DESCHUTES COUNTY
PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING

In Person: 1300 NW Wall Street DeArmond Room

Or Via ZOOM:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88103424024?pwd=Wk5WaU5oWVZId3drSDY4ZlVNZ1ZTUT09

Meeting ID: 881 0342 4024   Passcode: 736013

Tuesday, December 2, 2025; 3:30pm

Agenda

I. **Call to Order**
Chair, Presiding Judge Wells Ashby

II. **Introductions**
Chair Ashby

III. **Public Comment**
Chair Ashby

IV. **November 2025 Minutes** — **Attachment 1**
Chair Ashby
Action: Approve November Minutes

V. **Juvenile Detention 2025 Assessment** — **Attachment 2**
Owyhee Weikel-Magden, Juvenile Delinquency Judge Pro Tem
Action: Review and Consider Support Assessment Recommendations

VI. **Agency Announcements / Other**

Reminder!

Meeting **agendas and materials** are now located here: https://www.deschutes.org/meetings.

As monthly meeting minutes are approved, they'll also be posted in the "past meetings" tab.
Meetings also appear on the Deschutes County Events Calendar: https://www.deschutes.org/calendar.

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Condado de Deschutes alienta a las personas cualificadas con discapacidad a participar en sus programas y actividades. Esta evento/ubicación es accesible para personas con discapacidad. Si necesita hacer arreglos para hacer posible la participación, llame al (541) 388-6571 o envié un correo electrónico a angie.powers@deschutes.org.

2025 Deschutes County Juvenile Detention Assessment

Community Workgroup Report

Deevy Holcomb, Deschutes County Community Justice Director

Contents

Acknowledgement

Deschutes County Community Justice is named intentionally. We believe that community safety, wellbeing, and livability are the responsibility of the entire community, not just individuals involved in the juvenile justice system, or one department and its employees. Department leadership would like to thank the following individuals who participated in the 2025 Juvenile Detention Assessment process. They embodied the true meaning of "community" in this work. Discussing the best way forward in a time of limited budget growth is difficult. Real lives are impacted, from youth, families, juvenile justice partners, and staff. This group of people showed up, listened and learned, shared their thoughts, considerations, wisdom and perspectives. We also thank department staff who participated in the workgroup directly or shared their perspectives on this process separately. Ultimately, as a group, everyone shared a resounding pledge of support for the necessary work of juvenile detention to be done with the safety of youth and staff at the forefront. The community's ultimate recommendation asks the county to center and invest in a local detention option to best serve the interest of victims, youth, families, staff, and public safety system partners.

Darla Fletcher	**Deschutes County Behavioral Health**
Pamela Grossman	**Community member**
Misty Groom	**High Desert Education Service District**
Christina Gonzalez	**Deschutes County District Attorney's Office**
James Kinsella	**Bend Police Department**
Gil Levy	**Kids Center**
Stephen Lopez	**Redmond Police Department**
Carmencita Madrid	**Community member**
Karla Nash	**Deschutes Defenders**
Lee Randall	**Deschutes County Facilities Department**
Amanda Scannell	**Deschutes County District Attorney's Office**
Jaylynn Suppah	**Community member**
Ryan Tiktin	**Bend Police Department**
Owyhee Weikel-Magden	**Deschutes County Circuit Court**
Rebecca Battleson	**Deschutes County Behavioral Health**

Executive Summary and Recommendation

The Deschutes County Department of Community Justice is comprised of two divisions – Adult Parole & Probation, and Juvenile Community Justice, which includes a Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF). Beginning in 2025, population needs and budget challenges for the next five years are expected to impact department structure, services, and size. By July 2026 Parole & Probation expenses will significantly exceed revenue. By July 2027 Juvenile expenses will significantly exceed revenue.

The department therefore has begun adjusting to meet core needs now and in the future. Two service populations have currently stabilized to a level that can absorb a degree of strategic and incremental cuts without significant impact to public safety. One of these is the juvenile detention population, which has declined approximately 70% in the past 10 years, a trend mirrored across the state and nation.

