



Agenda/Notes
Office of Governor Tina Kotek
RJC Criminal Justice Reform Committee
July 28, 2026 – Zoom
3:00pm – 4:00pm

MEMBERS

X	Babak Zolfaghari-Azar	E	Nansi Lopez	A	Shaylie Pickrell
A	Cameron Hayes	X	Dr. Nicholas Crapser	X	Sterling Cunio
A	Mariana Urdaneta Sanchez	X	Paul Solomon	X	Tristen Edwards
A	Michelle Love	X	Shay Huber		

OTHER ATTENDEES

X	Andre Bealer	X	Javier Cervantes	X	Valerie Colas
X	Yasmin Solorio	X	Ryan Keck, CJC		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Update on Alternative to Incarceration Workgroup-Standing Agenda Item- Valerie and Andre	<i>Meeting starts at 3:04pm. Members share introductions.</i> Valerie: Giving an update on the Alternative to Incarceration Workgroup. I had two planning meetings with challenges from procurement, exploring a facilitator, identifying someone who can do data analysis for us. Ryan Keck, Andre and I have been looking for a facilitator. Ryan has reached out to Portland State University to find out if they can help with the analysis part, and/or a potential agreement. Next week we will be getting updates from those conversations and how to move forward. We also have a meeting with Oregon Consensus. Andre: Seeking guidance from Governor as well, should have update for her direction to ensure we can keep the February timeline. Tristen: What is Dept. of Corrections (DOC) timeline and their head start they have for this? We received DOCs Policy Option Packages (POPs) for upcoming legislative session. Seemed to be around infrastructure and IT stuff. Is there anything else DOC is doing during legislative session to move forward feasibility study or plan for new prisons? Valeire: DOC did submit a phase 2 for their POP but the Governor declined for that to move forward. They don't have the report done for the feasibility study. Needing to know more from feasibility study on next steps and	

	what actual amount would be instead of moving forward with a POP that would really be a placeholder given budget situation. At this time nothing is moving forward with feasibility study. Paul: Are you still waiting to hear back from Dept. of Administrative Services (DAS) on approval to move forward with old process vs new criteria they'll be rolling out? Andre: Still exploring all options. Trying to find the path of least resistance and quickest path forward.	
EOCI Updated Conversation	Tristen: Cameron is heading up the group. Texted him for an update. Andre: Had a chat with leadership at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI) and talked through the idea for having restorative justice workgroup there and their willingness to support the project. They were all in. A few questions that arose were trying to flush this out a bit more, which we've discussed as well, with working with Adults In Custody (AICs) on how this looks like and working together. We worked on next steps from the document Cameron put together. Want to get planning session on the calendar soon, need to do a bit of exploration with AICs so we can coordinate with EOCI leadership on how to roll this out. Everyone was excited and looked forward to conversation. Tristen: Will they be able to facilitate zoom calls at folks with EOCI so we can have meetings with them? Andre: They need a volunteer who can manage those processes for us. If someone has ideas that would be great. Otherwise, we would need to identify someone. Tristen: We didn't have a volunteer until we had a program up and going. We met over zoom and a Chaplin helped to facilitate that. Andre: We can ask them about that. They were the ones who raised it, will need to go back to flush it out a bit more. Otherwise will need to work to figure that out. Nick: Have a trip planned to Pendleton on the 6-7th, and in September. If something needed to be done in that short notice, could be able to swing it. Tristen: If we want this to be ongoing, we need someone that the facility should be able to help with.	

	Since it's setting up a computer and being there while meeting happens, sounds like they're excited, hopeful they can identify someone. Andre: Since they expressed limited capacity, if we have any ideas at all, would like us to brainstorm that. Sterling: Want to check with Cam to see what's happening. A lot has changed in terms of people, management and so forth. If they're open to finding things to make it work to start, we can have conversations to find out what that looks like. Don't know if it's a more pretty 'no' or if it's sincere. Andre: Will reach back out to them and ask if they have a pre-vetted list of folks who are signed up as volunteers and bring that back for you to look at. If they have a list of recommendations for other individuals or organizations that we can tap into. Sterling: Maybe we can request their chapel schedule. There was 200+ volunteers and groups and we can schedule them out. There's already services existing staff supervise. It's simple and they publish that. Andre: Will ask for that as well.	Andre and Valerie to connect with EOCI team on volunteer(s) and Chapel schedule.
Update on CJC POP for JREP and Restorative Justice	<i>Ryan Keck, Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) shares "Update on 2027-29 Policy Option Packages" slides.</i> Ryan: Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (JREP) was established in 2022. Focuses on how to move money to culturally specific organizations and culturally responsive service providers. First grant period from 2022 to now, focus area is violence prevention, victim services and reentry services. There were 18 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that are reducing or discontinuing services as of this month. Our POP is reinvesting in JREP. Will ask for \$7.5M this biennium and moving forward to make the JREP part of our current service level budget. Paul: Excited for this POP to be part of the Current Service Level (CSL) if it moves forward. Babak: It would secure funding for CSL and not have it be a fight every few years. Ryan: Program went through a revision without funding in short session. The immense value of standardize tech assistance for recipients/subgrantees. Providing them with actual capacity and strength building was a big win	

for last biennium.

