

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DIVISION NEWS

FALL/WINTER 2008

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Max Williams, Director



With the November election looming, the Department of Corrections (DOC) has been planning for the impacts should one of two ballot measures pass -

BM 61 or BM 57. Both measures provide for more severe sentences for certain property and drug crimes, but they also have several differences.

Sentencing highlights for BM 61

BM 61 would require mandatory minimum prison sentences for those convicted of property and drug crimes and it does not include funding for treatment programs.

Additionally, BM 61 states that sentences must be served in state prisons, not in county jails, and the ballot would require the state to reimburse the county jails for all actual costs of pre-trial incarceration for each person sentenced under BM 61.

Sentencing highlights for BM 57

BM 57 is the legislative referral that would increase sentences for repeat drug and property offenders. The ballot does not establish mandatory minimum sentences for property crime on the first offense, but enhances sentences for repeat offenders, drug traffickers and manufacturers who possess substantial amounts of methamphetamine, heroin, ecstasy and cocaine.

BM 57 states that the DOC shall provide appropriate drug treatment to persons with moderate or severe needs, and who are at a high or medium risk of committing another crime.

BM 61

- Up to 6000 new beds needed by July 2012
- Up to \$1.3 billion for new prison construction

BM 57

- 1600 new beds needed by July 2012
- \$314 million for new prison construction

Costs

BM 61 would add an additional 4,000 to 6,000 non-violent inmates to DOC custody by July 2012 and will require the state to borrow between \$1.1 billion and \$1.3 billion to build new prisons between 2010 and 2017. The state will repay those amounts plus interest of \$709 million to \$844 million over 25 years. BM 61 provides no funding for new prison construction or for treatment programs.

BM 57 would add 1,600 non-violent inmates to DOC custody by 2012 and will require the state to borrow approximately \$314 million from 2010 to 2017 to build new prison space. The state will repay those amounts plus interest of \$203 million over 25 years. BM 57 does provide funding for county treatment programs and jail beds but provides no funding for new prison construction or for DOC treatment programs.

We have been planning for the potential impacts of these measures since April. We will be ready to implement a plan should Oregon voters decide on either of these two measures.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

Kim Brockamp, Assistant Director

Professional Development Unit

As DOC moves towards another biennium, we must look for new ways to carry out our mission with a focus on both effectiveness and efficiency. In pursuing this goal, the Professional Development Unit (PDU) has designed new ways to provide effective training to employees, while also focusing on increased efficiency in delivery.

We are in an age where "one size fits all" training is no longer suitable to the changing needs of the workforce; nor is one delivery method adequate to meet

the conditions of today's working environment. Consequently, PDU is enhancing its training delivery methodology to continue to provide DOC employees with hard (tangible) and soft (intangible) skills training opportunities. To accomplish this goal, PDU is developing alternatives to the traditional 40-hour classroom training model to allow a more blended training approach. Examples include:

- e-learning
- Computer Based Training (CBT)
- Mini-lessons
- Self-study guides

- WebEx (a Web conferencing and collaboration tool)
- Traditional classroom delivery

Beginning in 2009, DOC will adopt an Enterprise Learning Management System (ELMS) through the Department of Administrative Services called iLearn Oregon. This system will enable employees to view their training records, take CBT courses and manage their training and succession planning programs in an interactive, web-based environment.

This blended style of training will promote correctional best practices with an emphasis on long-term transference.

TRANSITIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

Ginger Martin, Assistant Director

The Transitional Services Division has been collaborating with the Governor's Re-Entry Council on a number of issues related to transition. The following are the latest highlights of the work that has been done.

Identification

- DOC and the Department of Human Services have worked together to streamline the process of issuing Oregon birth certificates to inmates prior to release. This year 7,000 birth certificates have been ordered by DOC with the goal of every eligible inmate to leave prison with a birth certificate.
- The Social Security Administration and DOC are reviewing a draft Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the process of issuing social security cards to inmates prior to release.
- Requirements for driver's licenses in Oregon have changed significantly within the past year, making them even more difficult to obtain. Department of Motor Vehicles and DOC have collaborated to get this information out to community corrections staff. The two agencies continue to look for solutions to getting state-issued photo IDs to inmates prior to release.

Transition Programs and Services

- The federally-funded Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative provides pre-release and post-release services primarily aimed at improving employment to eligible offenders releasing to Multnomah and Clackamas counties. Current data shows that the program has placed 80 percent of participants in jobs and is rated second in the country. Low recidivism rates and high average wages have also exceeded program goals.
- DOC Director Max Williams has met with community college presidents to begin the discussion of portable college curricula that would be offered by each of the community colleges pre-release and would thus be unaffected by transfers from institution to institution. All colleges would give similar credit for these courses in their degree programs.
- Thirty-day release medications for those leaving prison are now also being issued to people who have a detainer issued by another jurisdiction.
- A faith-based re-entry curriculum has been introduced within DOC prisons. This program is designed to assist participants in preparing for the challenges and opportunities of re-entry by tapping into sacred stories, teachings and traditions of their own faith.

GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION

John Koreski, Assistant Director

Many of us have felt the effects of increasing fuel prices and other commodities in our personal lives. These increases can also have an impact on DOC Food Services. While the Department faces increasing food costs, we strive to continue delivering quality meals within budget parameters.

"It's becoming increasingly more difficult to maintain the \$2.52," said DOC Food Services Administrator Kent Fanger, referring to the budgeted cost of feeding each inmate three meals per day.

Despite the challenges Food Services is

facing, Fanger says that by the end of the biennium the Department could close within budget without sacrificing quality.

