

ISSUE BRIEF

2009



Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility

Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) in Salem is one of OYA's 11 close custody facilities. It serves as the statewide intake center for all male youth offenders committed to Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) close-custody facilities. Additionally, it provides long-term programs that meet the needs of male offenders with issues of substance abuse and/or a history of violence.

The facility has 80 intake beds and 100 long-term beds. It accommodates youth between 12 and 25 who are adjudicated in juvenile court and committed to a youth correctional facility as well as youth who are convicted as adults. It has 196 full, part time and temporary staff.

Hillcrest history

In 1913 Hillcrest was established as the first state correctional facility for female youth, "The State Industrial School for Girls."

Through the years, the facility experienced many changes in its charter, from serving an entirely female population to becoming a co-gender facility in the mid 1970s. In February 2008, OYA established a single gender facility for female offenders at Oak Creek YCF in Albany, and Hillcrest became an all-male facility.

The Hillcrest Campus

Hillcrest is a fully fenced secure facility situated in south Salem in a campus setting. Buildings include an administration building, a school and gymnasium, four living units for intake youth, and four living units for long-term youth offenders, a unit for temporary isolation, medical, dental, and mental health clinics, kitchen, dining room, canteen, maintenance and warehouse areas, a chapel, and areas for recreation and minority services.

Living units house 20-25 youth in dormitories. Youth are assigned to units based on their commitment offenses, treatment levels and specific needs.

Long-term treatment-specific units

Hillcrest's long-term treatment units focus treatment on youth offenders who have substance abuse issues or a history of violent, assaultive behavior. Youth offenders committed as juveniles typically spend nine months to a year in a long-term unit receiving education, programs and treatment.

Youth offenders who were convicted as adults (Department of Corrections offenders typically have longer sentences) may spend several years in long-term living units. Their programs ultimately focus on vocational programming and relapse prevention.

Evidence-based treatment services available for all long-term youth include:

Cognitive Behavioral which focuses on challenging youth to identify their behaviors.

Aggression Replacement Training, a cognitive-based approach to help youth identify healthy responses to aggression.

Cannabis Youth Treatment addresses drug use, management of "high-risk" situations and development of pro-social skills.

Pathways is a cognitive-based alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) program.

Skill Streaming teaches interpersonal skills to aggressive, anti-social youth.

Street Smarts is a gang intervention program that identifies risky thinking and teaches skills to deal with barriers to a crime-free lifestyle.

Mental Health Therapy, both group and individual, is offered to youth with specific mental health diagnoses. A qualified mental health professional is assigned to each unit to serve youth and to respond in times of crisis.

Education is provided to youth through Robert Farrell High School, a fully accredited, year-round academic, vocational and educational program.

Vocational programs include a certified barbering program through Robert Farrell High school and work experience programs.

OYA Intake/Assessment

Hillcrest has four living units that house youth offenders upon their initial commitment to OYA from the courts. Upon arrival, each youth is given a mental health screen, suicide risk assessment and health screen within an hour. Additionally, each youth is given a full medical and physical assessment within seven days.

Youth remain on an intake unit for approximately 45 days. Additional assessments are completed including a full risk/needs assessment that focuses on criminogenic factors – those factors that contribute to a youth’s criminal behavior. Domains assessed include substance abuse, mental health, education, use of free time, family/parenting, interpersonal relationships, criminal/delinquency history, employment, attitudes and beliefs, aggression, and social skills.

Information from the risk/needs assessment and additional evaluations play a pivotal role in matching youth to the most appropriate OYA treatment programs.

Following the 45 day intake period, youth offenders are placed throughout the state in facilities depending upon their treatment needs.

Treatment during intake

Youth are not idle during intake. In between assessments and depending on their needs, programs are available that focus on cognitive behavioral thinking, anti-aggressive behavior, and mental health. Additionally, all youth participate in orientation groups to help them prepare for life within an OYA facility.

Hillcrest YCF provides a full continuum of care for youth offenders in the facility. From initial intake to preparing a youth offender to transfer to his permanent facility, the goal is to help each youth adjust to life within the OYA system and begin to understand his accountability for committing crimes.

Hillcrest has a proud tradition of serving the youth of Oregon, providing treatment and reformation services in a safe environment. ◀



Colette S. Peters
Director
503-373-7212

Fariborz Pakseresht
Deputy Director
503-373-7212

Joan Palmateer
Assistant Director
Facility Services
503-373-7238

Jean Straight
Assistant Director for Business Services
503-378-8017

Perrin Damon
Manager, Public Affairs
503-378-6023
503-931-4300

Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility
2450 Strong Road SE
Salem, OR 97302-9676
503-986-0400

Oregon Youth Authority
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301-3765
503-373-7205
www.oregon.gov/oya