POP 105 Continued Restorative Justice Grant Program. We're asking to fund them and make it part of our CSL. The \$9M is the increase of the funding, normally its \$4M but the ask and need is more representative of \$9M.

Tristen: Curious about JREP since it hasn't been funded last 2 legislative sessions. Is that an impediment getting funding this time around and what is status of grantees that got that one – are they still operating or is it starting from scratch?

Ryan: First question is harder to determine. Programs like Restorative Justice continues to be supportive. JREP was a little harder but it was a longer-term grant. It did get support and did good work and now there's been a lapse and it's time to pick it up again and hopefully keep it continued. Subrecipients are having to discontinue work if it wasn't something they could find supplementary funding for. We did stretch in 2022 and intermediary helped with transition, if we were to be funded, we would need to go through a process to start them over.

Tristen: who was technical assistant provider last time?

Ryan: Northwest Health Foundation – Latino Coalition of Community Leaders. They provide technical assistance within that.

Tristen: With Restorative Justice, one thing I'm wondering is if the funding gets allocated June 30th, the current awards go through June 30th?

Ryan: They go through August.

Tristen: If they're through August, then my hope would be to pull things together so there isn't a tight timeline.

Ryan: The complicated factor is the timetable for other grant programs but intention is the same to minimize or avoid gaps in service. Sometimes we use extensions of exiting grants. Some grants have an underspending and others have to use it all up.

Tristen: I know that Amani and others on Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) have done site visits on different programs. Have anything to report out? Purpose?

	Ryan: Purpose is multifaceted. Getting involved and knowing folks, operations is one purpose, having that face time. Good time in a grant cycle to check in on what questions they have and where can the CJC make adjustments. From what I understand they check-in periodically. Interesting different dynamics are in different structures of programs. The energy is clear and strong in all. We want to lean in on what can we all tell from these programs, collecting data metrics through quarterly reporting. Tristen: Is it an expectation there will be some meaningful data this session. Ryan: Yes, we set a certain reasonable number we made mandatory so we are collecting data from everyone moving forward. What I heard is everyone got data in from deadline set last week. Tristen: Had opportunity to meet with Amani and work with her a little bit and have been incredibly impressed. Feel good about this program being in her hands and connecting with her more. Happy to hear things are going well and folks are sending in their data.	
Priorities Conversation	Tristen: Will talk about priorities we have specifically for upcoming legislative session. EOCI will continue to be a priority for the group. Javier: We've talked about feasibility study of new OSP and secondly DOC EOCI Restorative Justice programming. • Over the year we've had conversations on JREP • Restorative Justice Permanent Funding • Deflection • Public Defense • OYA Relationship Development. Andre: The approach this session, specifically around JREP and Restorative Justice, are things you'll want to advocate for. Don't know if there's any other work related to those items outside of legislative advocacy. Trying to get ahead of that for session, pre-drafting support letters and planning for legislative days conversations. That may be the breadth of those items. Think of this list of what's a low lift, what a heavy lift on how to organize around this and what else you may want to add. Babak: I'm reflecting on news on DOC stopping phase 2 of feasibility study. Good step for Oregon and as we talk	

about bigger picture and thinking through to address those urgent needs now vs later. With JREP, its great to hear from Ryan with Restorative Justice and it isn't something we're fighting with folks in a few years. Curious with JREP, we shared a JREP letter and is the letter something coming through to get RJC sign off or where are we at. Is there any other advocacy?

Andre: Haven't moved it yet. Got held up on updating voting process. Got comments back from our legal team on adjustments we need to make to that. You're not late on anything, still have that opportunity and wrapping up a few loose ends on our end and get it rolled out and can get it moved through.

Tristen: We've had a draft of JREP letter for some time. We're early which is good but want to move it through soon and can put together a letter for restorative justice and have that done. Do folks have chance to see all priorities. Are there things folks are interested in pursuing this session or wait until later or move lower in priority list?

Shay: What is deflection. What does that mean?

Tristen: In 2024 think the legislature recriminalized minor drug possession. In doing that they put aside some money for what they call deflection where counties have to create a program where cops can send folks to a program for treatment or social services. The funding is for counties to implement deflection programs. Paul is more versed than I am. Governor's Office, anything on deflection this session?

Valerie: Aside from CJC asking for that again, don't know of anything else.

Andre: Don't know of anything either.

Tristen: More so wanting to know if funds were properly applied, don't know if there is anything we would proactively do during legislative session.

Andre: What you said is a good example of what we're trying to get all committees to do - drill down on specifics on each priority item.

