



Human Services Research Institute
7420 SW Bridgeport Rd., Suite 210, Portland, OR 97224
Phone: (503) 924-3783 Fax: (503) 924-3789

March 5, 2009

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
Office of the Governor
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Analysis of Oregon's Drug & Alcohol Treatment and Prevention System

Dear Governor Kulongoski:

In March 2008, in conjunction with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), and in consultation with Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair of the House Healthcare Committee, you commissioned my organization, Human Services Research Institute, to study and analyze Oregon's publicly funded drug and alcohol treatment and prevention programs. A copy of the final report is attached.

The purpose of this analysis is to provide an intensive data-driven assessment of the status of Oregon's addictions treatment and prevention programs across human services and public safety agencies. My hope is that the contents of this study will provide policy makers with the critical data necessary to make informed decisions for improving the policy and infrastructure of Oregon's publicly funded treatment programs.

The study focused on five state agencies: DOC, DHS, the Oregon Youth Authority, the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, and the Criminal Justice Commission. The scope encompasses many, but not all, services that impact alcohol and drug abuse. The five state agencies selected for this analysis together provide the majority of the state funds that support local alcohol and drug treatment and prevention services. The key policy recommendations that flow from this assessment include the following:

- Target the 18-25 year-old population in need of publicly-funded alcohol and drug services;
- Prioritize offender re-entry services;
- Expand alcohol and drug funding through the Oregon Health Plan;
- Capture additional revenues;
- Improve linkages among state data systems; and
- Coordinate efforts to support evidence-based practices.

My staff and I are available for further discussion on this issue. Please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

Madeleine H. Kimmich, D.S.W.
Senior Project Director