



Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek
RJC Criminal Justice Reform Committee
August 26, 2025 – Zoom
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

MEMBERS

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

OTHER ATTENDEES

X	Andre Bealer	X	Javier Cervantes	X	Kenneth Sanchagrin, OPDC
X	Yasmin Solorio	X	Valerie Colas		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome and Introductions	<i>What are you doing to celebrate end of summer or start of fall? Meeting commences 3:02pm</i>	
Presentation from OPDC Director Ken Sanchagrin	<p><i>Ken Sanchagrin screen shares slides "RJC Presentation – 8-26-2025.pptx"</i></p> <p>Ken Sanchagrin: People who do not have access to an attorney or anyone who can represent them - they go on a list of unrepresented individuals and try to find attorneys. People can be on that list from days to over a year. There are about 3K unrepresented out of custody individuals across the state. Since May 2025, we have a decrease. Unrepresented trends are not the same across the state. Lane county is in a pretty healthy spot compared to other areas.</p> <p><i>Recruitment:</i> We don't produce enough lawyers in the state. Looking at recruitment outside of the state, looking at pipelines in law school and local defense. We need more people doing this important and challenging work. Established reduced caseload program. Also collaborating with law schools, got funding from legislature to fund pipelines.</p> <p>Tristen: SSPE?</p> <p>Ken: SPPE has its own addendum. We were supportive of it but noticed with initial batches of SSPE candidates. We do worry about folks who join and are really excited</p>	

Presentation from
OPDC Director Ken
Sanchagrin
(Continued)

but don't receive mentoring or supervision they need. Agency is supportive of the program but want to ensure folks are matched with oversight and support so they can be successful.

Mariana: New budget cycle, curious on funding for OPDC and what that looks like. The two year from 2025-2027 already came out. Do you foresee any challenges with current budget cuts?

Ken: Cuts have not been implemented yet. Funding for 2025-2027 process, our funding is tied to caseload model created by the economist at DAS. Fully funded for our predicted caseload. Agency does have a lot of operational needs and we are pretty thin. Also concerns on agency made robust proposals for items contractors have been looking for supervision , training, to pay appropriate wages, investigators, - others who haven't seen increases they need. Those were not funded. It's a story that has two faces to it. The need is still great. Do worry a lot if revenue forecast comes out where we will have to sustain cuts, as an agency my hope is the legislature and our other partners can make a strong argument. As a caseload driven agency we will make the case loads higher if cuts are done.

Paul: Glad to hear you're focused on out of state recruitment. Do you feel trial division now has comparable case loads to provider community?

Ken: I think they do. We got innovative. We track all our cases internally. Can track the same Mac model that others are doing. We are at 105% like many of our providers. We are doing the same level of work as others.

Paul: In SB337, it said that by 2035 we'd have 30% of statewide attorneys in the trial division. Where are you in that arc?

Ken: We are about 2%, we are quite far from that. We had a large robust request for 40 attorneys that wasn't funded. We are presently netting one person. As we go forward, it will depend on funding.

Paul: I noticed most of the slides were focused on out of custody numbers. Anything you want to share about in custody, it's often a much bigger deal to those out of custody.

Ken: Because those numbers are smaller, they don't

<p>Presentation from OPDC Director Ken Sanchagrin (Continued)</p>	<p>have an impact like out of custody. We've been able to keep numbers relatively low, steady, or reducing. The biggest number is those out of custody.</p> <p><i>Development of Statewide Standards:</i> We have monthly commission meetings and one Thursday per month workgroup meetings. It's more of a discussion where we go in a deeper dive. Commission is meeting twice a month to talk about these standards to try and establish high quality public defense across the state.</p> <p><i>Oversight and Accountability:</i> Trial Services Division is building a more robust complaint process. We are building our compliance audit performance division to focus on performance reviews for attorneys. Through internal reorganization.</p> <p>Tristen: On average, how often do people submit a complaint per year?</p> <p>Ken: Would say I have complaints likely twice a month - though these are serious enough to make it to my level. Can get back to you. Sometimes they are things the agency can't fix or a case outcome, not necessarily an allegation for something wrong. Will see if there's a way we can dissect those general complaints vs something more substantial.</p> <p>Tristen: What are repercussions of a complaint? Has there been an instance in OPDC not contracting with an attorney?</p> <p>Ken: Yes, even contract termination.</p> <p>Paul: Thank you for your time.</p>	
<p>Review of Legislative outcomes/ development of new priorities/themes</p>	<p><i>Javier screen shares " CJRC Workplan Draft"</i></p> <p><i>Valerie provides updates on legislative outcomes.</i></p> <p>Valerie: Will be hard to get funding or requests for short session due to budgetary issues. GIPA/DOC Body Scanners is an ongoing conversation, unfortunately was not funded. DOC has a list of initiatives for GIPA that follow from training to improvements in the environment, programming for women AIC's. Body scanners – DOC will possibly rent scanners given budget and how they can reprioritize things they have.</p> <p>Paul: Expungement reform - this session there wasn't an automation bill. There was an informal workgroup Rep Kropf convened and there was a bit of movement around deflection and any arrests would be expunged.</p>	

