

Oregon Youth Authority

BULLETIN



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Director

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From Director Bob Jester

The legislative session is winding down and the successes of Oregon's juvenile justice system have been affirmed by the legislature. We have heard from our partners and legislative members' great support for OYA's stewardship of state resources. Along with this affirmation comes tremendous responsibility to use these resources wisely and responsibly. We must continue to use state services to reduce future crime.



The OYA is also an agency that must exemplify who we are through our Principles of Conduct and Code of Ethics. These tell the story of what values we are committed to:

- Treating each other with respect;
- Providing a transparent work environment; and
- Ensuring a safe work and living environment for staff and youth.

This successful session has emphasized the importance of the agency values, affirmations, and responsibility that guide us daily as we perform the duties of our jobs. We have a responsibility to our public, youth and families, and the mission and vision of the Oregon Youth Authority. We are a collaborative agency that works together and engages many partners in carrying out our goals. We must all continue to work together to achieve success.

Professional Standards Office

In April 2005, I requested a Youth Safety and Abuse Prevention Review Committee assist us with examining practices and policies surrounding youth services. A series of recommendations were made by this group which included creating the Professional Standards Office (PSO). Lead by **Jason Barber** (Manager) and **Annette Hilton** (Administrative Specialist), our PSO staff has been working with many OYA staff and partners in the development of the office. The office is operational, receiving concerns from youth and families across the state.

For more on the PSO, visit www.oregon.gov/OYA/ps0.shtml

Legislative Update

OYA is closely tracking 29 bills this session that may have a direct impact to our agency operations. **HB 5006** and its companion bill **SB 5544** are bills that provide our budget for 2007-09. I shared with you that this is moving along well and I anticipate a positive outcome for the session.

Oregon will have a new "**Plain Language**" law requiring state agencies to present information to the public in simpler formats. Central Support staff are beginning work on this by looking at policy and training implications. We anticipate a change in our initial parent and youth handout information. This law does not affect our policies or staff information.

For a full list of OYA bill tracking, visit www.oregon.gov/OYA/bulletins/2007_june/bill_tracking_2007.shtml

Did you know . . .

- ✓ The first edition of OYA's Directions will be out in July 2007. Coming to your email and the OYA web soon . . . a recent look at OYA recidivism by Research and Evaluation.
- ✓ Most Bulletin articles will now have links for more information available through email and the web.
- ✓ Send story ideas or feedback to

robyn.cole@oya.state.or.us



From Program Office-

Foster Care Appreciation Month - May

It should be every month -- when you look at the commitments and dedication our foster homes provide. There is no change of shifts, their work hours do not stop at 5 p.m., the same youth that may have been in an institution or detention the night before is now sleeping in one of their rooms.

Foster Parents continue to provide an important service to the OYA and have helped promote the change often needed with our youth. As many of you are aware, before entering foster care, some of these youth had never experienced a safe home with ample, nutritional meals, or received help with their homework.

Safety First

National Safety Month

In 1996, the National Safety Council established June as National Safety Month. Its purpose is to increase public awareness of safety and health risks and ultimately decrease the number of accidental injuries and deaths. Each week focuses on a specific safety venue: workplace, traffic, home, and community.

- June 4-8: Workplace Safety**
- June 11-15: Driving Safety**
- June 18-22: Emergency Preparedness**
- June 25-29: Safety in the Home & Community**

Please join us in celebrating Workplace Safety, Driving Safety, Emergency Preparedness, Safety in the Home & Community, and make a commitment to the safety and well-being of yourself and those around you everyday.

In the Field . . .

Cuts in federal dollars have had an impact locally. Hit particularly hard are the counties of Josephine, Curry, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn. In Josephine County, both juvenile detention and shelter services have closed and **JJPO's Bill Bowers and John Beirsto** are working with just a few county employees in what was a vibrant juvenile department. Detention and shelter services for Josephine County will be provided in Douglas County.

cont'd . . .

A visit to Central Support . . .

