

Klamath County's JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION PLAN

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Prepared by:

**Klamath County Juvenile
Department**

Dan Golden, Director

Kami Walton, Assistant

3331 Vandenberg Road

Klamath Falls, Oregon

541.851-3856

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INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Plan

The Juvenile Crime Prevention planning effort was designed to meet statutory requirements for Klamath County to reduce juvenile crime. The Klamath County Juvenile Department was designated by the county governing board to engage in ongoing contact with the State of Oregon, Department of Education, Youth Development Council (YDC) in the planning effort. The Juvenile Crime Prevention planning initiative was designed to:

- Reduce the number of youth who are at imminent risk of entering the juvenile justice system,
- Prevent youth with one or more criminal referrals from re-offending and moving further into the juvenile justice system through intervention services,
- Continue funding (with possible reductions) of ongoing programs within the planning guidelines.

#1 PLANNING - SUMMARY OF THE PROCESS

In an effort to gain a broad base of involvement in updating the current comprehensive local plan and capture updated information regarding community issues, gaps and barriers from community stakeholders, the Juvenile Department solicited feedback from a variety of agencies, organizations and community partners through the use of questionnaires, meetings and personal interviews. The process will continue throughout 2017 with outreach to community partners and service providers.

#2 PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION

The planning process includes input from representatives of our local school districts, public health, local public safety coordinating committee, the court system, tribal entities, mental health providers, law enforcement agencies, and city and county governments.

A sampling of these include representatives from the Klamath Falls Police Department, Klamath County District Attorney's office, Klamath County Community Corrections, Klamath County Juvenile Department, Circuit Court, Integral Youth Services, Citizens for Safe Schools, Klamath County Sheriff's Office, Klamath County Public Health Department, Klamath Basin Behavioral Health, Klamath Tribal Health, Klamath Tribal Court, Klamath Falls City School District, Klamath County School District, Lutheran Community Services, Klamath County Library, and others.

Information was gathered from community groups, non-profits, citizen groups and individuals, including counselors, after school program providers, faith-based program staff, teachers and librarians, advocates for youth who are homeless, parent education specialists, youth mentoring programs, parents and business owners. An effort to continue gathering input from potential community partners will occur during the biennium to identify needs in addition to programs of the funded entities.

#3 ANALYSIS – A COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Klamath County is the third largest county in Oregon and consists of 6,151 miles (3.93 million acres) and is located along the eastern border of the Cascade Mountains. According to the U.S. Census figures for 2016, the estimated total population of Klamath County is 66,443. As of 2015 21.6% of the population was under the age of 18. Caucasians account for 89.1% of the population, Latino/Hispanic account for 12.2% of the population and American Indian/Alaskan Native persons account for 4.7% of the population. Klamath Falls is the most populated area throughout the county with a population of 21,399. There are several smaller communities throughout Klamath County that are primarily agricultural communities and can range anywhere from 20 to 40 miles away from the city. Currently there is no public transportation between the city of Klamath Falls and the Outlying areas.

Positive Youth Development Approach

Two community programs featuring early intervention approaches have been funded in the past by the Commission on Children and Families, and last biennium, by YDC funding. Due to a likely reduction in funds, the Juvenile Department is not seeking to fund additional programs, although analysis of community needs for juvenile programs will continue during the biennium as part of this plan. That continuing analysis may identify addition funding needs.

The plan for the Biennium 2017-19 will be to continue funding the two currently funded programs even if they experience reduced support from state sources via the YDC process. The proposed budget numbers will reflect the reductions proposed by the Legislative Fiscal Office request for the estimated 2017-19 distribution of \$59,718.

Positive Youth Development (PYD) is an intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths (Youth.Gov).

Kids in the Middle Mentoring is a program offered through the non-profit agency Citizens for Safe Schools. Kids in the Middle (KIM) is a community based, one-to-one mentoring program that pairs at-risk 4th-8th graders with a responsible adult mentor for a minimum of one hour a week for one full year (12 months). Patterned on the Big Brother/Big Sister mentoring model, KIM follows all the elements of effective practice. Program outcomes are to foster attachment to non-parental adults and to school, provide enrichment opportunities, improve school attendance and core GPA and reduce delinquency by teaching and modeling pro-social values and behaviors.

