



Jana McLellan

Acting Director

Jana McLellan has spent more than 30 years in public service, working at the county and state levels to improve systems for youth, families, and vulnerable populations. She has held leadership roles in juvenile justice, human services, and emergency response, focusing on practical solutions to complex challenges.



McLellan's career began in juvenile justice, where she worked on community-based programs to keep youth out of the court system. She developed a Neighborhood Accountability Board, helped launch a victim-offender reconciliation program, and built employment initiatives that connected young people with job opportunities and mentors.

She spent roughly 10 years in leadership roles within Multnomah County, including as Chief Operating Officer, before moving to play a pivotal role in several state agencies. She led the transformation of Oregon's State Operated Community Programs, shifting the model toward stabilization and crisis intervention for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As Deputy Director for Child Welfare at the Oregon Department of Human Services, she worked to improve accountability and strategic planning during a critical period of reform.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, McLellan played a key role in coordinating the state's response, stepping in to manage the complex relationship between the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). The two agencies had overlapping responsibilities—DHS licensed long-term care facilities, while OHA oversaw the nurses working in those facilities—leading to confusion and delays in the early months of the crisis. McLellan worked to bridge these gaps, helping create the COVID Response and Recovery Unit (CRRU). Under her leadership, the unit rapidly hired hundreds of staff, set up systems for distributing supplies, tracked infection data, and streamlined communication between agencies to ensure a more effective response.

Returning to youth services in 2023, she joined the Oregon Youth Authority as the Assistant Director for Facility Services, overseeing operations across the state's juvenile justice system. Throughout her career, McLellan has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to improving public systems, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that vulnerable populations receive the support they need.