

Oregon State Court Juvenile Justice Mental Health Task Force

Summary of Recommendations

January, 2016

- All child serving systems should agree to a common set of principles by which young people and families are treated, engaged and encouraged to participate.
- The Judicial, Executive and Legislative branches should work together to create a Children's Cabinet to centralize and better coordinate the work of governmental agencies, task forces, committees and work groups that address systems reform issues.
- The legal framework for information sharing between governmental agencies and service providers needs to be built in order to allow for effective coordination of efforts between schools, law enforcement, service providers, child welfare, juvenile departments and the courts.
- Efforts need to be made to identify and treat children with mental health issues before they reach the juvenile justice system.
- Youth who are referred to the juvenile department should be screened for mental health issues and connected with appropriate services if needed.
- Juvenile departments, mental health and Coordinated Care Organizations should work together to ensure interventions that youth are referred to are producing positive outcomes.
- Additional legal protections regulating the use of psychotropic medications for youth involved in the juvenile justice system should be enacted to ensure children receive the same level of protection, regardless of which system they are involved in.
- Youth who cannot be safely maintained at home with serious mental health needs should be placed in the least restrictive trauma informed treatment setting available.
- Juvenile departments and the OYA should ensure that youth have adequate mental health services set up in the community when youth are released from custody. Coordinated Care Organizations should be mandated to schedule appointments with these youth prior to their release from custody to ensure adequate supports are in place when the youth returns to the community.

To access the full report, please

visit: <http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/docs/OSCA/JFCPD/Juvenile/JJMHTF/Finalized.Report.1.pdf>