Review of Legislative outcomes/
development of new priorities/themes
(Continued)

More broadly there wasn't any significant movement on expungement.

Valerie: *Preventing net widening of criminal system:* one that did pass was HB2465 which was on unlawful departure of someone in custody with probation officers. Others did not pass. Thank you for your advocacy. *Aranda Fix:* Did not move forward and died in committee.

Paul: *Deflection:* CJC modernization bill that changes how it's administered. Short synopsis is now counties submitting applications to CJC for deflection program, the first 25% is allocated on formula basis, and 70% will be determined based on number of people they are projecting to serve and adherence to best practices. Under HB 3069.

Javier: What are things we can't lose sight of, preservation of existing efforts given fiscal challenges.

Andre: Other committees have landed idea on communicating importance of programs they think are important. A lot of the committees have leaned into educating legislators on program history and impacts. Coalition building is another theme.

Tristen: Would be nice to have an idea of how the short session is different from the long session in terms of the orientation and attitudes around what's going to get done. Should we be restricting kind of our goals to supporting things that we know are happening in 2026, as we are not legislators or lobbyist. When it comes to education around programs that we advocate for, I'm thinking about restorative justice, I know that the legislature has heard a lot about ODC but you know I think we could lend our voice there as well.

Andre: When future decisions get made, people know about program outcomes and program priorities. Making sure that isn't the case in future decision making. Short session is more around budget reconciliation, not necessarily for new requests. What would be valuable for you all, is making sure programs you care about and prioritize aren't on the chopping block. We want to ensure folks know who you are. It's important for you all to communicate consistently and its important legislators keep equity at the forefront. There was a different level of scrutiny on those programs that we don't see across the board. Though that this is also an opportunity for you all to provide

Review of Legislative outcomes/
development of new priorities/themes
(Continued)

scrutiny and accountability for those that aren't doing the same progress.

Paul: Really good points. There is additional scrutiny and lack of equity and cuts across committees. For example GIPAA, they were able to find money within their own budget to do the things they had pops for. Think it's a good space to lean into.

Andre: Be really targeted. Its a short session, won't be a lot of conversation on new things, what are the things you want to get across. Think of short session to build relationships.

Paul: Do you have any insights on special session?

Andre: From a Governor's Office perspective, its just focused on transportation budget.

Tristen: Immigration is an area we haven't focused enough on and needs attention. Any ideas around how this committee can be helpful to support efforts ongoing?



Nansi: I am a part of Sanctuary Promise Act Group that has met for some time. Most legislators have identified their two priorities for short session. Was told we had to get stuff in this week. Can follow up with that. As we see what's happening from national level, we're seeing impact on local immigrant communities and inaccessibility to programing. The Criminal Justice System in last few months – many are in fear to show up in person. In 2020, WA County Sheriff office collaborated with ICE. Want to see if we can tighten up in short session if at all. Centro has Latino Advisory Commission with the Sheriff office.

Tristen: Do intend to connect with BIPOC Caucus that I can support via my organization but can share that out. For short session recommend long planning for long session in terms of holding line for accessibility for services and immigrant communities. We will continue to be under attack in years to come. Want to ensure we hold those values for all Oregonians as a committee.

Paul: Being able to get a beat on bills in house and senate judiciary we want to support or push back against. The process I believe is a bit more dialed in now in terms of letter writing. Any advice to make letter writing smother, given we have short window that we are tracking early to draft in timely fashion?