In August 2025, County Administration requested that department leadership consult with community members and juvenile justice partners to evaluate the juvenile detention center operations to identify and evaluate alternative options for providing these services based on a set of concrete considerations. The workgroup recommendations would next go to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, and ultimately to the Board of County Commissioners to determine the way necessary 24/7 and detention services will be delivered over at least the next five years. The department invited and held five meetings September-November 2025 to conduct this work. Juvenile division staff provided input that was shared and considered by the workgroup as they deliberated.

The workgroup applied the following considerations to each potential option evaluated: How do we adapt our necessary juvenile detention and 24/7 services over the next five years to meet current and future community safety needs within budget constraints, safe and effective practices, and the best interests of victims, youth and families, and staff?

Utilizing a consensus-based decision-making model, the workgroup considered three general options:

Option 1:	Status Quo/No Changes (find all necessary budget savings elsewhere)
Option 2 (A-C):	Reduced Footprint/Capacity (requiring varying degrees of budget savings elsewhere)
Option 3:	Eliminate Local Detention, operate a 24-7 Assessment Center to assess/ transport youth elsewhere (likely requiring no additional budget savings needed elsewhere)

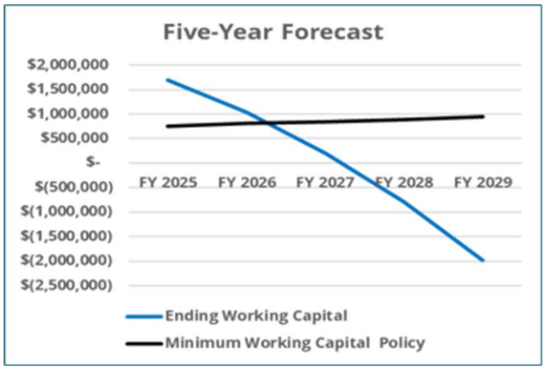
At its meeting on October 16, 2025, workgroup members reached consensus decision to recommend to the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council that the county continue to provide local detention services using the staffing model of Option 2(B) – Reduced Footprint / Capacity of 15.8 FTE, compared to current budget of 20 FTE and actual current staffing cohort of 16.8 FTE.

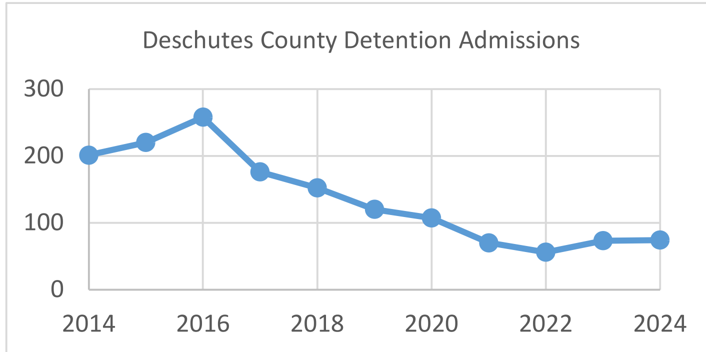
This recommendation would retain streamlined local detention services that meet current and expected 5-year youth population levels, allow the Community Justice department to present a 5-year balanced budget plan to FY30 (along with other actual or potential cuts being assessed in other areas of the department), provide adequate youth and staff safety, maintain effective practices, and provide services that meet the best interest of victims, youth, community, families, public safety system partners, and staff.

Department leadership with members of the detention assessment workgroup will present its work and recommendation to the Local Public Safety Council on December 2, 2025, and then to the Board of County Commissioners in January 2026. These discussions will lead to the department's ultimate FY27 budget request in spring 2026.

Proceedings (Meetings 1-3)

At its first meeting the workgroup discussed data and background related to the Juvenile Division 5-year budget challenges that include exceeding anticipated revenue and inability to meet working capital needs after FY27, and local and statewide juvenile population declines in the past 10 years.





