



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION

Juvenile Program New Grant / Program Discussion
Minutes

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner's: Colm Willis, Danielle Bethell and Kevin Cameron.

Board's Office: Trevor Lane, Heather Inyama, Toni Whitler, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Jennifer Rogers, Scott.

District Attorney (DA): Paige Clarkson, Lena Prine, Brendan Murphy.

Be Bold Street Ministry: Josh Lair.

Juvenile: Troy Gregg.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

-Commissioner Colm Willis

2. Background

-Brendan Murphy & Troy Gregg

- The focus population of the grant is youth already in the juvenile system who are:
 - On formal probation or close to it.
 - Not responding adequately to current interventions.
 - Close to commitment to Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), but not most severe category:
 - Murder, attempted murder, and serious shootings.
- Context of Oregon's juvenile system:
 - Youth are adjudicated, not convicted, :
 - Affects long term collateral consequences.
 - Commitment to OYA can mean:
 - Close custody.
 - Community supervision, residential treatment, or access to services not available locally.
- Current Marion County juvenile snapshot:
 - About 320 youth involved in the juvenile process.
 - 54 youth in diversion programs:
 - Family Support Program, Court Solutions, Neighbor to Neighbor.
 - 43 youth in teen court.
 - About 36% of youth deflected from formal court by diversion/agreements.
 - Remaining youth on formal probation:
 - Misdemeanors:
 - Fights, disorderly conduct, and minor assaults.

- Felonies:
 - Drug offenses, weapons, more serious assaults, and riots.

3. Program Discussion

-Brendan Murphy & Troy Gregg

- Core problem are a small subset of youth are:
 - Not responding to current probation and services.
 - Exceeding local resource capacity.
 - At risk of being “launched” into the state/OYA system.
- Proposed solution (Roots concept):
 - Navigator model:
 - Support both youth and probation officer (PO).
 - Focus on intensive wraparound services:
 - Identify true underlying issues:
 - Bullying, truancy, family stressors, and system barriers.
 - Navigators are lived experience peer-type staff:
 - Must meet company standards:
 - No criminal justice involvement for 5 years.
 - 2 years sober.
 - Off probation/parole for 5 years.
 - Additional forensic peer license.
 - Mentorship component (Valor Mentoring):
 - Once more stable, transition to a longer-term mentor relationship.
 - Ongoing positive support beyond court’s jurisdiction.
- Team-based decision-making:
 - Juvenile, District Attorney’s (DA) office, navigators, and mentors collaborate on:
 - Youth selection into the program.
 - Service planning and monitoring.
 - End of case decisions:
 - Whether/how adjudication should stand or be modified.
- Eligibility limits and exclusions:
 - Program is not for most serious waiver level offenses:
 - Murder, attempted murder, and serious shootings.
 - Sex offenses excluded from program for youth participants and navigators.
 - Many will be case by case, based on risk, facts, and success potential.
 - Target scale:
 - Roughly 50 youth at any time.
 - Focus on most at risk of OYA commitment, but still salvageable locally.
- Role of Ideal Option:
 - Known as Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) provider:
 - Primary role is navigation, not clinical MAT.
 - Ideal Option operates navigation programs in multiple states:
 - Fewer than 13% of navigation clients enter their clinics.
 - Navigation is service agnostic:
 - Connecting youth/families to whatever services needed, not just Ideal Option.

4. Grant Request

-Brendan Murphy & Troy Gregg

- Funding source:

- Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) grant, extended from mid-February to mid-March.
 - Grant range discussed:
 - Approximately \$120,000–\$440,000.
 - DA's Office would apply.
- Structure:
 - Primarily support navigators and mentoring services.
 - Possible modest administrative support.
 - Model likely as a pass through:
 - County receives funds.
 - County contracts with Ideal Option and Valor Mentoring for services.
- Staffing and FTE:
 - Juvenile department has no new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) requested.
 - DA's office has no additional FTE planned at this time.
 - Juvenile Deputy District Attorneys (DDAs) to work in their current roles.
 - Administrative workload must be realistically managed with existing staffing.
- Application status:
 - Still in draft form.
 - One remaining support letter needed to complete the application packet.
 - Valor Mentoring is interested but still refining their scope and budget.

5. Discussion

-All

- Adjudications vs. public safety and equity:
 - How offenses are classified, and how context and evidence drive charging.
 - Some conduct technically falls under serious statutes but vary in actual risk.
- Resource gaps and launching to OYA:
 - OYA is used when:
 - Youth exhaust local options.
 - Family and local resources can't safely maintain youth in community.
 - Local out of home resources are limited and youth may fail out of them.
 - Program is last, intensive local step before OYA
- MAT for youth:
 - Rare in Ideal Option's network:
 - Only handful for under 18 clients across nearly 100 clinics.
 - None in Oregon.
 - Many prerequisites before considered; and generally, not a first line tool.
- Data, outcomes, and privacy:
 - Need clear success metrics.
 - Desire to track school performance, stability, and wellness.
 - Data responsibilities will leverage existing juvenile department systems.
- Procurement and equity among providers:
 - Concern other organizations may question not being offered opportunity.
 - Naming partners in grant application is common, but formal procurement requirements still need confirmation with legal.

6. Other

-All

- Naming and framing:
 - Program working title is "Roots".
 - Keep youth grounded in community rather than placed into state system.

- Some terminology concerns:
 - Referring to youth cases as being “terminated”.
- Crossover youth priority:
 - Crossover youth are in juvenile and foster care involved.
 - Prioritize them for program eligibility.
 - Exclusions for very serious offenses.
- County staff member previously ran Valor Mentoring’s program:
 - Could be an internal resource for program design.

7. Next Steps

-All

- Refine program model with juvenile, DA’s office, Ideal Option, and Valor Mentoring.
- Develop detailed data and evaluation plans.
- Obtain additional information on youth MAT and schedule policy discussions.
- Submit CJC grant application before deadline.

Adjourned – time: 1:57 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White