<p>Review of Legislative outcomes/ development of new priorities/themes (Continued)</p>	<p>Andre: We do have lessons learned, biggest thing is being specific on things you do want to do so we are pre-prepared. One thing is we will have priorities fully voted on for RJC. Stuff on that list will be easily moved along vs outside of that would need to go through the process. Some things might require letter, some might be meetings vs email. What other tools are available for communicating. Let's have flexibility around that.</p> <p>Paul: 115 Medicare waiver. Would love to see the committee advocate for continuation of roll out.</p> <p>Andre: We want to make sure legislators understand what you're looking for. Just want to keep it tight as possible.</p>	
<p>Revisit topic of DOC Subcommittee</p>	<p>Tristen: We talked about this a little earlier this year. Want to revisit and don't want to lose the thread. Would like to put out as a proposal, maybe we can learn about efforts underway (policy organizations that strengthen DOC accountability – like OR Justice Resource Center, national groups, etc.). It might be worthwhile to invite them to present to us and share what the power of the RJC is. How can that be helpful for some of these organizations that are doing this work and how can we do a supportive role.</p> <p>Shaylie: Did collect some of the programming and barriers to programing. Would it be helpful to send?</p> <p>Tristen: Yes, if you have it handy, and can give us a recap of what you learned would be nice.</p> <p>Shaylie: Barrier to levels you have to achieve prior. Can take a year to obtain that level. Not a lot of programming, some work around jobs, dog programming, welding, hvac, GED services, college classes, recreational sports. Few recovery programming, pathways, parenting classes, art, bakery classes.</p> <p>Tristen: Eligibility to be in a program can be a barrier. What would it mean to foster a similar program elsewhere in the state. It's challenging. Circles of Peace was successful because we found a volunteer that dedicated a lot of time to it. Any other thoughts? Do folks know of any policy organizations we can reach out to? Disability rights Oregon, OJRC?</p> <p>Paul: Partnership for Safety and Justice. What is the timing of the racial equity impact statements that we weight in on? In the past DOC, OYA, CJC, have come to us to get our sign off on their racial equity impact</p>	

Revisit topic of DOC Subcommittee (Continued)	<p>statements. Curious if we marry DOC subcommittee to DOC racial equity impact statement or at least how that committee can help to inform that office.</p> <p>Andre: Will have to check with Office of Cultural Exchange. Usually happens around budget. Melinda Gross at DAS has been meeting with agencies and getting progress reports. Hopefully we can have them circle around that as well.</p> <p>Javier: Melinda would be happy to come in the future.</p> <p>Paul: That would be great.</p> <p>Javier: Executive appointments let us know that SB 1175 – theirs a spot on the task force for a member of the RJC. Wanted to see if anyone here, before we move it to rest of the RJC, wanted to be put on there. It’s about 1.5 hour meeting, virtual. Open to folks if they want to participate.</p> <p>Andre: Its monthly, goes through December of 2026. We could share the bill with you if you want to look at it. Would ask to get back to us late next week at the latest so we can open it to others.</p> <p>Javier: Applications are put at the end of September.</p> <p><i>Nansi and Shay share interest in getting information on executive appointment opportunity. Meeting concludes at 4:49pm. Next meeting is October 28, 2025.</i></p>	<p>Javier to extend invite to Melinda to join future committee meeting.</p> <p>Javier to share information on Jury Task Force SB 1175.</p>
--	---	--

Meeting Materials	<div>  RJC Presentation - 8-26-2025.pptx </div> <div>  CJRC Workplan Draft.pdf </div> <p>https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1175</p>
-------------------	--

Zoom Chat

15:00:20 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions (All)—5 minutes
- Presentation from OPDC Director, Ken Sanchagrin-30 Minutes
- Review of Legislative Outcomes/Development of New Priorities/Themes-50 Minutes
- Revisit the topic of Department of Corrections Subcommittee (Tristen)-15 minutes
- * Brief announcement/Opportunity

15:06:51 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions (All)—5 minutes
- Presentation from OPDC Director, Ken Sanchagrin-30 Minutes
- Review of Legislative Outcomes/Development of New Priorities/Themes-50 Minutes

- Revisit the topic of Department of Corrections Subcommittee (Tristen)-15 minutes

* Brief announcement/Opportunity

15:08:30 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

Shay will be participating via chat. She is in the air at the moment.

15:09:44 From Nansi Lopez to Hosts and panelists:

I love themed parties! Enjoy, Mariana.

15:10:08 From Mariana Urdaneta to Hosts and panelists:



thank you

16:24:53 From Andre Bealer (he/him) Governor's Office to Hosts and panelists:

The RJC Legislative Committee will also be meeting with members of the BIPOC Caucus during September Leg Days. Please let us know what you may be hearing Nansi so we can maintain coordination and build on each others work.

16:25:14 From Nansi Lopez to Hosts and panelists:

Will do!

