

Safety Advisory Committee

Date: Friday, May 16, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

Chair: K.O. Berger, Youth & Family Advocate, Governor's Office

Facilitator: Addie Smith, OYA

Attendance

Present

- **K.O. Berger**, Youth and Family Advocate, Governor's Office (Chair)
- **Jana McLellan**, Interim Director, OYA
- **Valerie Colas**, Public Safety Advisory, Governor's Office
- **Rep. Will Chotzen**, Oregon House of Representatives
- **Rep. Rick Lewis**, Oregon House of Representatives
- **Judge Amy Holmes Hehn**, Multnomah County Circuit Court
- **Judge Manuel Perez**, Marion County Circuit Court (*joined late*)
- **Christina McMahan**, Clackamas County Juvenile Department / OJDDA
- **Brendan Murphy**, Chief Deputy DA, Marion County
- **Lt. Aaron Jackson**, Oregon State Police
- **Stacey Lowe**, SW Oregon Public Defender Services
- **Jennifer McGowan**, Youth, Rights, and Justice
- **Annette Majekodunmi**, Family Advocate, POIC
- **Dave Manley**, Office of Training, Investigations, and Safety, ODHS/OHA
- **Ken Jeske**, Chief Investigator, OYA PSO
- **Winifred Skinner**, Senior Rules and Policy Analyst, OYA
- **Debbi Martin**, Legislative Coordinator, OYA
- **Will Howell**, Communications Director, OYA

Not Present

- **Vera Stoullil**, The Alliance
- **Angey Rideout**, Youth Prevention and Engagement Grants Manager, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Agenda

1. Opening Remarks – Jana McLellan

- Jana McLellan acknowledged systemic failures within the PSO and emphasized OYA's commitment to transparency and trust-building.
- Emphasized need for both internal reforms and external accountability.

2. Peer Review Summary – Ken Jeske

Ken Jeske provided an overview of [his report](#), conducted during a temporary assignment from DOC to OYA:

- PSO failed to maintain accurate data, timely investigations, and standard practices.
- Reporting metrics misrepresented the true status of complaints.
- Leadership and systems failed to flag or address dysfunction early.
- Jeske called for:
 - Clearer reporting structure
 - Reinstated audit mechanisms
 - A steering committee of experts
 - Improved data systems
 - Weekly staff training (including trauma-informed interviews)
 - Strengthened partnerships with DHS, OSP, and DA offices

3. Discussion on Task Force Scope and Role

- **Judge Amy Holmes Hehn** raised foundational concerns about the scope:
 - Should the group narrowly assess PSO improvements or examine broader systemic issues?
 - Called for a formal change management plan including goals, metrics, and accountability.
- **Brendan Murphy** and **Christina McMahan** echoed the need to understand root causes—not just PSO failure but the systemic factors contributing to high complaint volume.
- **Rep. Rick Lewis** requested clarification of the agency's expectations.
- **McLellan** responded: the group's primary focus is on the PSO, but broader input is welcome.

4. Resource Needs

- Several members advocated for **external technical assistance** in change management.

- **Christina McMahan** was suggested as a potential connector for national TA resources.
- **K.O. Berger** encouraged the group to consider recommending specific consultants or resources rather than vague funding requests.

5. For Next Meeting

- Should the task force focus solely on PSO improvement as the “canary in the coal mine,” or expand scope to address root causes systemwide?

Resources Shared

- OYA shared [the most recent public update summarizing recent PSO improvement efforts](#) (May 16)
- [The PSO Case Tracker](#)

Chat Feedback Highlights

- Agreement with Judge Holmes Hehn that this is a **systemwide issue**, not just a PSO problem.
- Several members voiced **alignment with broader-scope reform**.
- Appreciation was expressed for **Jeske’s quick progress** in restoring PSO function.
- Acknowledgment that **youth and families must remain centered** in this work.
- OYA reiterated it is open to **live feedback** and committed to biweekly tracker updates.

Next Steps

By Next Meeting:

- Share full list of current and required staff training modules
- Provide national/state comparison data on youth safety allegations (as available)
- Maintain regular updates via the PSO Improvement Tracker (biweekly)
- Addie Smith and K.O. Berger will follow up with Judge Holmes Hehn and Christina McMahan on TA provider ideas

Scheduling:

- Regular meetings will be held **monthly on Fridays at noon**, excluding the third Friday.
- Tentatively targeting **Friday, June 2** for the next meeting (to be confirmed by email).