



Linn County Juvenile Department Newsletter

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Community Partnerships

"Goodbye to our Safe Schools Grant & Partners"

The Four year "Safe Schools, Healthy Students" Grant came to an end on June 30, 2013, completing the final fifth year-no cost extension period to extend and continue services in Linn County communities.



The grant brought in 1 Million dollars per year during the grant period and was used to develop mental health, alcohol and drug services, early childhood intervention and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) in rural high schools and middle schools in Linn County. Other pieces of the grant included a prevention officer position through the juvenile department, staff training and development, with one of the main training objectives being Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI). Over 300 professionals were trained in this intervention technique to develop a common language in helping youth overcome self defeating behaviors. Strengthening the Youth Services Teams (YST) is also another significant area where agency and school staff come together and develop a plan to provide services to youth and families in their own community.

With the end of the grant we must also say goodbye to Kathryn Henderson, Grant Manager. She has done a fantastic job of facilitating a process to improve an array of services in rural schools.

Kathryn recently commented, the thing she is most proud of is "...the way people work together and collaborate in Linn County. The project just wouldn't have been the same anywhere else."

Strengthening of the system to make services more available and accessible is something Kathryn sees as one of the biggest benefits left by the grant. Sustainability is always an end goal for any grant and most

elements of the grant will be able to be sustained in some degree because of the foundational work which was completed.

Thank you Kathryn for your amazing energy and direction during the past 5 years!

Thank you also to Grant Assistant Jane Ropp, for her continued support and assistance throughout the grant period.



Agency News

"P.R.E.A. Grant Award"

Linn, Lane and Marion County Juvenile Departments worked together to submit a successful application for a federal grant; Establish "Zero Tolerance" Cultures for Sexual Abuse in Local Adult and Juvenile Detention Facilities.

This grant is operated by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) with the US Department of Justice. While the three counties are identified as the main participants of the grant, all 12 juvenile detention facilities in Oregon supported the grant effort and will benefit from this grant award.

The grant will help bring juvenile facilities into compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (P.R.E.A.); which will standardize training, investigative procedures, policies and procedures. One component of the grant is to develop a tool to determine a youth's risk of being victimized or of being an offender while in the detention setting.

The collaboration in the writing the grant and support from all the participating juvenile facilities is what made the Oregon proposal stand out, which brought our state the awarded amount of nearly \$300,000 to provide technical assistance in our endeavor to create a safer confinement opportunity for youth.





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The Linn County Juvenile Department is dedicated to helping youth & families achieve positive change.

Our mission is to increase public safety by coaching youth and families to make positive choices through education, skill building and community partnerships.

www.linnlsci.wordpress.com



Director's Note "Perspective"

Working in the field of Juvenile Justice can be a very rewarding career choice. The idea that our cause is "noble" and that we are helping young people learn to make better choices is what often keeps us coming back to work each day, month and year. It is easy to develop the perception that "...most youth get into trouble" because this is the primary group of youth we see in our office. It is also that one success story which often rekindles our "fire" for our jobs.

Here in Linn County we have about 20,476 youth between the ages of 5 – 18, fairly evenly split between males and females. In 2012 the juvenile department received referrals on 849 unduplicated youth or approximately 4% of youth under the age of 18. Of those 849 youth, 32% (271 youth) were reviewed and closed by the department because of either; insufficient evidence to charge, dismissed by the District Attorney or they were referred to another juvenile department. 32% (275 youth) were handled on an informal agreement and 19.8% (168 youth) actually went through the court process and were placed on probation. Looking at the youth who are placed on an informal agreement, only 4.7% (13 youth) failed the informal agreement and needed to proceed with a formal court process and were placed on probation. Taking this one step further, of the 849 youth who had contact with our department, only 24 (2.82%) youth were placed into the care and custody of the Oregon Youth Authority in 2012.

This brings us to a very important point; it is good to remember that the vast majority of youth in our community follow society's expectations; they go to school, graduate and become a contributing member of our community. It is only a very small percentage who need the assistance of the juvenile department to help guide them back onto the path of making better choices, and an even much smaller percentage (.0012%) of youth who need the most extreme services we have to offer in the juvenile justice system.

As I talk with community members I try to make sure that they have an accurate picture of our community and it is a community with outstanding youth. While some youth find themselves sitting in our waiting room, it is good to remember they too have the opportunity for change and to learn from their mistakes and most of them take advantage of it.



- Torri Lynn, Director, Linn County Juvenile Department