16:29:58 From Andre Bealer (he/him) Governor's Office to Hosts and panelists:

No updates at this time.

16:30:08 From Mariana Urdaneta to Hosts and panelists:

I have to head out, thank you folx for organizing this. I will look for the minutes

16:30:16 From Valerie Colas (She/her) to Hosts and panelists:

I have no updates as well

16:47:50 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1175>

Oregon Public Defense Commission

**Racial Justice
Council Criminal
Justice Reform
Committee**

26 August 2025

Ken Sanchagrin, Interim Executive Director
kenneth.sanchagrin@opdc.state.or.us



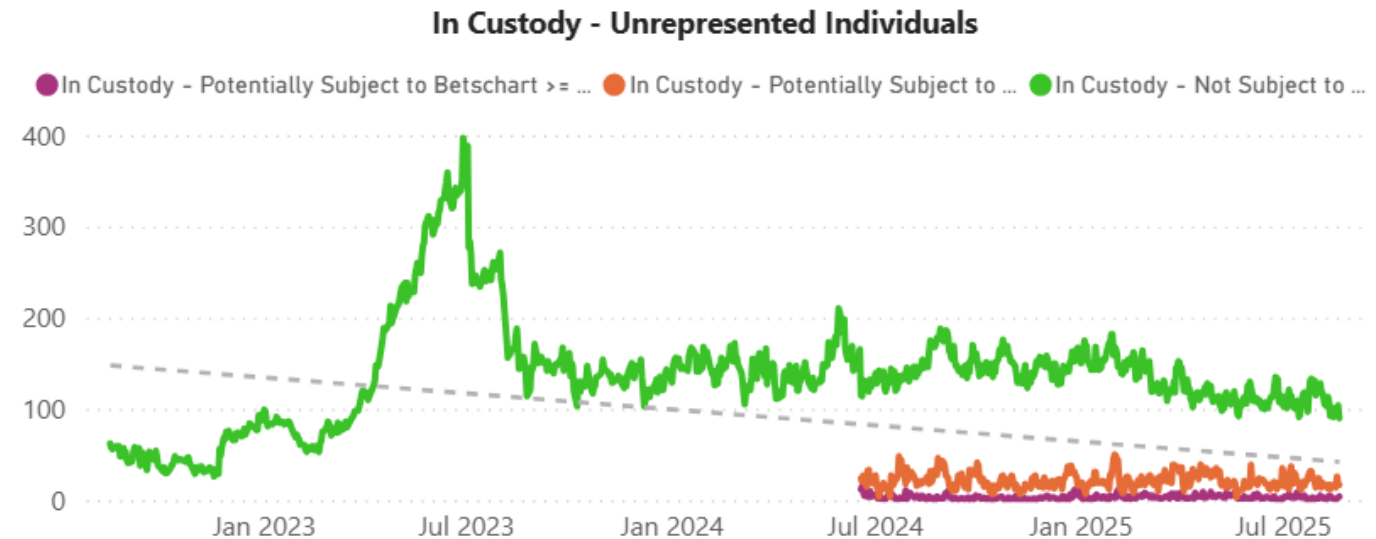
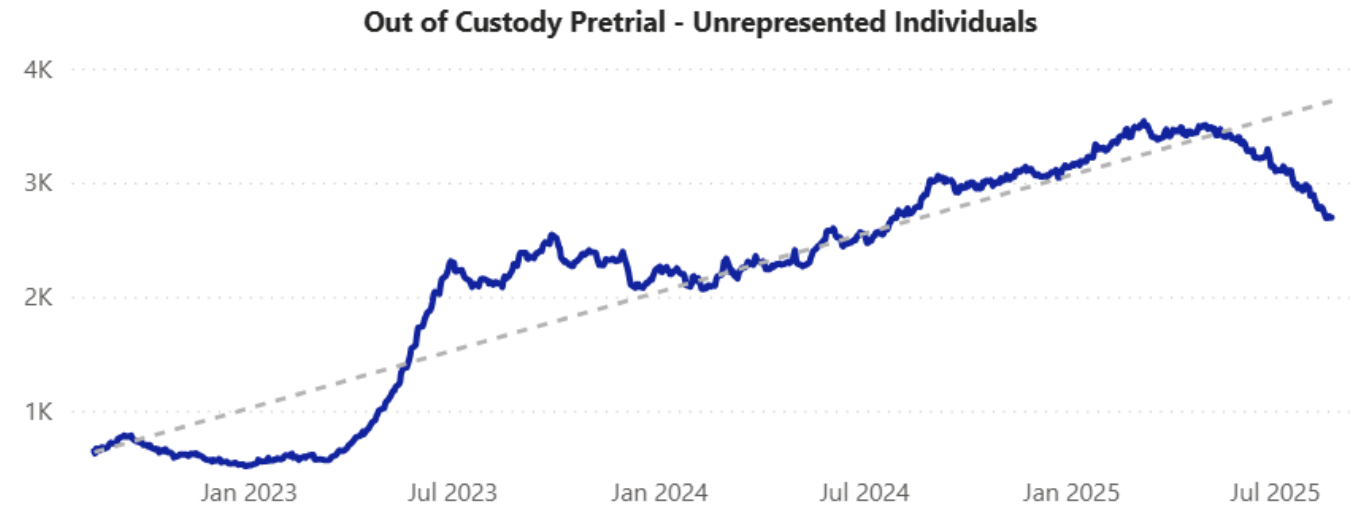
Unrepresented Crisis

