

Multnomah County OR Reception Center History

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Multnomah County Juvenile Reception Center

History:
The Reception center started in 1998 as a pilot project funded through the Annie E Cassie Foundation. After a year as a pilot, the Reception Center proved it's worth to the community and was subsequently funded by Multnomah county DCJ.

Why the project started:
In 1998, over 2000 non-detainable youth a year were being brought to the Mult Co Detention Center where they were exposed to more delinquent youth and behavior.

As Mult CO, embraced the JDAI, County officials started talking with community stakeholders about how to eliminate unnecessary incarceration and prevent less delinquent youth from moving further into systems and further engaging in criminal behavior.

Creating a public-private partnership, four main stakeholders, Multnomah County Juvenile Justice, Portland Police Bureau, Portland Business Alliance, and New Avenues For Youth, came together to support the creation of the Reception Center. Each of these partners had different interest at heart.

For Multnomah County, the Reception Center was a way to reduce the number of non-detainable youth incarcerated, to increase community prevention and to prevent youth from needing deeper services through the Juvenile department.

For the Portland Business Alliance the Reception Center was an innovative way to support community policing and to assist in addressing livability issues affected by youth behavior.

For Portland Police the Reception Center was a way to reduce the time an officer would be off the street dealing with Juvenile intake processes, a tool to support officers engaging with non-detainable youth to assess for safety and risk factors, and an opportunity for officers to participate in a social service intervention.

For New Avenues for Youth, a homeless and high-risk youth services agency, the Reception Center offered an opportunity to prevent youth homelessness by providing prevention services for high-risk youth and families.

History of locations:
During the Reception Center's first year of operation the program operated out of an office inside the Portland Police Central Precinct. This early attachment to a law enforcement facility was crucial to the overall success of the project. Through co-location with police, both the social service agency and police officers were able to better understand each other and forge an effective partnership.

In 2000, a Memorandum Of Agreement was signed between Multnomah County law enforcement agencies, the DCJ and New Avenues for Youth, directing police officers to take all non-detainable youth offenders to the Reception Center in lieu of Juvenile Detention. Shortly after the signing of the MOA, New Avenues re-located out of the Central precinct and into a stand-alone site. The MOA also resulted in the number of youth served by the Reception center more than doubling.

Most Recently the Reception Center has re-located to 738 NE Davis. At the new location the Reception Center is collocated with Harry's Mother, a Janus Youth program serving runaway and court referred youth. Although the Reception Center and Harry's Mother work very closely together, the programs remain distinct, and occupy different areas within the facility.

The Reception Center model:

Eligibility:
Youth 11-17 years of age, who have been arrested for a status offence (curfew, runaway, MIP tobacco/alcohol), city Ordinance, a non-person to person misdemeanor (theft III, criminal trespass III, criminal mischief II, and III and disorderly conduct) or Behavior Conditions and Circumstances

Youth not eligible for Reception center services:
Youth whom are over 17years old, have been arrested for a person to person crime, have a warrant, or an out of

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