothing has happened since March 31<sup>st</sup>. On April 1<sup>st</sup> public hearing, April 9<sup>th</sup> work session. Sent to Rules.</li> <li>• Bills that inceae or expand on crimes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HB2465A – CJRC wrote a letter. Had a public hearing today. Javier will be submitting letter on not extending crimes or widening net today on OLIS.</li> <li>○ Other letter was to support JREP, letter was already submitted as well.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Sounds like the bills we are opposing to seek to expand criminal code are pretty much not going anywhere?</p>	

	<p><b>Valerie:</b> Bills we were considered but were not going anywhere, the one still at play was 2465. Others we were tracking that were addressed in the letter did not make it pass the first or second deadline.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> That's the one we were actually able to submit the letter on. Lets look at it.</p> <p><b>Valerie:</b> Passed the house and now is in the senate.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Do we know who the sponsors are?</p> <p><b>Valerie:</b> No direct sponsors.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Would like to share our letter for the criminal Defense Lawyers. Don't know if there's anything else folks think we can be doing.</p>	
<p><b>Update on Public Defense Priority-Paul and Tristen</b></p>	<p><b>Paul:</b> Theres a bill, SB881 I think, that would move the oversight and accountability from OHA to Criminal Justice Commission. This would be a major undertaking. A lot of money OHA administers. Largely in treatment healthcare world. Not sure the best placement. Bill was introduced by Sen. David Brock-Smith. Sen Leiber introduced SB610 that would keep the oversight and accountability committee advisory within OHA. Just a few bills I'm watching because of impact they would have on CJC.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Was there concern on how things are being managed currently?</p> <p><b>Paul:</b> Lot of criticism in OAC. Marijuana tax revenues are down considerably. Some of the treatment facilities have seen their funding cut or eliminated. Lot of uproar on process. Just know there's a lot of critiques from folks.</p> <p><b>Valerie:</b> There have been people who have not been happy and feel CJC would be happy. Would double workload of CJC and would need to hire new staff to manage that large of a grant.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Thaks for brining it up. Knowing what's happening for CJC. CJC has a new executive director. New director was previously the deputy director. We wrote a letter to Governor explaining our position on OPDC budget, not asking for more money but asking for Governor to consider changing her recommendations as to how budget should be structured in OPDC and invest more heavily in non-profit agencies to train new</p>	

attorneys and other delivery models to increase attorneys in the state, and increase quality control for solo practitioners. We met with Andre and Javier on the letter and are planning to reconnect tomorrow at 3pm. We have a meeting with Governor on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Things are changing at OPDC and maybe that means this is perfect timing for things that we see that need to change at OPDC and how the budget was drafted by previous Executive Director. Happy for any questions or thoughts.

**Paul:** Had a meeting with the Governor last week. I asked her about recent transitions at OPDC and OYA. The Governor's response was around OPDC and that Jessie had done an admirable job but haven't moved the dial enough and lost faith with number of folks in the legislature. Given crisis we are in and inability to meet unrepresented folks, she felt it was important to make a leadership change. Regarding OYA, Joe O'Leary used to attend a lot of these. There's been investigations that there were a lot of unresolved claims of abuse or other types of behavior that just hadn't been addressed and there was a huge backlog. Governor felt strongly there needed to be accountability. They are working diligently to address the backlog and hire a new director. Back to OPDC, we are at an interesting moment with Ken as an opportunity as someone coming in with a clean slate to make some changes and push for changes. The challenge is he has a short timeline. The Governor said he would be there till the end of the year or until someone has been there to lead the agency. Not a lot of time given organizational issues that exist to significantly make change. We've identified some issues in the letter that Tristen thoughtfully crafted.

*Tristen adjourns meeting at 4pm. Next Mtg May 27th*

#### Meeting Materials

N/A

### Zoom Chat

14:57:52 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

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1. DOC Subcommittee & Circles of Peace Update-Tristen
2. Legislative Update/Update on Letters- Valerie
3. Update on Public Defense Priority-Paul and Tristen

15:03:36 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

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15:07:11 From Tristen Edwards to Hosts and panelists:

<https://donorbox.org/restorative-roots-project-2025-fundraiser>

15:07:23 From Shaylie Pickrell (She/They) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://donorbox.org/restorative-roots-project-2025-fundraiser>

15:08:53 From Andre Bealer (he/him) Governor's Office to Hosts and panelists:

Can't wait to see that movie!

15:25:38 From Paul Solomon to Hosts and panelists:

Tristen, You might reach out to Trish Jordan at Red Lodge Transition. She has a good handle on what's going on out East.

15:29:07 From Andre Bealer (he/him) Governor's Office to Hosts and panelists:

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15:35:40 From Shaylie Pickrell (She/They) to Hosts and panelists:

Also I do know some guys at EOCl and can ask what programming they are aware of there and what parameters around programming that they have faced (Sorry wanted to confirm before I offered that)

15:49:47 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

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15:53:28 From Andre Bealer (he/him) Governor's Office to Hosts and panelists:

I have to run to another call. Thank you all for the thoughtful work.