Unrepresented Crisis

Statewide Trends

- Since August 2022, the number of unrepresented individuals increased fourfold.
- Two phases of increase: (1) a tripling of unrepresented over a four-month period in 2023; and (2) steady, upward growth since late spring 2024.
- As of 8/21/25, there are 3,062 unrepresented individuals.
- Recent abatement since May 2025 provides some hope.

Trends in Unrepresented Individuals (8/17/22-8/21/25)



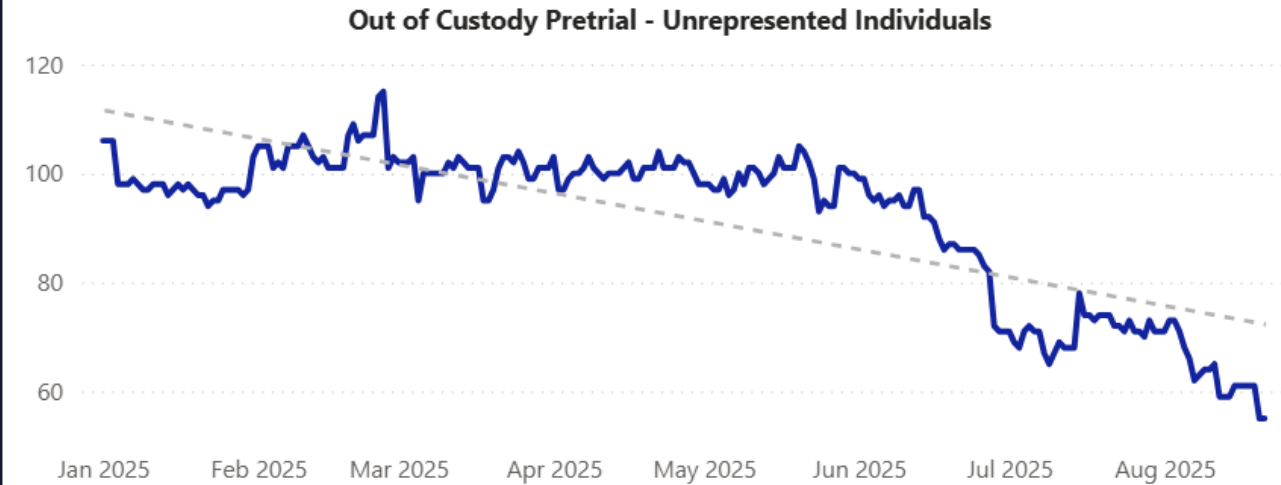
Unrepresented Crisis

Coos & Douglas

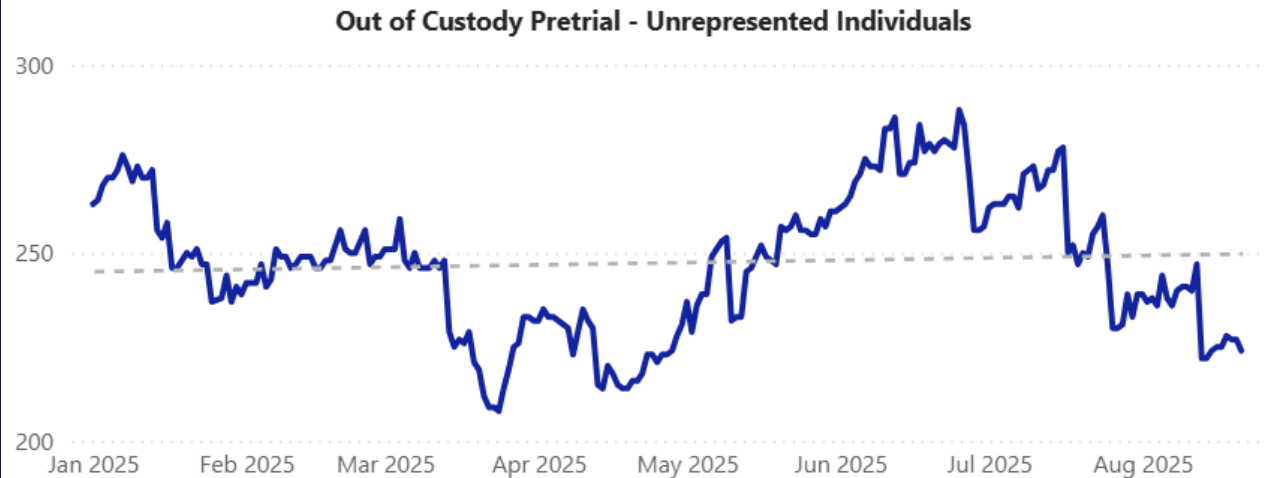
- Coos peaked in late Feb at 115 OOC unrepresented individuals. Now, only 55 remain.
- The OPDC Trial Division has focused on Coos both by providing 1 FTE and staffing monthly early resolution dockets.
