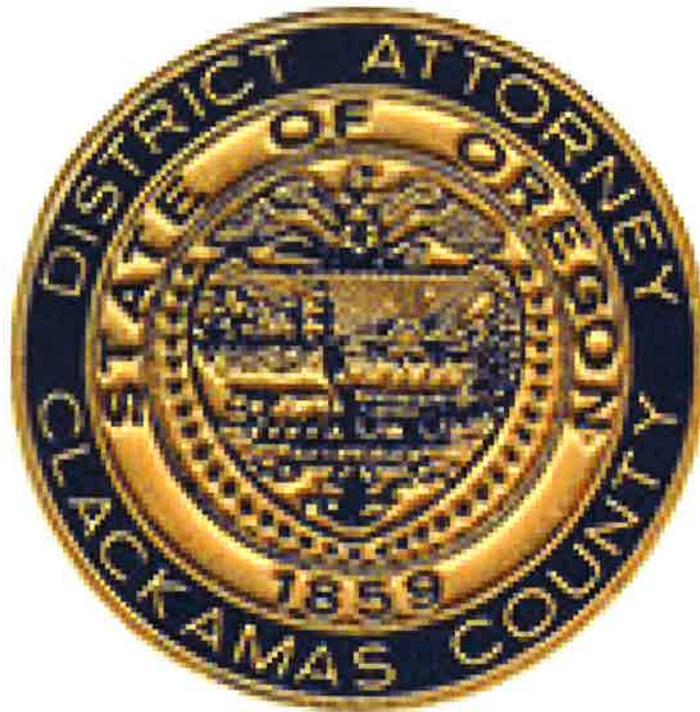


2014 OFFICIAL REPORT
CLACKAMAS COUNTY GRAND JURY



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

December 4, 2014

Grand Jury Report for Clackamas County Corrections System

December 2014

Overview

By statute ORS 132.440 requires “once yearly a Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of every correctional facility in the county”. A seven-member Grand Jury addressing this issue in Clackamas County was empanelled December 1, 2014.

The Grand Jurors inspected all of the County’s correctional facilities including: the Clackamas County Jail, the Clackamas County Community Corrections Residential Services Facility, the Clackamas County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center and the Clackamas County Courthouse Holding Facility. Suggested action steps including observations and commentary follow:

Clackamas County Jail

The Grand Jury believes that the Sheriff’s Office has done an outstanding job of managing the Clackamas County Jail, especially considering the physical condition of said facilities. The professionalism, esprit de corps and amazing resourcefulness displayed by staff during our visit were notable and commendable. However, based upon our observations, we strongly believe the following actions should be taken expeditiously to avoid a crisis in our corrections community that we believe is inevitable. Continued failure to follow these actions would greatly increase costs and degrade community safety now and in the future.

Action Points:

- Open the 20 beds currently unoccupied at the jail.
- Continue to explore new means of attracting qualified candidates.
- Completion of the South Station Transition Center (most cost effective and easily completed). According to timeline provided to the Grand Jury by the County Commissioners’ Office completion is expected by 9/30/15. It is our feeling that this timeline can be compressed and that by reducing the timeframe between vendor procurement and groundbreaking, this can be accomplished.
- Continue to maintain current jail as needed with an eye toward efficiency, specifically including freezer repairs/replacement and a new roof or repairs as needed.

- Build the new jail of “podular” design. The Grand Jury recognizes that the County has many priorities and budgetary requirements. However, it is our opinion that within the Clackamas County Corrections system this is the most pressing concern. This action point includes retaining all land previously allocated for the new jail campus. Collaboration and cooperation between all parties is required to establish size, scope, budget and timeline. The contributing factors that lead us to this conclusion include:
 - The practice of forced releases is costly, not only in public safety concerns, but also in well established recidivism rates and the cost to re-capture, re-book and re-incarcerate.
 - Continued delay will drive costs higher due to the rising costs of new construction materials and labor as well as the increased costs of maintaining the current aging facility.
 - Increased cost efficiencies of operation of a modern facility would require fewer staff per inmate.
 - Increased safety of staff, inmates and the community at large.
 - Considering the future population growth in our County, a new jail of “podular” design is preferable with regards to expansion at later dates.
 - A new facility would serve to better attract qualified employees to staff the jail appropriately.

Community Corrections

We visited the Community Corrections residential facility in Milwaukie and listened to an orientation regarding their philosophies, practices and goals. Leadership of the organization was impressive in terms of their ability, commitment and dedication. We were especially impressed with leadership’s compassion and sensitivity to the offenders’ personal history, individual needs and future successes.

Given the limitations of their physical plant it appears to be operated in a cost effective, efficient and sanitary manner. Our hopes for this facility are as follows:

- To further prove success of concept through expanded cost benefit analysis over a longer period of time, then...
- Secure increased funding to expand the program and increase the number of offenders helped through this program.

Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC)

The Grand Jury visited the JIAC and listened to a presentation on their philosophy, background and practices. This operation serves to assist law enforcement with juveniles who have been taken into custody. The JIAC staff conducts intake assessment, screens for community safety and arranges for appropriate release. They coordinate services with other agencies and develop comprehensive plans which focus on community safety as well as the immediate needs of the youthful offender.

It was the clear to this jury that this program is a success as seen through their performance measures. In addition to and beyond metrics it was our impression that this program offers a safe and positive environment for a struggling child. The expertise and sensitivity of the staff was clearly evident and it is our opinion that this program should continue. To that effect, the Grand Jury has only one suggestion:

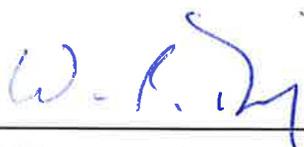
- The Intake Risk Assessment form (matrix), which assigns risk, should be automated.

Courthouse Holding Facility

We visited the Courthouse Holding Facility which was newly renovated with a completion date in 2013. Following our orientation and subsequent discussion with courthouse personnel, it was evident to the Grand Jury that the renovations successfully accomplished the intended outcome. Staff morale was high and their professionalism apparent. It was obvious to this jury that the 2013 improvements greatly enhanced the safety and efficiency of the entire courthouse operation.

In conclusion it is this Grand Jury's hope that our observations and recommendations are well heeded by all appropriate audiences of this report. We are concerned, that while previous reports have been consistent in recommendation, little or no action has resulted, especially on the largest issue, the building of a new jail. This last point has proven to be very frustrating to us as Grand Jurors, as the jail was previously approved, funded, near groundbreaking then halted. The momentum lost, costs incurred and safety jeopardized will unfortunately be the legacy of this sequence of events.

Signature of Grand Jury Foreman

 12/4/2014

William Draznik