

**2007**

## **Advocacy for Girls and Young Women**

In January when the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session started I said it had been many sessions since the Coalition for Equal Access for Girls' legislative advocacy priorities were actually included in the Governor's Budget. Well during the 2007 Session the Co-Chairs of Ways and Means created their own budget, initially it excluded 2 of our 4 priorities, funding for homeless and runaway youth and youth substance abuse prevention, but I am happy to say that when the session ended all four priorities were funded (even if not at the level we had advocated for).

**The Coalition's 2007 four legislative priorities are:** Oregon Youth Authority's (OYA) enhancement of facility and community services for young women; Department of Human Services' (DHS) expansion of School Based Health Clinics (SBHC) and funding for youth substance abuse prevention, particularly in the area of underage drinking; and, the State Commission on Children and Families' (OCCF) dedicated funds for homeless and runaway youth and Juvenile Crime Prevention.

Here are the final results our **four priorities:**

### **OYA Budget/Facilities and Community**

- The addition of 145 close custody beds which includes **the re-opening of the Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility in Albany as a single-sex facility for young women with a gender-specific environment and gender-responsive programming.**
- The phased-in addition of 73 community placement beds, includes the enhancement of the continuum of services for adjudicated young women in the community **by adding a 15 bed young women's "90-Day Secure Mental Health and Addiction Stabilization and Treatment Readiness Program".**

### **Department of Human Services Budget/School Based Health Centers (SBHC)**

- The Governor's Budget for the Healthy Kids Plan, funded with an increase in tobacco taxes, included the addition of 13 more School Based Health Clinics (SBHC). The Final Budget did not fund the Plan with a tobacco tax, however, the it **did include \$2M in General Funds for the addition of more School Based Health Clinics.**

### **Department of Human Services Budget/Substance Abuse Prevention Programs**

- The Governor's Budget utilized 2% of the OLCC tax to fund substance abuse prevention and treatment services, including \$3M for youth substance abuse prevention programs, such as programs that prevent underage drinking. The Coalition advocated for \$250K of those funds to be dedicated to proven gender-specific substance abuse prevention programs for girls. **The Final Budget used General Funds for substance abuse prevention and treatment allocating \$1.9M to youth substance abuse prevention, and it is not clear if any of that funding will be specifically dedicated to girls and underage drinking.**

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**OCCF Budget/Homeless and Runaway Youth and Juvenile Crime Prevention**

- The Governor's Budget for the OCCF included \$1M funding for **Homeless and Runaway Youth**, the Co-Chairs Budget included none, and advocates for homeless and runaway youth supported \$4.6 million. **The good news is the final budget allocated \$1 million in the budget for the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, the first direct appropriation from the state for this population.** Not the \$4.6 million of dedicated funding needed for the new initiative that we all advocated for, but it's a start. OCCF will develop the process for distributing these funds.
- The Governor's and the Final Budgets did include an additional **\$2M to go to counties to implement their juvenile crime prevention plans.**

**Coalition members should know that their advocacy made a difference this Session. Their voices and girl's voices were heard. Together we continue to make a better Oregon for Girls!**