- Douglas continues to pose challenges. OPDC has provided some coverage through our Trial Division.

Crisis County Unrepresented Trends (1/1/25-8/21/25)

Coos County



Douglas County



Unrepresented Crisis

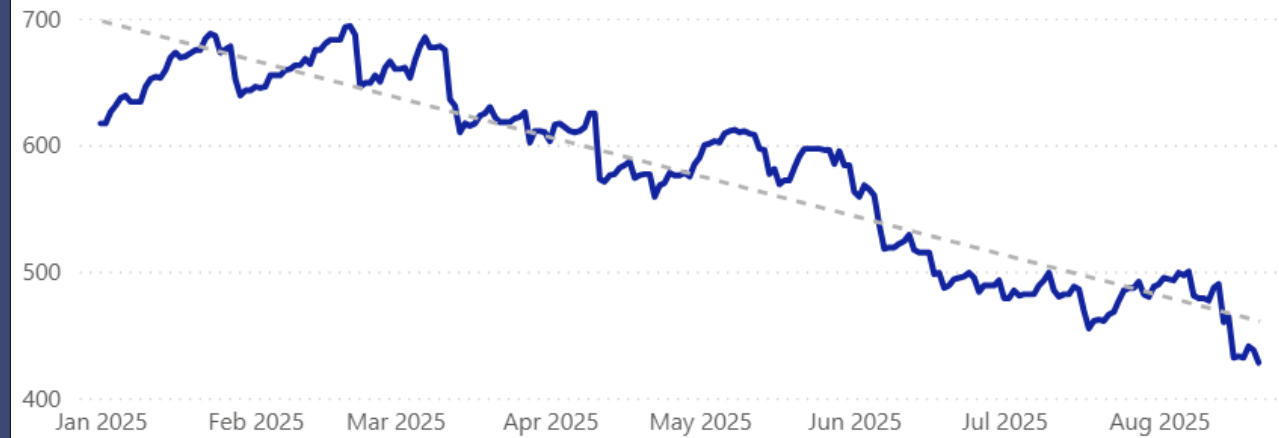
Jackson & Marion

- Jackson peaked in late Feb at 694 OOC unrepresented individuals. As of August, there are 428 unrepresented.
- Marion peaked in March at 629. As of August, there are 194 OOC unrepresented individuals.
- The OPDC Trial Division has an office in Jackson, providing ~5 FTE of coverage and an office in Marion, with ~6 FTE.
- Importance of resolution dockets

Crisis County Unrepresented Trends (1/1/25-8/21/25)