At its second and third meetings, the workgroup discussed and compared the relative strengths and weaknesses of alternatives to current detention services, shown below.

Option Description	Current Footprint / Capacity	Reduced Footprint / Capacity (A)	Reduced Footprint / Capacity (B)	Reduced Footprint / Capacity (C)	24/7 Assess & Transport Svcs
Total Staff	20	16.8	15.8	14.8	10.5
On Call Staff	0	0	0	0	8-12
Juv Prob Staff Assist	On Call	On Call	Regularly Scheduled	Regularly Scheduled	On Call Transport
Days Sups/Mgr Cover Shift	11%	24%	35%	50%	15-20%
Annual Cost	$3.9M	$3.4M	$3.3M	$3.1M	$2.75M
Over/Under Budget	FY 27/ $780K	FY30/$900K	FY30/$280K	FY30/$300K	FY30/$3.6M
Priorities Supported Most	Safety Effective Practices	Safety Effective Practices	Safety Budget	Budget Safety	Budget Current need Community
Priorities Supported Least	Current Need Budget	Community Budget	Community Future need	Community Future Need	Safety Future Need
"Green" Priorities	5	6	4	1	1
"Yellow" Priorities	2	2	4	5	6
"Red" Priorities	1	0	0	2	1

Reduced options A, B, and C offer varying solutions to maintain the basic current structure of local detention services, the workgroup's key priority. Each requires immediate but varying degrees of budget and operational adjustments elsewhere in the Community Justice department starting in the current year; not all were projected to result in the necessary savings. **24-7 assessment services and transportation** to facilities outside the county for detention exceeding 36 hours would result in significant immediate and long-term annual savings and likely create opportunities to expand community-based supervision services elsewhere. At the same time this option diminishes local control over quality and conditions of youth confinement, requires 3+ hours travel and distance from legal proceedings and family members, and could create system processing inefficiencies and barriers.

Recommendation (Meetings 4-5):

At its fourth meeting, the workgroup proposed and ultimately voted on its recommended option. While the workgroup had been strongly supportive since initial meetings of maintaining a local facility utilizing one of the reduced footprint/capacity options, additional questions and clarifications were shared at meeting 4. These included the necessity of additional/other cuts elsewhere in the Community Justice budget for any of the "Reduced" footprint/capacity options, and that all other avenues to cut non-personnel costs in the timeframe necessary have already been explored, such as alternative shift options and cuts to materials and services.

The workgroup used a consensus model of decision-making (see attachment E – Meeting 4 Presentation and Notes). No "Block" or "Stand Aside" votes were received. Five "Agree with Reservations" votes were received. Reservations included concerns about reduced staff level impact on staff and youth safety, and sadness at having to make cuts to a good program just due to budgetary concerns. Detention staff present shared their assessment that Option 2(B) remains a safe option for youth and staff, as it represents only one less person than is currently staffed in the detention unit, and because other changes could occur within the Juvenile probation services division to provide flexibility in assisting with detention coverage when needed. Eight "Agree" votes were received.

Ultimately, Option 2(B) (outlined in red in the table on page 3) gained consensus agreement and is the workgroup's ultimate recommendation. This recommendation will be shared with the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council in December 2025.

Throughout the workgroup process and at its final meeting, each option's relative strengths and challenges were identified. At its fifth and final meeting, the group acknowledged that while there is no "perfect solution" or "zero cost" option that meets our guiding principles, Option 2B is the best of current options when compared to others:

Budget: allows department to reach or come very close to balancing all five years of the budget plan as requested, although it requires cuts in other areas of the department. Budget considerations were very important to the committee. Option 3 was acknowledged to be the most cost-effective but created concerns for effectiveness and safety that could not be understated.

