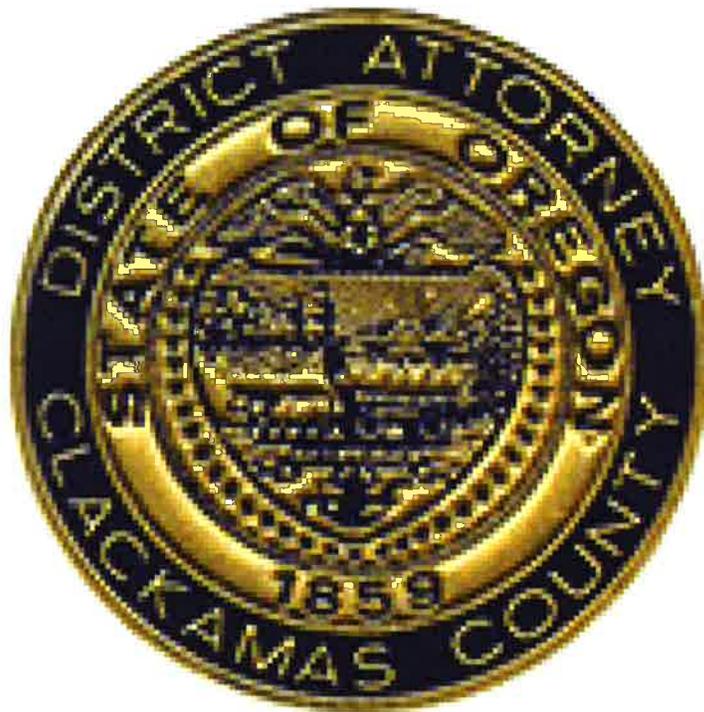


# 2015 OFFICIAL REPORT

## CLACKAMAS COUNTY GRAND JURY



### **Conditions and Management of Clackamas County Correctional Facilities**

**November 20, 2015**

**2015**

## **Clackamas County Corrections Grand Jury Report**

### **INTRODUCTION**

ORS 132.440 requires “once yearly a Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of every correctional facility and youth correctional facility... in the county.” A seven-member Grand Jury addressing this issue in Clackamas County was empaneled November 2, 2015.

As a Grand Jury, we inspected all of the county’s correctional and custodial facilities including: The Clackamas County Jail, the Clackamas County Community Corrections: Residential Services, the Clackamas County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) and the Clackamas County Courthouse Holding Facility. The Grand Jury also heard testimony from Sheriff Craig Roberts, Jail Commander Lee Eby, County Administrator Don Krupp, Citizen Budget Committee Chair Frank Magdlen, Corrections Deputy Tim Jackson and Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge Kathie Steele. What follows is a summary of our observations and recommendations.

### **Clackamas County Jail**

The physical appearance of the jail was clean and appeared sanitary. Foundational expansions to the jail over the past decades, presents challenges relating to efficiency of inmate housing and movement, but corrections leadership seem to have worked through the challenges to maintain security and safety. Programs offered at the jail including the GED program, as well as other group meetings, offer much needed services to inmates who may be serving longer terms.

Jail staff were very engaged in their work and there was positive camaraderie noted. Deputies receive ongoing training in areas of mental health, addictions and de-escalation. The Grand Jury was impressed on the extensive training that is offered and recommend it continues. The impact of working in a jail has been tempered by offering staff opportunities to be involved in special projects, teaching responsibilities, and other work opportunities. This has been a beneficial employment development as it has the potential to reduce burn-out and increase job satisfaction. It is reassuring to hear that most corrections staff remain with the Sheriff’s Office for a long period of time.

The Grand Jury has a significant concern involving the increasing number of forced releases that have occurred in Clackamas County over the past several years. A “forced release” is defined as when inmates are released by the jail on their own recognizance notwithstanding the fact that there has been bail imposed. The Grand Jury understands it is necessary for the jail to engage in this practice to relieve overcrowding and jail personnel make great efforts to prioritize public safety when determining who will and will not be released. However, in October of 2015 for instance, 311 inmates were subject to forced release. The trend is such that these numbers will not be meaningfully reduced in the future without significant and immediate remedial efforts. The forced release situation not only creates a strain on the jail, but impacts the efficient operation of the court system and impedes a just and timely resolution of cases.