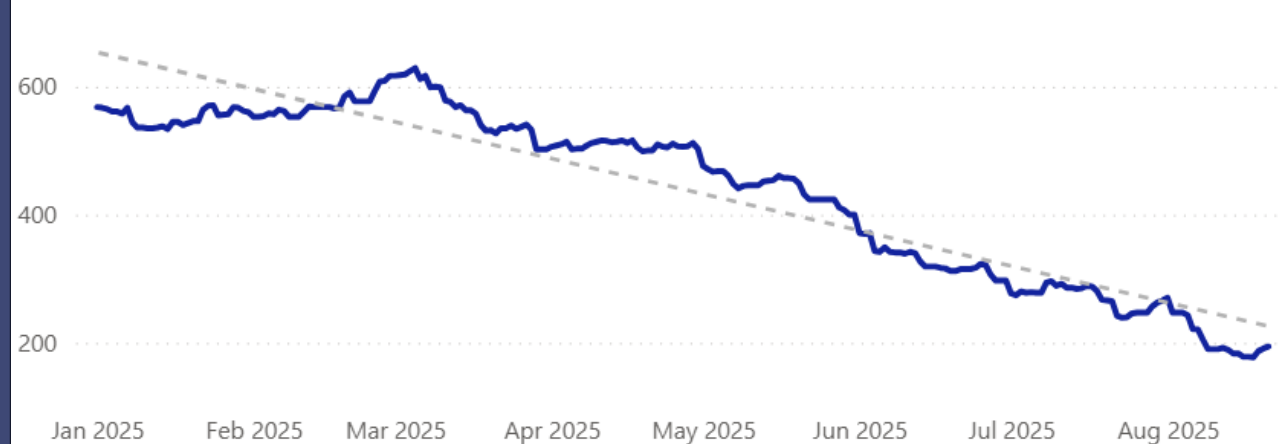
Jackson County

Out of Custody Pretrial - Unrepresented Individuals



Marion County

Out of Custody Pretrial - Unrepresented Individuals



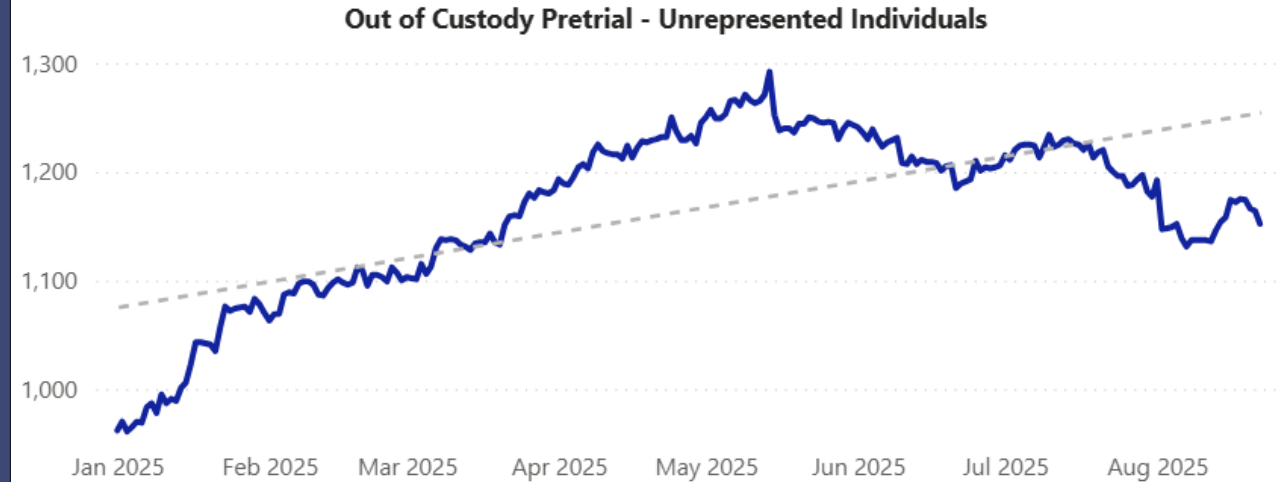
Unrepresented Crisis

Mult & Washington

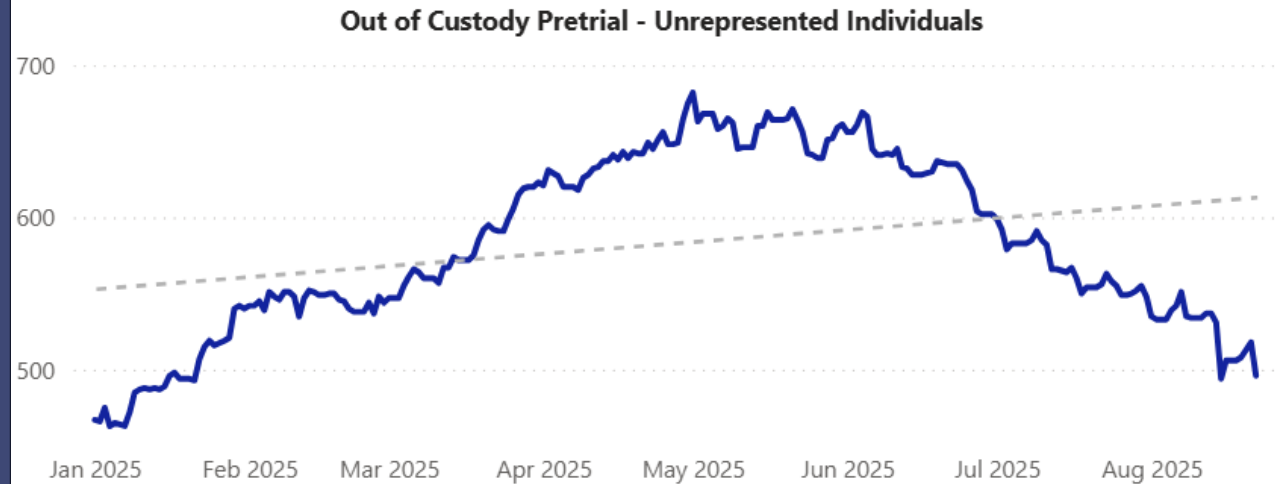
- Multnomah peaked in May at 1,292 OOC unrepresented individuals. As of August, there are 1,152 unrepresented.
- Washington peaked in May at 682. As of August, there are 496 OOC unrepresented individuals.
- The OPDC Trial Division has an office in the Metro area, providing ~5 FTE of coverage.
- A resolution docket in Multnomah is being developed.

Crisis County Unrepresented Trends (1/1/25-8/21/25)

Multnomah County



Washington County



Recruitment

- OPDC is working to structure its contracts to better align with hiring practices, particularly for non-profit firms seeking to bring in cohorts of new hires.
- OPDC established a Reduced Caseload Program for first year attorneys, which reduces caseload expectations by 33% (i.e., 200 misdemeanors per year).
- OPDC is collaborating with Oregon law schools to help develop a stronger pipeline into public defense in the future via its law school clinics.
- For internal recruitment to the OPDC Trial Division, the agency is focused on out-of-state advertising and recruitment.

Oversight & Standards

Development of Statewide Standards

- The OPDC Commission is required by ORS 151.216(1)(a) to “Establish and maintain a public defense system that ensures the provision of public defense services consistent with the Oregon Constitution, the United States Constitution, and national standards of justice.”
- OPDC staff, on a monthly basis, is rolling out performance standards:
 - July: Qualification Standards;
 - Aug: Criminal Attorney Performance Standards (introduced and now out for comment);
 - Sep: Juvenile Attorney Performance Standards
 - In the next few months, standards for dependency, post-conviction relief, habeas, and civil commitment will follow
