

Oregon Justice Resource Center response to the Disability Rights Oregon report about conditions for juveniles confined at Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facility (NORCOR), entitled “Don’t Look Around”

12/05/17

“Disability Rights Oregon’s investigation into conditions at NORCOR for young people reveals a system of confinement that is at odds with established developmental science demonstrating that the ‘compliance at all costs’ approach of NORCOR as depicted in DRO’s report is deeply counterproductive. If we are serious about supporting the rehabilitation of young people and have their best interests as well as public safety at heart, significant reform is needed.

The impression given by the report is of children disappearing into a “black box” environment, where their social, physical, health, and psychological needs are all secondary to the rigid enforcement of facility rules. The deprivation of reasonable, basic comforts and even of the opportunity for physical contact with family members during the brief visits allowed seems callous and more restrictive than conditions in adult facilities. It is hard to imagine an approach better designed to increase the trauma experienced by a group of young people who are often already struggling with mental health concerns, histories of abuse and neglect and the aftermath of existing trauma.

We support DRO’s recommendations for licensing and regulation of Oregon’s juvenile facilities, statewide oversight and leadership on this issue, data-tracking and analysis, an evidence-based and trauma-informed approach (including an end to solitary confinement), and the provision of appropriate education for all students in detention. The conditions described in the report should shame Oregonians and should prompt major change.”

**Statement to be attributed to Alice Lundell, Director of Communication, Oregon Justice Resource Center. For more information, please contact Alice at [alundell@ojrc.info](mailto:alundell@ojrc.info) or 503-563-3356.**

**Oregon Justice Resource Center is a nonprofit based in Portland, Oregon that provides free legal services to currently and formerly incarcerated people while also working to reform the criminal justice system with a focus on evidence-based practices that meet the needs of all Oregonians.**