



## Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
RJC Criminal Justice Reform Committee  
December 18, 2025 – Zoom  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

### MEMBERS

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

### OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer	X	Javier Cervantes	X	Oanh, OIRA
X	Yasmin Solorio	X	Valerie Colas	X	Jessica Ventura, OIRA
					Mia Ruston, DOC

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Welcome/Intros	<i>Meeting commences at 10:04am. Members provide short introductions.</i>	
OIRA Update: Jessica Ventura, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Advancement (OIRA)	<p><b>Jessica:</b> Our office was created to elevate experience and ensure immigrant and refugees aren't an afterthought. Want to share what we're hearing from families and federal shifts showing up in Oregon and alignment needed.</p> <p>There are over 404,200 immigrants in Oregon. Around 200K are non-citizens. Since 1975 over 67K refugees have resettled in Oregon. The groundwork we do matters a lot. Coordination is just as important as compassion. Our office was created so systems move in sync with response.</p> <p>The level of activity recently with detainment has been on an uptick. It impacts community responses and partners absorb the work without additional funds to help support. While the office was created in 2021, I just started in July of this year. We advance belonging and safety immigrant Oregonians. We take what we hear from partners and turn it into actual steps to help systems respond with clarity during confusion.</p> <p>With rapid federal shifts and enforcement activity, families need clear communication and alignment. Fear and uncertainty are rising – families feel it at home,</p>	

work, and in our communities. It is affecting how people move and work through their days. What communities say is they want more action and less community listening sessions.

The numbers confirm activity is higher. The federal resettlement program remains halted, processes face unsafety and uncertainty on programs. Equity starts with safety, trust and accountability within our state system. When families don't feel safe asking questions the system isn't working.

Our focus is on turning momentum. Our first statewide plan is underway – hope to have it finalized over the next few weeks. Communities have told us what they want and we are taking it very seriously. Open house on January 20<sup>th</sup> and will share a draft of the strategic plan and the legislation we will track legislative session.

We are working with agencies with changes to HR1 and work permits. Can share resources with how you can be supportive to our immigrant and refugee communities.

**Tristen:** How can our committee support this work or work related to protecting our immigrant neighbors, within the scope of our committee? Our power is limited but we can communicate our opinions to the Governor and make our recommendations to her and support different pieces of legislation and emphasize things we think are important.

**Jessica:** There are only four of us in our office and we have a big mission to work across state agencies and support partners with rapid response. Continuing to educate legislators in your respective communities on what's going on and provide context on why it's happening. Enforcement doesn't happen out of nowhere – we know HR1 took money and transferred it to enforcement. Making those connections for policy makers is important.

**Oanh:** This moment feels terrifying but there's opportunity to rebuild and what is it that have led up to this moment. How much are immigrant and refugees touching the criminal justice system and ways to improve those systems.

**Javier:** Do you know of any bills that might be emerging or tracking?

**Jessica:** We are tracking quite a few bills for next

	<p>session. Can put this in a format that easily digestible.</p> <p><b>Oanh:</b> Nine bills and two budget asks we're counting. This is the most immigration related bills we've ever seen considered at the legislature. Happy to send them to Javier afterward to share with the committee. Civil rights bills, one in particular on protection of the workplace, one on racial profiling. We're planning to host short 30 min weekly huddle to share updates on the bills. Happy to send along to Javier for the committee members.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Really appreciate that and would like to do that. Would like to have a volunteer to draft a letter so we have ready to go at our next meeting.</p> <p><b>Sterling:</b> Interested in knowing we as individual we can do today and next week. What percentage of the community of the ICE attack don't trust these agencies and what's the support for them.</p> <p><b>Jessica:</b> As individuals, there's a whole voice of organizations that are needing volunteers and resources. Within documents we created there's a list of organizations that do rapid response and legal services. Take a look at those docs and organizations and see how you can support them directly. Always looking for people with all sorts of skills, legal services is a big part. Not enough legal aid with increase in arrest or detentions. Don't have specific numbers on percentages but we are working with state agencies to find out what those impacts are. Hopeful in the next few weeks we'll have a feel for actual impacts. Happy to come back to provide updates.</p> <p><b>Oanh:</b> Don't have exact percentage, but we do know that people can't tell the difference between state of Oregon government and federal government. Since January less people are showing up and signing up for benefits even if they're eligible. School attendance is down, health needs address is also down.</p> <p><b>Jessica:</b> What families are experiencing don't touch state agencies or systems right away. We know things are true since we are hearing it daily but sometimes systems impacts don't feel it right away.</p>	<p>OIRA to share a list of bills they are tracking to Javier, to disseminate to committee members.</p>
<b>DOC Possible Areas of Focus (Tristen)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil Rights Laws School Students</li> </ul>	<p><b>Tristen:</b> Civil Rights Law School Students and Representation (representation for disciplinary hearings) There is a civil rights attorney in Portland named Victoria Safarian. She has done work at Coffee Creek and</p>	