Babak: Eligibility would be one area with different counties having access to. Some counties like Lane, they have looser eligibility criteria and access for folks - it's easier. Eligibility is something we could dive into,

creating accountability measures to see more folks get deflected and support they need.

Tristen: Maybe we should invite Ryan and tell us what's going on. Don't know if he's given us presentation on deflection – what are the programs, number of people benefiting, what's happening or what's not, where is funding going – CBO for treatment, prosecutors, police offers – is it really going to treatment or more so being absorbed into the system.

In terms of these other priorities, with feasibility study at OSP we have a long-term planning committee with me, Paul, Sterling, and Cameron. That is going to remain front and center and isn't a legislative activity at this point.

EOCI programming is something we want to continue, got next steps on that and isn't something that needs legislative advocacy.

PREP is primary legislative advocacy pieces. When it comes to scheduling meetings for legislative days, would appreciate the way the Governor's Office help us set up meetings last session so we can set up again and talk to folks before session starts and JREP.

Compassionate Release, goes hand in hand with long-term planning group and around feasibility study. Rep Chotzen is leading something related to compassionate release so we can stay apprised of since it dovetails with other work we are doing.

OYA relationship development – continuing to stay keyed in with work they're doing.

Public Defense – don't know of any other in legislature, one thing I have continued to be interested in is how they are assessing qualifications for attorneys, specifically those who are solo practitioners who are working without supervisor or boss. Think its another thing we can do to invite Ken and how they're handling the quality control issue, but it doesn't fall under legislative advocacy.

Sterling: More of a question, how many CBOs were discontinued and with so much emphasis on data wonder if anyone will look at effect of losing the CBOs. What about the data about the things we're losing.

Tristen: How is this being effective for people who are in

	criminal legal system. We have to make this case for CBOs to get a tiny fraction of what goes towards a system that is doing more harm than good most of the time. Also don't think anyone is doing that data collection and analysis.	
Announcements	<i>Next meeting is August 25th. Meeting concludes at 4:02pm.</i>	

Meeting Materials	 20260728 CJRC CJC POPs (JREP-RJ).pdf	
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Zoom Chat

2026-07-28 15:00:53 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

CJRC Meeting July 28 Agenda (Updated)

Update on Alternative to Incarceration Workgroup-Standing Agenda Item- Valerie and Andre (10 minutes)

EOCI Updated Conversation

Update on CJC POP for JREP and Restorative Justice-Ryan Keck (15 minutes)

Priorities Conversation (30 minutes)

Announcements (5 minutes)

2026-07-28 15:03:07 From Yasmin Solorio, Gov Office (She/her) to Hosts and panelists:

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2026-07-28 15:04:56 From Andre Bealer to Hosts and panelists:

brb taking a call

2026-07-28 15:10:10 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

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EOCI Updated Conversation

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Announcements (5 minutes)

2026-07-28 15:29:39 From Paul Solomon (he/him) to Hosts and panelists:

Good to see everyone. Sorry I have to leave early. See you at the next meeting!

2026-07-28 15:36:02 From Babak Zolfaghari-Azar to Hosts and panelists:

<https://latinocoalition.org/>

2026-07-28 15:36:13 From Babak Zolfaghari-Azar to Hosts and panelists:

Latino Coalition for Community Leadership LCCL

2026-07-28 15:37:11 From Babak Zolfaghari-Azar to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.northwesthealth.org/>

2027-29 Agency Request Budget

POLICY OPTION PACKAGES

Package 104: Continued Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (JREP) Investment

- JREP supports culturally responsive services as part of the state’s broader Justice Reinvestment Initiative to reduce recidivism and decrease the utilization of prison. To-date the program has focused on reentry and diversion support, services for victims/survivors, and violence reduction programming. Subgrants and technical assistance are provided by a culturally responsive intermediary provider.
- Without sustainable funding, 18 community-based organizations serving 24 counties in Oregon reduced or discontinued operations in 2026.
- Proposal: Allocate additional funding on a continuous basis to provide subgrants and technical assistance to culturally responsive service providers.

PKG 104				
General Fund	Lottery Fund	Other Fund	Federal Fund	Total
\$7,500,000	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$7,500,000

2027-29 Agency Request Budget

POLICY OPTION PACKAGES

Package 105: Continued Restorative Justice Investment

- The Restorative Justice Grant Program supports the implementation and expansion of restorative justice programs that serve individuals engaged in pre-conviction/pre-adjudication stages of criminal and/or juvenile legal systems by offering community-based alternatives without resorting to incarceration or conviction.
- Without sustainable funding, 11 restorative justice programs in Oregon will need to reduce or discontinue operations in the 2027-29 biennium.
- Proposal: Allocate additional funding on a continuous basis to award grants for restorative justice programs.

PKG 105				
General Fund	Lottery Fund	Other Fund	Federal Fund	Total
\$9,000,000	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$9,000,000



Questions?



Contact:

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Feedback?