KIM serves all schools in both city and county school districts. Students are referred to the program by a school counselor and enroll voluntarily with parental approval and support. Mentors gently coach their mentee on practices for emotion regulation, handling stress, conflict-resolution and good character. Mentors provide positive re-enforcement and consistent acknowledgement to instill and congratulate the positive decisions their mentees make in order to offer skill building and cognitive development. Their relationship is formed through a friendship bond so that the youth does not see their mentor as a teacher or parent. Throughout the course of the relationship the mentor consistently helps the mentee to identify natural mentors in his or her life to reach out to once their match has ended.

Community Based Mentoring (CBM) is loosely based on the theory of social control, where attachments to prosocial, supportive adults, a commitment to appropriate goals, and a mutually trusting relationship

between the mentor and mentee (adult and youth) can allow the child to begin to feel more socially accepted and supported. The increased level of support from adults allows youths to view themselves in a more positive light and engage in more constructive behavior. Youth who are more socially bonded have more to lose from misbehavior.

Additionally, research in the fields of neuroscience (Bruce Perry, MD; Jack Shonkoff, MD; et al) demonstrates that the brain organizes and develops in a neuro-sequential manner. Attachment to caring adults supports healthy neural architecture and developmental pathways that in turn allow for healthy skills of self-regulation which in turn allow for healthy affiliation with and attunement to peers and others. These skills, in turn, are fundamental to the pro-social behavior necessary for success in school and life. A child's sense of efficacy in these areas fosters confidence, grit and optimism: habits of mind that research equates with success in school (Carol Dwek, Paul Tough, et al).

Project Changes, offered through Lutheran Community Services, is a unique program that combines a number of program styles. It is a collaborative program, currently operating in Junior and Senior High Schools throughout Klamath County, with small focus groups, large educational events and individual counseling opportunities. Project Specialists create strong bonds with kids in the program that last for years. Project Changes brings no blame or judgment to its services and interactions with kids at risk of delinquency issues. Rather they bring a playful sense of connection and relationship, founded upon risk and protective factors, always moving toward identifying the individual adolescent's assets, and structuring their interactions to be positive movements forward.

Project Changes brings an emphasis on cognitive-behavioral approaches, motivational interviewing, along with Botvin's Life skills. Structured groups teach coping and communication skills and offer peer support. Weekly check-in and group meetings reinforce positive coping skills.

Continued funding in the Biennium 2017-19 means that these two programs will need to adopt the Positive Youth Development (PYD) approach together with risk assessment uses to establish youth's eligibility for continuing services. The Juvenile Department will work with the two programs throughout the biennium to utilize the JCP assessment tool, train staff to use the tool, enter assessment date into JJIS, and address criminogenic factors to correlate with PYD outcomes.

Youth Attendance Team

Although not funded by YDC, the Youth Attendance Team (YAT) is sufficiently related to the Juvenile Department's community partnerships to merit description in this plan. The Youth Attendance Team (YAT) is a 50-member, multi-disciplinary team founded in 2004 as multi-system approach to the growing concern of truancy.

YAT meets regularly to discuss truancy, juvenile crime and delinquency prevention strategies, and educational programs aimed at truancy reduction in our community. The YAT coordinator is funded through school district contributions to the Klamath County Juvenile Department. Other YAT representatives include county, city and alternative schools, law enforcement, juvenile department, and agencies and organizations serving families.

Through a clearly defined process, YAT works with the school districts and Juvenile Court to offer resources and develop individual sets of supports to remediate non-attendance. The result is early intervention through collaboration with agencies able to assist a youth or family, expending resources

when and where they are most needed, resulting in increased school attendance and stability for the youth. YAT works with both of the community agencies funded by the YDC process.

Youth Attendance Team Interventions

The Youth Attendance Team addressed improvement in school truancy for the 2016/2017 school year. The Youth Attendance Team 2016/2017 Semester Report indicate that 69% of students referred to YAT show measurable improvement following the YAT Intervention. 60% of YAT referrals come from Klamath County School District (KCSO) and show improvement at 69%, while 35% of YAT referrals come from Klamath Falls City School District (KFCSD) and show improvement at 60%. 5% of referrals come from Alternative Schools.