<p>and Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking the Proposed New Prison Build</li> <li>• OJRC Engagement</li> <li>• EOCl Restorative Justice Group</li> </ul>	<p>experience with disciplinary hearings. Has done tour and experience great deal of resistance to provide legal representation in this processes. She asked me if there's anything we can do to collaborate with ombuds to motivate DOC to try and do something that is feasible and make headway. Good way to expose law students of all issues in aw system.</p> <p>Tracking the proposed new prison build. Met with Shannon White to ask about their tracking of the prison build. They are doing active work to track and disrupt the building of a new prison. Proposal would be next steps being Shannon coming to us to talk about what that looks like and how we can support. We can write a letter to Governor or legislature to influence where we stand on the issue.</p> <p>OJRC Engagement - Talked to OJRC and their work. They are focusing on solitary confinement. Don't see any immediate next steps with that one, they said they will chew on it and think about how we can partner in the future but didn't have immediate asks for us for now. We can continue engagement and future partnership.</p> <p>EOCl Restorative Justice Group - The last big project we did for Dep of Correction subcommittee was to assist a group of incarcerated men and domestic violence prevention upon release. Brought in technical assistance providers and built a curriculum. NYU maintains a relationship with these men at OSP and continuing on that program. Sterling helped to set up this group in the first place and Cameron first got introduced to this committee because he was the primary leader of that group. We would need help with the logistics if we decided to move forward with that.</p> <p><b>Babak:</b> Will speak briefly on the prison build, we are really looking at long term solutions to decrease number of people there and sentencing reform is a big piece of that. Building a new prison considering the economic climate isn't the way to go, especially during these times. Our organization is doing some proactive work on that. \$4M went into a feasibility study. That's already a lot of resources and energy and want to ensure it doesn't go any further than that.</p> <p><b>Michelle:</b> For the disciplinary hearings at Coffee Creek. How are law students involved in that project?</p> <p><b>Tristen</b> The goal would be to help convince DOC to allow for a clinic to exist. Right now, DOC isn't in favor of that</p>	
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because they claim feasibility issues, etc. but it isn't a reality right now. The easiest lift will be tracking of the new prison build. Would be interesting to hear from agencies doing this work, can write a letter to governor and legislators.

**Babak:** Maybe we can do a sign on, for example.

**Tristen:** That's something we can tackle in January. For EOCI restorative justice group, that would necessitate restarting our DOC subcommittee and that subcommittee would need to make a decision on frequency of meetings and how active they want that meeting to be. Could see value for a quarterly mtg, etc. First question from this group would be anyone interested in participating in that subcommittee to support the work in eastern Oregon?

**Sterling:** No on eastern Oregon for me.

**Cameron:** Could be interested.

**Shay:** Interested and have capacity. I'm closer to Eastern Oregon and having a representative from this area would be helpful because we are rural and set apart from everyone.

**Babak:** For DOC subcommittee interested and can try to make it work. If it's too much will let you know.

**Dr. Crapser:** Interested but would need info on time commitment.

**Sterling:** If the subcommittee is looking at?

**Tristen:** Just to restore Eastern Oregon Restorative Justice group. Got a good group of people. Anyone want to take the lead?

**Cameron:** I can take the lead.

**Tristen:** Will send you list of folks and emails of who have volunteered. First thing to do is talk about cadence, capacity, how often to meet, etc. Will put you in touch of the person who I was speaking with at DOC.

Gov office, do we have a date for January meeting?

**Yasmin:** Yes, doodle poll closed yesterday. Meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Will send out invites today.

	<p><b>Tristen:</b> Hardest thing will be how do we do a zoom call with someone at DOC. Don't think it's necessary they have to be at every mtg, more so the zoom call set up.</p> <p><b>Nani:</b> Do not have capacity unfortunately.</p> <p><b>Shaylie:</b> Possibly interested depending on time and need.</p>	
<p><b>DOC GIPA Update:</b> <b>Mia Ruston-</b></p>	<p><i>Truncated from meeting.</i></p>	
<p><b>Framework for Advocacy: Values and Principles Exercise</b></p>	<p><i>Javier shares "Criminal Justice Reform Committee Advocacy Framework" framework</i></p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Oregon Public Defense Commissions budget and expressing our options on prioritizing nonprofit funding and reduce wasteful spending. Continuing to provide our perspective for OPDC budget.</p> <p>We talked about prison build and prevention of future funding to DOC. Collaborating with Partnership for Safety and Justice. Deflection but don't know what deflection type issues will be relevant for short session. Supporting bills and budget bills being tracked by OIRA.</p> <p><b>Shay:</b> There is a lack of trust with state and federal government. With the agencies we are trying to work with and trying to build that foundation of trust so they can come to us so we can bring resource and such to the Governor's attention.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> What organizations are you thinking of?</p> <p><b>Shay:</b> Like OIRA and immigration in particular.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> What do you think is a good first step?</p> <p><b>Shay:</b> Can be a brainstorm but think it needs to be done.</p> <p><b>Babak:</b> Investment in culturally specific programs. Justice reinvestment equity program wasn't funded. Would love if RJC continued to support and advocate for advocacy funding.</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Will OIRA keep us apprised?</p> <p><b>Javier:</b> They will keep us informed on bills their tracking.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Would like someone to volunteer to continue to draft that. Short session is 6 weeks. Would be great to see a draft before that. That's already putting us in a situation where we will put this out mid-session at best.</p>	

