

Newsflash: The OMHAS Update

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Can I See Your ID?

Agencies team up to stop underage drinking
By Karen Wheeler

In December, I had the opportunity to ride along with a team led by the Corvallis Police Department on an operation referred to as "Minor Decoy." The very first establishment my team visited served a beer to the minor decoy. I watched as the server checked the youth's identification, yet still served this 18-year-old a fairly large glass of beer in the mellow, trendy lounge setting. I looked at the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) representative, Mark, with some disbelief, "She just served him..."

We went in the back door. As law enforcement asked to see her server's license, she trembled and began to tear up thinking about the possible consequences this could have on her job and her employer. Although she received a firm explanation of the laws and sanctions, she was also offered training and told that someone from OLCC would be following up with her to explain everything in terms of the administrative penalties. This server will undoubtedly be more careful in the future about checking identification and "doing the math" to determine the exact age of the patron. Other establishments would be wise to do the same. The "minor decoy" team typically includes representatives from the OLCC, police departments, a minor "decoy" and prevention specialists. This operation is part of an environmental prevention strategy employed by Oregon and other states to reduce access to alcohol for those under the age of 21. The approach involves periodically checking bars, restaurants, and stores to make sure they are not selling alcohol to minors using a "minor decoy" who tries to purchase alcohol. While administrative and civil sanctions can be enforced, the emphasis is not on punishment but



education and increased awareness for establishments. The OLCC offers training and assistance to establishments in developing operational or procedural mechanisms to ensure that their workforce is well educated on the law and that minors are not served or allowed to purchase alcohol.

Emerging evidence indicates the importance of environmental factors associated with heavy alcohol use and supports a broader selection of prevention strategies for addressing college age drinking (Weitzman, E. et. al., 2004). Effective program models combine individually focused strategies with ones that address the environment, such as enforcing minimum drinking-age laws, limiting access to low-cost, high volume drinking specials, advertising of alcohol to youth, the proliferation of alcohol outlets and instituting responsible beverage service training. The "minor decoy" operations, like the one I witnessed in Corvallis, target two of these strategies, enforcing minimum drinking-age laws and responsible beverage service training.

This is one example of Oregon prevention in action that will be featured periodically on the OMHAS Addictions web page. Prevention works and is a good investment.

For more information on prevention programs, please contact Karen Wheeler at (503) 945-6191.

Feeding Oregon

Governor's 2005 Food Drive Starts February 1
By Alondra Rogers

February 1 marked the beginning of the 2005 Governor's State Employee Food Drive.

This annual event raises thousands of dollars and tons of food for Oregon's hungry.

"The State Employee's Drive is the largest in Oregon and touches people in every corner of the state. The contribution of state employees is vitally important to the Food Bank," said Briana Winterborn, Food

Drive and Events Coordinator, of the Oregon Food Bank.

Last year, the Oregon Food Bank, hub of the statewide network of hunger-relief agencies, distributed 721,000 emergency meal boxes, an increase of more than 10% from the previous year's need. Demand for emergency food has increased for the past eight years.

State employees can contribute food,

cash or checks or by payroll deduction. Cash is more valuable to the food banks because of wholesale buying power; each dollar contributed can purchase six pounds of food.

Opportunities to donate will be available throughout the month of February.

For more information on the Governor's State Employee Food Drive, contact Alondra Rogers (503) 945-7821.

OMHAS Welcomes New Staff

Becky Anderson—Becky comes to OMHAS after working with the gang population at OSC. She worked with men in corrections for six years. Becky is from Oregon and has a Master's in Counseling. She's always got a smile on her face and enjoys travel, the outdoors, hiking and camping.

Dan Barker—Dan has come out of retirement to temporarily fill the Quality Assurance and Certification Manager position. He has a long employment history in mental health and addiction services. When not in the office, Dan is fused glass artist. He currently has work at the Bush Barn Gallery in Salem.

Kate Bellock—New in CPMS data entry, Kate's crafty. She knits, makes jewelry, nifty t-shirts and dioramas (yes, those shoe box things!). Kate's an Oregon native who grew up in Keizer. She owns a cat and a lizard who doesn't know he lives in a box. When asked what OMHAS staff should know about her, she replied simply, "Yes, I want to come to your garage sale." She also confesses to indulging in Saturday morning cartoons.

Sandy Fruin—Sandy is an Administrative Specialist for Bob Miller's unit. Originally from Morton, Washington (near Mt. Rainier), Sandy attended Washington State University where she studied education and physical education. She later became a coach for various track and field events including shot, discus and javelin. A coach at heart, Sandy would love to help you work on your throw.

Veronica Gentle—Veronica is new to ECMU as a Treatment Specialist and is also a busy Mom to a 1-year-old baby boy. Originally from Oregon, Veronica went to college in New York. She has worked with homeless and mentally ill adults in New York City and Los Angeles. She enjoys "corny little craft projects" when she's not changing diapers, doing laundry or keeping her little guy out of the litter box.

Camera Shy **Joan Claypool** is the Omstead Coordinator, and **Linda McClain** is new to the Support Staff unit as an Office Specialist.

2005 Legislative Session Heats Up

OMHAS staff are hot on the trail of bills affecting mental health and addiction services

By Alondra Rogers

The 2005 legislative session is underway and staff are working hard and keeping up. OMHAS is tracking over 100 bills labeled as priority one, two or three. The bills having the greatest perceived impact, priority one, are listed below with brief summaries:

- **HB 2141**—Modifies provisions that allow Department of Corrections and Oregon Youth Authority to transfer persons committed to their custody to state mental hospital for evaluation and treatment.
- **HB 2325**—Creates Task Force on Oregon State Hospital.
- **HB 2326**—Prohibits group health insurers from imposing treatment limitations, limits on total payments or financial requirements on coverage for chemical dependency and mental conditions.
- **HB 2362**—Creates task force to study coordination of services and creation of integrated funding of services to children with severe emotional or mental disorders.
- **HB 2397**—Increases amount

allocated from Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to Problem Gambling Treatment Fund .

- **SB 39**—Requires court to determine on record mental disease or defect established as basis for guilty except for insanity verdict.
- **SB 40**—Excludes abnormality consisting solely of paraphilia from definition of "mental disease or defect" for purposes of criminal code.
- **SB 41**—Requires defendant who intends to assert mental disease or defect as affirmative defense to submit psychiatric or psychological evaluation that was performed after offense but before trial.
- **SB 222**—Modifies definition of "community housing" for chronically mentally ill persons to include single-family housing.
- **SB 232**—Provides for affirmative defense of mental disease or defect constituting insanity in juvenile delinquency proceedings.
- **SB 250**—Allows court to commit defendant who lacks capacity to stand trial to treatment facility other than state mental hospital.
- **SB 298**—Prohibits group health insurers from imposing treatment limitations, limits on total payments or financial requirements on coverage for chemical dependency and mental conditions.
- **SB 299**—Prohibits neutral housing policy that adversely impacts disabled persons or other persons due to their race, color, sex, marital status, source of income, familial status, religion or national origin.



The 2005 session is expected to continue through spring. The 2003 session lasted a record 227 days.

For more details on legislative bill tracking, please contact Alondra Rogers at (503) 945-7821.