

# OYA *In the Loop*

June 23, 2009

I have a lot of news to share with you today.

## **Budget Update:**

We learned after 5 p.m. on Friday that a work session on our budget would be held yesterday (Monday), and although there's generally no opportunity to testify during work sessions, I should have let you know that there was a likelihood of action on our budget so you would be prepared.

As it stands, our budget passed out of subcommittee and it is not good news. It includes reductions of approximately \$15 million. It specifies elimination of 126 beds – 76 at Hillcrest and 50 at Burns (closing EOYCF), reduction of Multnomah gang funding by 20 percent, and reduction in parole and probation totaling about \$1.3 million. Foster care remains intact. If HB 3508 (the bill to delay Measure 57) passes in its current form, all of these reductions will be restored.

Next our budget will be considered by the full Ways and Means Committee, perhaps as soon as today.

There is a possibility that the Legislature may find a compromise on the proposed delay of Measure 57, which in turn may restore some funding to OYA. It is simply too soon to know.

The budget environment is fluid – many changes can occur between now and the close of the session. What we know now may change within the day or even the hour. I know it is nerve wracking. I will do my best to keep you apprised.

## **Director Interviews:**

Last week a great candidate for director, Colette S. Peters, was in town. I can say “great” now because she and I spent a considerable amount of time together and I was impressed with her quick grasp of details, her thoughtful questions and the depth and breadth of her experience in public safety.

Additionally, Colette met with the Governor, labor, OYA cabinet, and even some stakeholders, facility staff and field staff. We kept her busy; she toured MacLaren and Oak Creek, visited the Albany field office, met with Fariborz and addressed a special meeting of the advisory committee.

As of this writing, I haven't heard whether or not a decision has been made but I'm expecting that we'll hear more this week. Stay tuned.

**Corvallis House Closes:**

All girls and staff in the young women's transition program have moved from Corvallis House to a unit at Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility and will remain there while a new transition facility is being constructed. The girls are continuing their transition activities, including coming and going from work.

Corvallis House opened in 1980 under the leadership of Mike Conzoner, who was its director until 1994. It started being home to the young women's transition program about nine years ago.

Staff are in the process of inventorying and storing state property. The intent is that Corvallis House will then be sold.

**Leadership Transitions Begin:**

We are in the process of preparing for the June 30 retirement of Karen Andall, current assistant director for Field Services and the assumption of those duties by Phil Cox, current assistant director for the Program Office. Karen and Phil have been on a statewide tour visiting field staff throughout Oregon. So far, meetings with field staff have included Marion, Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Polk, Yamhill, Central Oregon, and all of our Eastern Oregon employees. This week, the visits will be rounded out with trips to Clackamas, Washington and Multnomah field offices. Karen and Phil report that each visit has been a pleasure for both of them – they have given Karen an opportunity to personally say her good byes and Phil has been able to meet all of the professionals he will have the opportunity to work with every day in his new role beginning July 1, 2009.

**SSNs:**

Last week I forwarded to you information from our benefits administrators that notifies you that PEBB plans to share Social Security Numbers with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. In October during Open Enrollment, you will need to provide your SSN to PEBB, or risk having your health insurance terminated.