

OYA *In the Loop*

March 16, 2009

Last Friday, all agencies received the attached memorandum from Ken Rocco, the legislative fiscal officer. The memo states that by March 27 we must identify reductions totaling 30 percent of the 2009-11 Essential Budget Level (EBL). Remember we have already submitted reductions totaling 20 percent of the EBL, so we must submit an additional 10 percent.

For OYA, an additional 10 percent is roughly \$35 million. We have been lucky so far in that the majority of the reductions we identified were from future capacity such as close custody beds we would have built, community residential beds that would have been created, and close custody and parole staff we would have hired in 2009-11 had the economy remained healthy.

We have no more future capacity to cut. We will now look to current programs to find our reductions. This will mean identifying reductions throughout our agency and reductions to our partners.

Identifying reductions for the Legislature to consider does not necessarily equate to the Legislature taking reductions. The Legislature could decide to take all, part, or none of the reductions we identify. The chances of them taking none are very remote. We will do our best to tell the legislative members about our programs and why they are important to public safety in an effort to minimize our reductions.

Our Cabinet will work to identify further reductions this week. As this becomes clearer, I will communicate with you. We will also share thoughts among partners such as labor leaders, juvenile department directors, and residential treatment providers.

Keep up the good work, and try to remain hopeful about our future.