	<p>Is anyone interested in drafting a letter once we get information from OIRA? Doesn't have to be long. Just want to express our support.</p> <p><b>Mariana:</b> Happy to draft. Would like to connect with you first Tristen before so we can talk about deadlines and first draft.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Once we get that email from Javier we can talk about timeline.</p> <p><i>Meeting adjourned 11:30am. Next meeting is January 26 at 11am.</i></p>	
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<b>Meeting Materials</b>	 Criminal Justice Reform Committee A	
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## Zoom Chat

10:02:33 From Nansi to Hosts and panelists:

Buenos dias, to everyone!

10:03:03 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

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- DOC Possible Areas of Focus (Tristen)--20 Min
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- o EOCI Restorative Justice Group
- Framework for Advocacy: Values and Principles Exercise (All) --Remaining Time

10:03:46 From Nansi to Hosts and panelists:

FYI: I'm on the ground doing rapid response work re: ICE. I'll let you know you when I'm not present.

10:04:05 From Tristen Edwards to Hosts and panelists:

thank you for your work and for being on the meeting, Nansi

10:04:18 From Jessica Ventura | Oregon OIRA to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you Nansi

10:04:19 From Nansi to Hosts and panelists:

Good luck, Javier! Feliz Cumpleaños to your wife.

10:06:35 From Nansi to Hosts and panelists:

Nansi Lopez, Policy Director, Centro Cultural. I'll be working. "Its OKAY, everything will be OKAY."

10:07:08 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

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10:25:39 From Babak Zolfaghari-Azar to Hosts and panelists:

Just got home so I'm hopping off and jumping back on my laptop

10:27:35 From Mariana Urdaneta to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you Jessica

10:32:09 From Shaylie Pickrell (She/They) to Hosts and panelists:

Adding onto Tristen's question, how can we support as community orgs/community members in general as well on the day-to-day?

10:37:21 From Nansi to Hosts and panelists:

FYI: I need to make initial contact with a family. I'll have meeting running. I'll check back in.

10:42:52 From Valerie Colas to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you, everyone. Sorry I have to leave for another appointment.

10:45:16 From Mariana Urdaneta to Hosts and panelists:

what a cute baby! 

10:45:40 From Dr. Nick Crapser to Hosts and panelists:

Possible areas of focus conversation: Has anyone spoke with the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC)? They did some great work this last year with several of the prisons and I am sure Wes would share his notes. While it was not THIS type of work, there are definitively intersections

10:45:46 From Babak Zolfaghari-Azar to Hosts and panelists:



11:02:23 From Shaylie Pickrell (She/They) to Hosts and panelists:

I am possibly interested depending on the time need

11:03:12 From Nansi to Hosts and panelists:

I'm back, my apologies. I didn't hear the entire ask, but I don't have capacity. :/

11:20:12 From Michelle Love to Hosts and panelists:

I have to sign off, looking forward to meeting on 1/26, thank you all.

## Criminal Justice Reform Committee Advocacy Framework: 2026 Short Session

Please list values, principles, and standards that you believe the Committee should consider for a framework as it advocates during the 2026 Short Session. Understanding that agency program expansion or new program is unlikely during the 2026 session due to adverse budget conditions. Focusing on maintenance of effort, program implementation, or rulemaking are some of the opportunities to engage and offer input or make recommendations on how agency programs execute services and apply resources.

**What values, principles, or criteria should the Committee consider as a framework when advocating going into 2026?  
Please list.**


As a refresher, the following is a list of priorities the committee has listed as its topical areas of focus.

**Theme:** *Accessibility, monitoring, and learning for appropriate alignment of criminal justice reform.*

**Priorities:**

**Tracking and monitoring relevant criminal justice and public safety bills**

**Assessment of agency budgets**

**Engage in Discussion relevant to Racial Equity Impact Statements of various agencies**

- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC)
- Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)
- Oregon Youth Authority (OYA)
- Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST)
- Board of Parole & Post-Prison Supervision (BPPPS)
- Oregon State Police (OSP)

**Affirming Sanctuary Law**

- Ensuring Sanctuary Law is followed
  - Connect with CJC for tracking of requests to public officials and state agencies
  - Connect with DOJ to understand the complaint process and investigations of complaints of possible violations of Sanctuary Law
- Learning more about accessibility to programs, particularly for immigrant communities.
  - Gain more clarity on access to state government programs.
    - DHS, OHA, and explore others (Committee would need to liaison with other agency to learn more).
- Victims of Crimes
  - Education of funding and understanding how immigration status may impact obtaining services.
  - Violations of ICE enforcement.

**Advocate and maintain 1115 Medicaid Waiver for People in Custody and Continuation**

- Status of Medicare Waiver

**Restorative justice and reinforcing efforts**

**Continue work on DOC Subcommittee and determine focus area**