The Grand Jury strongly recommends that immediate action be taken toward opening the 26 jail beds that are currently vacant. This will necessitate hiring approximately 6 new corrections deputies to staff those beds. Due to the significantly large number of forced releases, this has to be a priority for the county and the Sheriff's Office. There was information presented that the jail could be staffed within the existing budget of the Sheriff's Office. However, the Sheriff does not believe this could be accomplished within the existing budget. A further review of the budget will be necessary to determine the funding source for the positions required to open the 26 beds. If the positions need approval by the County Commission, we recommend that this occur.

This Grand Jury also recommends that efforts to build a new jail are pursued for the safety of the county residents. The County should consider, to the extent possible, preserving and setting aside specific property at the Red Soils location for future construction of a new jail. The County and the Sheriff's Office should also begin preparation for presenting funding measures to the voters.

The Transition Center, which will be adjacent to the Clackamas County Jail, is designed to offer job placement, education, addiction treatment, mental health and health care services to inmates recently released from custody. The Transition Center is slated to open in January 2016 and may be an excellent resource to assist in decreasing recidivism. The Grand Jury hopes that this center will be operational as soon as possible. We recommend next year's Grand Jury evaluate the effectiveness of the Transition Center and its impact on recidivism.

#### **Clackamas County Community Corrections: Residential Services**

The Community Corrections Residential Center is comprised of the Corrections Substance Abuse Program (CSAP) and the Work Release Center Program. CSAP, in particular, offers long term custodial drug treatment that is intensive in nature, and it provides immediate consequences if there is a violation of facility rules. Two residents spoke with the Grand Jury at length about their successes at the facility and it was very impactful. Based on the statistics provided at the center, it appears as if the programs offered are very successful and provide a good return on the investment. The staff and management at the center appear to work well together which also helps increase the effectiveness of the programs. The effort to teach residents about the importance of giving back to the community is applauded. The Grand Jury would like to see more funding be provided to expand the program both in general numbers and to add mental health services to meet the needs of the population. Evaluating possibilities for the programs to be able to provide treatment for individuals with medical conditions would be a great addition to the program. We noticed some maintenance needs that could be addressed to additionally benefit the program and the facilities.

#### **Clackamas County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC)**

The JIAC is a facility for limited custodial detention of juveniles that allows law enforcement officers who take youth into custody a location where the youth can be processed and assessed. Additionally, it offers Clackamas County youth immediate and swift accountability for their behavior which is very important for the developing youth brain. The center is an excellent resource for the County's youth and families in terms of assessment information and valuable services. Additionally, the center helps

increase the community's safety by allowing patrol officers to return to the field instead of remaining present with a juvenile while they await parent or guardian arrival. As the County's youth population continues to grow, the number of contracted beds available may need to be re-evaluated or as an alternative, the possibility of having longer term detention beds in this County may become necessary. The Grand Jury was impressed with the staff management of the facility.

**Clackamas County Courthouse Holding Facility**

Transporting inmates to and from the Clackamas County Jail was previously an inefficient and potentially dangerous exercise for corrections personnel. The sally port addition and more secure courtroom appear to be very effective and beneficial additions to the courthouse in maintaining the safety and security of corrections deputies, courtroom personnel, the general public and inmates. The cross-training between the patrol unit and corrections unit seems to be a mutually beneficial situation as each is learning more about the other's discipline, which can only lead to creating a safer environment.

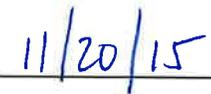
**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Start the hiring process for the 6 required corrections staff so the 26 beds at the Clackamas County Jail can be opened as soon as possible.
- Continue a sustained and directed effort toward building a new jail
- Fix the roof of the current jail as soon as possible
- Open the Transition Center as soon as possible
- Collaborate with the community to ensure sufficient housing for mentally ill and others needing housing resources
- Increase funding to the CSAP and work release programs in order to expand services

Signature of Grand Jury Foreperson

  
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Foreperson

  
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Date