Safety: allows a level of staffing that is sufficient for current and projected (5-year) needs while also providing the community with the necessary immediate safety insurance policy that all detention facilities offer. In this sense, the current low detention population trends were noteworthy and important to the workgroup, but they were adamant this is not the sole metric by which a decision about detention services should be made or determined to be effective. Community workgroup members felt that Option 2(C) appears to cut regular, scheduled staffing levels too low to assure continued staff and youth safety, and Option 3 created new safety concerns such as lengthy travel and lack of control over quality of services that might have long term effects on young people and the community.

Local Control: we provide the residents of Deschutes County with a cost-effective investment when we provide immediate, safe, high-quality, local services. More control over the conditions of confinement and quality of services, allows us to protect youth, families, and staff and ensure the least amount of harm is done after juvenile crime has occurred. This is in everyone's long-term safety interest. Option 2B continues to allow this.

Effective Practices: the community workgroup members understand that Option 2B will still allow staff to provide safe and best practices with youth in detention, although the smaller staff footprint may result in heightened room time for youth, and greater amount of time for supervisors to be on the floor and providing direct services. Workgroup members acknowledged that Option 3 would result in significant savings but are not yet convinced those benefits outweigh threats to youth and staff safety or supersede local control over quality of services and effective practices, including youth access to parents and support networks while detained.

Department Response

The Community Justice department appreciates the 2025 detention assessment process. We learned from our community workgroup's values, were challenged by their questions, and honored by their confidence in our ability to provide the community with necessary and quality detention services. Their recommendation is in line with Oregon statute and general understanding about the relative benefits and challenges of fulfilling detention requirements through a locally run facility.

We accept, support, and believe we can successfully implement the community's recommendation to pursue local detention and 24-7 services with reduced staffing (15.8 FTE compared to current budget of 20 FTE). **We will seek Local Public Safety Coordinating Council and ultimately County approval to pursue this option beginning now, and to monitor and share our successes and challenges over the next fiscal year.**

- Along with other cuts equaling +/- 20% across all Community Justice FTE, it effectively achieves our 5-year balanced budget objective, as requested, representing +/- $2.4M in savings to the general fund through FY30.
- It pushes us to further integrate detention and probation services into one, seamless juvenile community justice program where staff time regardless of where stationed is fully utilized, detention staff are trained and able to support community-based programming, and community-based staff are trained and able to jump in when needed in detention.
- Through natural attrition we will have already achieved by late November the required staffing reductions to implement the Option 2B model. We are ready to learn and adapt right now and over the next year. We believe we can do it safely and effectively.
- It continues to provide sufficient support for the current and projected (5-year) detention population need and will also allow us to wait for other anticipated changes in the detention funding realm across the state, to see if additional resources can sustainably be brought to bear.

Implementation Contingencies:

- Option 2B is not the lowest cost option in the short or long term. Should budgetary circumstances change and shrink again, we will return to the table to assess the next best option at that time.
- Detention is never "zero cost" and always represents a community "insurance policy".
  - "Cost per youth" is important but the community feel that detention is a collective agreement to invest in a high-quality resource that we nevertheless want to use as minimally as possible.
  - Will continue to monitor and share our admission trends and return to the table if "insurance policy" needs further adjustment.
- The reduced staff footprint model requires a fundamental reset in how we deploy staff resources in both units of the juvenile division (detention and probation services). Success of Option 2B depends on it.
  - Low youth population decreases opportunity for staff to receive and practice training, maintain high quality skills, and stay busy unless we create those opportunities and draw on the staff resources we have for other tasks as well.
  - Reducing detention staff footprint also necessitates availability and ability of staff <u>not</u> based in detention to be trained and effectively deployed there during brief periods where there is a spike in detention population that the reduced footprint cannot manage.
  - Only by widening the scope of each staff person can we effectively keep staff busy, contributing, and integrated as one department. We anticipate that this will also improve staff retention and morale.
- Building usage. We will likely shrink operations down to one, not two housing units. This will result in small reductions to the department in facility charges and opens space for potential use by existing or possibly new youth services, which allows the county to continue to provide vital services, even if not for the building's original purpose.