

Association of Oregon Counties

■ Public Safety Committee Principles

■ Public safety organizations should operate as a coordinated, cooperative system involving components that are complimentary and balanced, and that share common goals. Public safety organizations should work together to address core issues that cross agency and jurisdictional lines.

(a) The first line of defense against crime should be prevention. It should focus on the causes of crime and criminogenic risk factors. Prevention may include, but is not limited to, prevention of child abuse and neglect, creation of affordable housing, respecting the personal rights of each member of the community, creation of family wage jobs, elimination of bias against minorities, providing for foster care, gang prevention programs and collaboration with citizens and community leaders.

(b) The first target of the public safety system should be violent crimes against persons.

(c) Services for crime victims are vitally important.

■ Personal accountability and reformation of offenders should be recognized as two of the primary functions of the criminal justice system.

■ Recidivism reduction and successful reentry should be primary public safety goals.

■ Treatment and intervention programs should be cost effective and evidence based.

■ Mental illness should be treated, not punished. Incarcerated offenders who also have mental illness should receive appropriate treatment both during and after incarceration. Treatment for mental illness should be adequately funded by the state and provided in an appropriate treatment setting.

■ The system response to criminal behavior that is driven by drug or alcohol abuse or addiction should include appropriate drug or alcohol treatment.

■ Human Services, Emergency Management, Public Health and Public Safety are linked and should be coordinated.

■ State-County partnerships should be jointly developed and maintained; they should be adequately, reliably and sustainably funded.