Fanger says that one of the most effective changes is that for each menu cycle, we cost the menu out whereas prior to a year ago the menus were priced using a rough guess. This allows for food services to make adjustments if needed so that the average cost stays within budget.

In addition to costing the menu, Fanger

says that using more discretion in which brands are purchased can help decrease costs.

Distribution Services Administrator Don Charlton said that we can help reduce costs by utilizing DOC transportation.

"We can save on freight costs that vendors charge by taking advantage of DOC fleets that are already running whenever possible," Charlton said.

Charlton added that knowledge of the market yields cost savings by under-

\$2.52
Cost to feed one inmate three meals per day

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PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Colette S. Peters, Assistant Director & Inspector General

Security Threat Management

To assist in the safety and security in Oregon’s institutions the DOC utilizes the Security Threat Management (STM) unit in the Office of the Inspector General. STM has three primary functions: high-alert inmate management, Department-wide intelligence gathering, and investigative support to superintendents during major incidents.

Under this model, all staff are considered intelligence gatherers and work together to identify high-alert inmates. There are two ways an inmate can become high alert. First, there is a misconduct process that takes place when an inmate receives a Disciplinary Report (DR) and is found guilty of at least one of 11 specific violations (see insert). This means inmates can become high-alert based on their conduct.

The second way an inmate can become high alert is through administrative action. Any DOC staff member can fill out a predicate statement if they feel an inmate needs elevated, proactive management. Institution staff and STM Lieutenants work collaboratively to gain intelligence and validate the inmate’s security threat activity. Those inmates identified in such activity will be labeled high-alert through administrative action.

There are currently 700 high alert inmates assigned to the STM Unit. Once an inmate is placed on high alert, the inmate is assigned to a STM Lieutenant, who will track the inmate’s behavior and progress. The Lieutenant will manage high alert inmates and be cross-trained to conduct major investigations. STM Lieutenants work in partnership with institution staff to formulate management plans for each STM inmate. Currently, there are six STM Lieutenants strategically located across the state.

Each STM inmate will have an Inmate Management Plan with their STM Lieutenant. In situations where the inmate does not comply with the plan, the STM Lieutenant

Inmates can become high-alert if found guilty of one or more of the following violations:

Arson/Explosive Device

Distribution

High Risk Escapes

Hostage Taking

Inmate Assaults

Inmate/Staff Relationships

Interstate Transfer to Oregon

Sexually Aggressive

Staff Assaults

Security Threat Group

High Risk Behavior

Weapons

will work with staff (security, counselors, etc.) and can place restrictions on the inmate while working in conjunction with the institution to bring the inmate into compliance. Examples of possible restrictions include yard, canteen and phone privileges as well as visiting restrictions.

Participation from DOC staff members is crucial in the success of the STM program. All DOC staff work together by providing intelligence, monitoring inmate behavior and assisting in the management of high alert inmates. This Department-wide team approach will ensure safer institutions for staff and inmates and further the Department’s mission and commitment to the Oregon Accountability Model.

General Services Division - Food Services *(Continued from page 2)*

standing when the best time is to buy certain products. For this, administrators rely on Institution Food Service Managers as a key component in food service operations.

“They (Food Service Managers) are very food-cost oriented, which greatly helps us,” Charlton commented.

Fanger added that another way to reduce costs is to “Look at what’s out there that the general public wouldn’t have access to and come up with innovative ways to use it.” For instance, food that has been packaged but not yet labeled typically is much less expensive. “As long as we know what the food is, we don’t need the packaging,” Fanger said.

The bottom line is that delivering quality food within the institutions is a priority for Food Services. How we continue to do that while maintaining budget in an increasingly complex economy will rely on creative and innovative solutions.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Stan Czerniak, Assistant Director

Inmate Services Unit

As part of the changes associated with the Counselor Caseload Management (CCM) strategic initiative (see insert), the Inmate Services Unit (ISU) has been developed to address many of the clerical tasks that have been previously done by institution counselors, enabling them to target essential services to those inmates most likely to recidivate. One of the most significant areas of involvement for ISU is taking over the processing of visiting applications for all institutions, as well as administrative review for rule exception requests.

The unit is centrally located in Salem on the grounds of the Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) and became fully functional beginning July 1, 2008. ISU is led by Operations Manager Brenda Dennis, along with a team of four Inmate Services Technicians, and a Police Report Coordinator. In addition to visiting, the unit has been tasked with responsibilities that include responding to inmate questions regarding general issues; ordering birth certificates and duplicate Social Security cards; ordering all historic police reports; revisions to emergency contact information; and universal releases of information.

Beyond the tasks listed above, the other areas of services to inmates overseen by this unit include the grievance system, tracking of inmate Tort claims, legal libraries, non-cash incentives and mailroom operations.

The members of the ISU have provided institution counselors the relief of the clerical duties involved in inmate counseling. Additionally, the team provides a consistent point of contact for inmates and inmate families to answer the multitude of questions surrounding incarceration of loved ones.

This team's positive hands-on approach, working towards evolving the vision and creation of the CCM initiative has shown great success in their work with institution counselors and families of inmates.

Counselor Caseload Management

- Strategic initiative introduced in the '05 - '07 biennium, continuing in the '07 - '09 biennium
- Focuses time and effort of institution counselors on those inmates most likely to recidivate
- DOC uses the Automated Criminal Risk Score (ACRS) to predict the likelihood that an inmate will recidivate
- Creation of the ISU allows institution counselors to focus on coordinated interventions, ongoing assessments and case planning by re-assigning clerical duties to ISU staff
- Allows for risk-based allocation of resources most effective at increasing public safety while maintaining necessary functions within institutions

The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.



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