So far, 47 Truancy Citations have been issued in the 2016/2017 school year with 10 of the citations issued to parents of truant students. In 2016, Klamath County District Attorney Rob Patridge approved a new process allowing charging parents. Parents who are cited more than twice for failing to maintain a student in regular attendance now face a fine of \$750 or mandatory attendance at Parenting Classes in lieu of formal prosecution for 'Failure to Supervise,' which is a Class A Violation.

There were 53 Petitions or Motions filed in the first half of the 2016/2017 school year. YAT actively supervised as many as 93 youth on Truancy Probation. On contempt of court charges, 13 youth served time in detention, while 6 students went directly from detention to residential A/D treatment programs. So far in 2016/2017, 10 students on probation have graduated High School or completed a GED. The statistics indicate that YAT is an effective program that helps keep youth in school.

Service Provider and Risk Assessment/Risk Assessment Tool used by providers

KIM currently uses the validated risk assessment tool (JCP) to address risk in family, school, peer group, and other relevant social settings. The JCP tool is administered prior to matching with a mentor and then again at 12 months after the match. KIM targets youth in the 4th-8th grade who have two or more of these risk factors: high poverty rate, underserved minority populations (such as Native American, LGBTQ, etc), single or no parent household, school behavior issues, low motivation, low GPA and/or not meeting benchmark in key academic subjects. Students in both city and county school districts are targeted.

LCS Project Changes addresses risk in family, school, peer group, and other relevant social settings – through Project Changes' Intake / Exit Questionnaire, they are able to bring specific outcomes to these issues. The Juvenile Department will work with LCS to adopt the YDC assessment requirements during the 2017-19 Biennium.

#4 JCP COMMUNITY ISSUES

Issue: Disproportional Minority Contact / Tribal Youth in the Juvenile System

Klamath County has a disproportional number of Native American youth in the Juvenile System and the JCP plan will attempt to reduce these numbers. According to the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), The percent of Native American Youth with criminal offense referrals processed by the juvenile justice system in 2016 was 10.8%. The percent of Native American youth non-criminal offense referrals was 13.7%. The percentage of Native American youth of juvenile detention admissions was 16.9%.

Yet, according to the U.S. Census 2015 Native Americans are only 4.7% of Klamath County's population.

Currently, LCS Project Change's serves numerous Native youth in Klamath County schools. The distribution of clients is found throughout all county schools: 16 Native American students at Chiloquin Junior High and High School, eight Native American students at Mazama High School, six Native American students at Falcon Heights, seven Native American students at Henley Middle School and High school, seven Native American students at Brixner Junior High School and five Native American students at Bonanza School.

In addition to education programing, the Juvenile Department works closely with the Klamath Tribes Tribal Court that has Tribal Court jurisdiction over juvenile matters affecting Tribal youth. In 2015, The Klamath County Circuit (Juvenile) Court, Juvenile Department, and Klamath Tribes Tribal Court jointly authorized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to refer Native youth from state juvenile adjudicative proceedings to Tribal Court for disposition and probationary supervision.

In addition, in 2016, the Juvenile Department and Klamath Tribes Tribal Court executed a second MOU to jointly authorize a Tribal Court probation officer to also act under state law authority as a Klamath County Juvenile Counselor. Klamath County became the first county in Oregon to authorize such a joint agreement with a Tribal Court. As a result, a Tribal Court P.O. regularly works with the Juvenile Department on supervision issues of a caseload of 20 to 30 tribal youth probationers.

This growing relationship between the Klamath Tribes Tribal Court and Klamath County Juvenile Department is creating increasingly effective dispositional supervision of tribal youth. While the program is not currently receiving YDC funding, it might become a strategic target for support if additional YDC funds become available at a later date. The program will be monitored by the Juvenile department for continued effectiveness in reducing contact with tribal youth.

#5 POPULATION SERVED

Klamath County US Census data shows total county population in 2016 at 66,443. Persons under 18 years of age are shown in 2010 as 22% of the population, or 14,617. Youth aged under five years in 2010 were 6% or 3,986. If youth under five years are too young to be included for services because they have not yet entered school, then youth aged five years to 18 would be 10,631. While the age group subject to juvenile delinquency jurisdiction (12 to 18) is not broken out, that number is thought to be about 6,600. Juveniles referred to Juvenile Court has averaged between about 300 to 400 annually.

