

Planning now to keep youth in detention safe during the Big One

The Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ) was the sole recipient in FY2018 of a grant by the U.S. Juvenile Justice Emergency Planning Demonstration Program, and was awarded \$357,541. The focus of this project is catastrophic planning for our Juvenile Detention Home (JDH).

Craig Bachman of DCJ, and **Lisa Corbly** of Multnomah County Emergency Management (MCEM) have been co-managing the project. Project deliverables include:

- Catastrophic Emergency Plan
- Two Exercises
- Implementation recommendations
- Trainings
- A plan template for other jurisdictions
- Emergency supplies

In January 2019, Constant and Associates, an LA-based emergency management consulting firm, was awarded a contract to assist with stakeholder involvement; develop an emergency plan; conduct exercises, design staff training, recommend implementation guidance, and write a plan template for other jurisdictions. Stakeholder involvement spanned the full 9 months of the planning process, including an advisory team, a brown bag legal discussion, focus groups with staff, youth and legal representatives, and a large stakeholder workshop. Two exercises were conducted in August. One exercise tested early release decision-making criteria with legal representatives from all three counties. The other exercise, with JDH staff, tested an emergency checklist for use in a catastrophic event. The plan, implementation recommendations, template plan and training module are in their final stages of development, to be completed this fall.



Photo: Partners from Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties, and service organizations share their perspectives and priorities and at the large stakeholder workshop in May 2019.



Photo: Legal representatives from Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties tested and the Early Release Decision Making Flow Chart at the Early Release Exercise in August 2019.

This project also sparked juvenile justice partners across the state to take action. **Craig Bachman** is working with the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association on a statewide Emergency Alternate Facility Mutual Agreement. This agreement will reduce critical coordination time between facilitates during large incidents. In addition, Washington County Juvenile Department's **Milt Ewing** worked with county courts and judges to modify the Overcrowding General Order to accommodate for emergency situations. Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are currently exploring similar updates to their Overcrowding General Orders.

Over the next 12 months, MCDJC in coordination with MCEM will conduct a series of trainings for JDH staff. Additional emergency supplies for the facility will also be purchased through this grant. Supplies include a water treatment system, food, rain gear, tents, and medical, hygiene, communication, and dormitory supplies. This grant closes September 2020.

Interested to learn more? Want a copy of the plan template for your jurisdiction? **Craig Bachman** would be happy to talk with you about this exciting project. Contact Craig at: craig.a.bachman@multco.us