

## Yamhill County, Oregon



One Less Offender.      One Less Crime.      One Less Victim.

### Criminal Justice System Scorecard

We envision a safer Yamhill County community where professionals work together, utilizing data, research and evidence-based practices in the criminal justice system. Yamhill County will experience enhanced public safety, a reduction in the number of victims, greater offender accountability and a reduced threat of harm through appropriate application of proven practices at all phases of the criminal justice process.

**The professionals who represent our criminal justice system will reduce community harm by:**

1. Increasing public safety, as measured by:
  - a. 10% improvement in program completion rates that target criminogenic areas;
  - b. No increase in recidivism by low-risk offenders;
  - c. 5% overall decrease in medium and high risk offender recidivism rates;
  - d. A reduction in offender risk levels during supervision by 5% over the next 36 months.

2. Improving community health, as evidenced by:
  - a. Reduced harm to defendants and family due to unnecessary pre-trial detention;
  - b. 10% reduction of initial involvement of special needs individuals<sup>1</sup> in the criminal justice system;
  - c. 10% fewer re-arrests of the special needs population within the 12-month period after initial arrest;
  - d. Improved community response to special needs by increased communication and collaboration among criminal justice system partners.
  
3. Achieving greater financial return on investment in treatment, rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration, as evidenced by:
  - a. 25% fewer jail beds occupied by low-risk offenders;
  - b. 10% reduction of jail detention of special needs individuals;
  - c. 5% reduction in community corrections caseload size by better and earlier utilization of criminogenic risk assessments and the Case Analysis process.

**Scorecard:** The Policy Team selected the above listed harm reduction measures because we believe they relate directly to our overall vision for the Initiative. Secondly, the Policy Team chose these harm reduction measures because we have the ability to measure our progress throughout Phase III. This was demonstrated by the fact that we were able to secure baseline

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals with mental, physical and/or co-occurring substance abuse disorders which, if not addressed, will likely result in longer periods of incarceration or hospitalization and/or increased criminal justice system involvement.

data regarding these harm reduction measures by utilizing all of our data systems throughout our local system.

Oregon Judicial Information System (OJIN), Visionair, EAGLE, Karpel, Raintree, LEDS, DOC Corrections Information System (CIS) and Data Warehouse, National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Community Correction Corrections Information Systems, and Offender Accountability and Training System (OATS) are the various data systems used through the Yamhill County criminal justice system. These systems were not designed to interact with each other, and most of them were not designed to produce performance measurements. We have utilized existing systems to the best of our ability to determine our baseline data. However, Yamhill County plans to work with our Information Systems Department to analyze our systems and explore our capabilities to improve our abilities to measure our performance.

The Scorecard will be utilized to measure our progress on the multiple harm reduction goals and short-term objectives that we have outlined in our work plans. The Scorecard will also be shared with the community through the communications strategy to illustrate the overall goals that the local policymakers value, and are striving to attain.

Communications Strategy. The intent of the Communications Strategy is to facilitate understanding of, and support for, evidence-based decision making policies and approaches. Using our Scorecard, including the “One Less” graphic, as the basis for the communications strategy, the Policy Team intends to raise awareness and educate the public about the value of evidence-based decision-making as an enhancement to existing practices, and to engage interest in and support for our approach among those who oversee, work within, interact with, and/or are affected by the criminal justice system both locally and statewide.

Spring boarding from a recent Criminal Justice Policy Institute survey that showed 96% of Oregon citizens favored at least one option that could reduce the use of incarceration, our goal is to show our local criminal justice system we can do better in these difficult economic times.

Our strategy will be two-fold: a short term approach which will introduce our Scorecard and the reasons behind it, and a long term approach wherein we are graded on our Scorecard after data is collected and progress is measured. This will be accomplished by the end of Phase III. Updates will be given in the interim as information is available. Commissioner Stern is taking the lead in this effort. As Local Coordinator, Ted Smietana will assist her. She expects that the introduction to the Scorecard will be accomplished by 11/1/11. All agencies involved with the EBDMI will be working in partnership on this strategy.

An “elevator speech” will be written by the Policy Team and shared with all members of the work groups and our Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) to use in their daily interactions. An EBDMI website will be developed and include an Initiative overview, our harm reduction goals and objectives, our logic models, baseline data and our ongoing measurements of progress.

The Policy Team has determined that the elected officials of the group will take the lead on presenting the Scorecard and associated EBDMI information. A media plan will be created for the elected officials, which will include appearances on local cable TV (MCM Channel 11) and local radio (KLYC’s Political Cup of Coffee); guest columns in the three local papers; contact with *The Oregonian* to follow up on its recent editorial, Locking in Prison Spending (6/7/11), and contact with *The NY Times* to follow up on its recent editorial, The Right Way to Shrink Prisons (5/30/11).

A PowerPoint will be prepared by the elected officials that will be adaptable for the many

different audiences we plan to reach. Presentations will be made locally to the staff and leadership of Yamhill County criminal justice agencies; Yamhill County Administration; Yamhill County Law Enforcement Association; City Councilors and Mayors of our 10 cities; community members through City Clubs in Newberg and McMinnville; more than 15 civic organizations in the county (Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions, Soroptimist); stakeholders (Local Public Safety Policy Coordinating Council, the Yamhill Mental Health Advisory Committee, the Yamhill Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee); and any other forums we find or create. Prominent local citizens with a history of support for criminal justice issues will be contacted and educated about the initiative to ensure their support.

Presentations will also be made to external stakeholder entities throughout Oregon, including the Criminal Justice Commission, State Trial Court, Department of Corrections, Community Corrections Commission, Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors (OACCD), Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), and the Oregon Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision. Presentations are already scheduled to the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011, to the National Association of Counties' Annual Conference on July 17, 2011, and to the Oregon Community Corrections Commission on August 18, 2011.

The Oregon Legislature is now just concluding its annual session, and the topic of reducing prison costs and using more cost effective and evidence-based alternatives to incarceration was a hot topic of debate. We believe that our efforts with the EBDMI will improve our outcomes in Yamhill County, and can showcase how evidence-based, cost effective harm reduction measures can be implemented systemically. We are anxious to communicate our work to our local community and to all of our statewide stakeholders.