 - Note: standards are being discussed and refined through both the monthly Commission meetings as well as the monthly Commission workgroup meetings

Oversight and Accountability

- The OPDC Trial Services Division is continuing to build a more robust complaint process.
- OPDC through its Trial Services Division and Compliance Audit and Performance Division is developing the policies and procedures surrounding attorney performance reviews. This will likely include the resumption of peer evaluations and other approaches OPDC has utilized in the past.

Thank you



Criminal Justice Reform Committee Workplan

Priorities: What is the status of previous priorities?	Can the previous priorities be advocated for further?	New priorities: is there policy or agency implementation that should be prioritized? If yes, what are they, and who are the agencies the committee can collaborate with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing: Preservation of existing efforts • With all the adjustments that are going to happen, we cannot lose sight of these themes/priorities
		Theme: Accessibility and monitoring for alignment of criminal justice reform
		Tracking criminal justice and public safety bills
		Assessment of public safety agency budgets for agencies for example GIPA.
		Affirming Sanctuary Law. Ensuring Sanct Law is followed (CJC, DOJ) CJC and DOJ that does investigation Educating Accessibility to programs, particularly for immigration community. Gain more clarity on access to state government programs (DHS, OHA, explore others. Committee would need to liaison with other agency partners). Victims of Crimes Education of funding and understanding how immigration status may impact

		obtaining services. Violations of ICE enforcement.
		Learn more about 1115 Medicaid Waiver for People in Custody and Continuation Status of Medicare Waiver
	Restorative Justice and Reinforcing Efforts	Engage in discussion Racial Equity Impact Statements of various public services agencies DOC OPDC CJC OYA DPSST BPPPS Oregon State Police
		Continue work on DOC Subcommittee and determine focus area