KIM served 130 individuals in 2016, 65 mentors and 65 mentees. All mentees were screened in and out with the JCP tool. Of those 130 individuals, 8% were identified as Native American and another 19% identified as Native American as well as another ethnicity. 80% of the youth we serve have been involved in the foster care system and 70% of our mentees have a parent who is or was incarcerated or on probation.

LCS Project Changes presented the following numbers for the School Year 2016-2017.

Total service hours in county schools: 1,060

Currently Serving: 405 students

LCS Project Changes: Students seen individually or in small pull out groups

Bonanza Junior / High School: 139.25 hours/ 28 students

28 students : 12-14 years old
16 students: 15-18 years old

Brixner Junior High: 120 hours/ 39 students

12 students: 11- 12 years old
27 students: 13-14 years old

Chiloquin Junior / High School: 113.25 hours/ 35 students

11 students: 12-14 years old
24 students: 15-18 years old

Falcon Heights: 128.75 hour/ 27 students

14 students: 13-14 years old
10 students: 15- 16 years old
3 students: 17-18 years old

Henley High School: 207.50 hours/ 67 students

43 students: 13- 15 years old
24 students: 16-18 years old

Henley Middle School: 42.25 hours/ 23 students

12 students: 11-12 years old
11 students 13-14 years old

Lost River Junior / High School: 253.25 hours/ 65 students

12 students : 11-12 years old
13 students: 13-14 years old
40 students: 15-18 years old

Mazama/ Mazama Teen Parent: 271.75 hours/ 62 students/ 6 Teen Parents

12 students: 13-14 years old
22 students: 15-16 years old
30 students: 16-18 years old

Youth will continue to be referred to programs from school personnel, counselors, Juvenile Department counselors, mental health agencies and law enforcement. Youth will continue to be assessed and have one or more of the primary risk factors in order to access services: antisocial behavior, poor family functioning or poor family support, failure in school, substance abuse problems, negative peer association and clearly demonstrate at-risk behaviors that have come to the attention of community agencies, schools or law enforcement that lead to increased involvement in the juvenile justice system.

#6 EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

LCS Project Changes' At-risk Adolescent Prevention Program defines and clarifies the JCP and the Botvin's Life Skills, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Interviewing. The program model is cited on SAMHSA and OJJDP.

The KIM program uses the "Big Brothers Big Sisters" (BBBS) model of one-on-one mentoring. Both SAMHSA and OJJDP list the BBBS model as evidenced based practice. KIM completes an internal fidelity check quarterly to ensure that the program is committed to following elements of the evidence based practice.

#7 MEASUREMENT & OUTCOMES

Outcome: Reduce School Truancy Rate
Measurement Tool: School Attendance Records

Outcome: Reduce Native American youth population in county juvenile system
Measurement Tool: JJIS statistical data for Referrals and Detention

High Level Outcome: Decrease Juvenile Referrals
Measurement Tool: JJIS statistical data for Referrals and Detention

BUDGET for 2017-19

The Legislative Fiscal Office Request reduced the 2017-19 distribution to Klamath County to \$59,718. That reduces the amount available annually to \$29,859. The two funded programs have been asked by the Juvenile department to submit reduced budget requests reflecting the likely reduction.

COMMENTS ON A CONTINUING PLANNING PROCESS

The plan as proposed here is a snapshot in time and will evolve as community partners meet with the juvenile department to evaluate needs for youth. This initial plan is submitted to begin the process of evaluation rather than propose any final conclusions. As we meet with community partners, other dimensions of need and proposals for service could emerge.

Two main areas of partnership are financially supported here (KIM and LCS) that will continue to serve youth populations even at reduced levels of state funded financial resources. Two others, YAT and the evolving relationship between the juvenile department and Tribal Court are not yet recognized for financial support. Additional funding could help expand support for these programs to identify and provide needed services to their program clients.

The Klamath County Juvenile Department will continue its commitment to building a safe and healthy community for youth by remaining steadfast in our efforts to build on Klamath County's progress. We are dedicated to:

- Continue to engage in extensive community planning processes,
- Make recommendations for funding local programs with solid outcomes,
- Advocate for involvement in current issues relating to services and supports for youth,
- Coordinate and implement programs and special projects,
- Provide coordination and facilitation services to bring together local resources and partners.

For additional information please contact:

Dan Golden, Director
Klamath County Juvenile Department
3331 Vandenberg Road
Klamath Falls OR 97603
(541) 851-3856
dgolden@co.klamath.or.us