

Evaluating Oregon's Community Corrections Act

2017-2019

Prepared by:
Oregon Department of Corrections
Community Corrections Division
January 2019





Josephine County Community Corrections

Improving Work with Justice Involved Women

Female prison usage is growing at an alarming rate nationally, statewide, and locally in Southern Oregon. Public safety leadership in Josephine County has studied local trends regarding female convictions and sentences, and is working collaboratively to implement a number of programs and services specific to justice-involved women.

Efforts are not only aimed at reducing female prison usage, but bringing meaningful, gender informed help to a population showing significant risk to recidivate.

One example of Josephine County's efforts in this area include the creation and implementation of Defendant Assessment Reports. These reports, based in part on the Women's Risk Needs Assessment (WRNA), provide courts and attorneys with comprehensive evidence-based recommendations regarding individual sentences, including the use of downward dispositional departures when appropriate. Following sentencing, Josephine County Parole & Probation Officers utilize the principles of trauma-informed care and the results of female specific risk assessments to

generate realistic and effective case plans. To ensure continuity throughout delivery of services, all supervising personnel were provided with appropriate training in the effective use of these research-backed practices and tools. Female specific caseloads and cognitive behavioral therapy were also incorporated in an effort to ensure proper treatment dosage and discern how best to navigate client trauma and resulting consequences, and other barriers to rehabilitation.

In October 2018, Josephine County also began its first Secure Treatment program

specifically designed to serve female offenders. This program includes delivery of cognitive behavioral therapy and the use of Carey Guides for a population who otherwise were not receiving treatment in jail. Female transitional housing for those releasing from secure treatment also became available in October 2018.

It is the hope of Southern Oregon public safety officials that these female specific programs and services will help reduce prison usage, likelihood of recidivism, and help justice-involved women make the changes necessary for success.