JJPO Alex Contreras stopped in at Central Support to take a tour on May 17. Alex was curious about the work functions and was particularly impressed with **Linda Gesler** and the staff from Budget and Contracts. A total of one staff each is assigned to oversee the respective budgets, **Tina Crawley** for field and **John Fox** for facilities. Among the numerous folders of projections and calculations Alex found it refreshing to see them "working so hard." Thanks for stopping in, Alex.

Multnomah is on the move . . .

After months of waiting, our Multnomah OYA staff moved into their new office May 24. All in all, this location provides a great opportunity to network with other juvenile justice professionals, see youth and families easily, and access the court on a moment's notice. Multnomah joins Columbia, Crook, Curry, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, and Yamhill OYA offices in co-housing with either juvenile departments or courts. There is no change to the phone system -- the new address is . . .1401 NE 68th Ave. Portland (97213).

A Parent's Appreciation--Letter to **Vikki Whitmore,** and **Larry Wilson,** OYA Clackamas County

My wife and I would like to take time to thank you and Mr. Wilson for his involvement with [our son] during our experience with the Youth Authority. He has been very helpful and supportive of not only [our son], but also the needs of our family. The representation, guidance and support that he provided for and with [our son] was nothing short of awesome.

In the time that we have been working with [our son] and his development (17 years) we have not encountered a more capable staff. In dealing with public employees in the human resources arena, I can count a handful of qualified people. Larry Wilson is one of them.

His optimism and outlook on life has brought hope to me personally and I can say that through his efforts and those of the other team members, my wife and I feel like for once we can relax and maybe breathe a little. Thank you so much, Larry.

Guy H.

CONGRATULATIONS

Retirements

Deena Fulwider – 32 Years
 Irene Coleman – 30 Years
 Debbie Rios – 30 Years
 Darold Pedersen – 29 Years
 Robert Shelstad – 28 Years
 Kenneth Hagerman – 26 Years
 Joanne Foster – 23 Years
 Sharon Moore – 21 Years
 John Cock – 22 Years
 Beverley Londo – 20 Years
 David Potter – 20 Years
 Andy Golay – 19 Years
 Linda Hepler – 18 Years
 James Parker – 18 Years
 Mike Sanford – 15 Years
 Crisela Juarez – 15 Years
 Tom Culbertson – 14 Years
 Isidro Pena - 8 Years (2nd retirement)

CONGRATULATIONS

Years of State Service Awards

30 Years:

Jill D. Petersen, Beverly A. Baker, E.G. Edwards

25 Years:

Tanya A. Snider, Marion C. Knight,
 Danny Kreinheder

20 Years:

Michael S. McDonald, Michael Inniss,
 Kenneth P. Early, David K. Potter,
 Ron M. Hooper, Brian Vorderlandwehr,
 Lori A. Widder, Karen J. Dripps,
 Havan L. Jones, Clay D. Hooker

15 Years:

Troy D. Clark, Brenda Kahut,
 Frank Martin, Lila M. Harris,
 Willard W. Thompson, Craig A. Childers

10 Years:

Terry D. Younkin, Steven T. Mayo,
 Michael A. Senay, Jeffrey A. Benham,
 Daniel J. Efseaff, Jacho F. Eaton,
 Karol I. Parks, Gary G. Cherry,
 Tara Williams, J.L. Cox,
 Kevin D. Nygren, James W. Sapper,
 Amy Pena, Dennis J. Kenna

5 Years:

Brett Turner, Deborah L. Christie,
 Kevin Woodruff, Damion Jasmer,
 Dustin Hamor, Sarita Trawick,
 Alta Saner-Martinez, Dan Boleyn,
 John Remitar, Michael Nissen,
 Steve Mounce, Karren Selthon,
 Samuel Black, Melanie McCall,
 Adrian Simms, Dominique Steinkellner,
 Antonio Nunez, Richard Trapp,
 Willie Holmes, Michael Miller,
 Megan Teet, John Borroz,
 Anthony Diener