



# Oregon Youth Authority

*Issue Brief*

*December 2011*

## Health services for youth offenders in OYA custody

**10**

Number of OYA close-custody correctional and transition facilities

**750**

Approximate number of youth offenders supervised in OYA close-custody facilities

**1,075**

Approximate number of youth offenders supervised by OYA in communities

**302**

Total Funds, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

**258**

General Fund, in millions of dollars, allocated to OYA in 2011-2013

**87**

Approximate percent of OYA's budget spent locally in facilities and communities

### Overview

- ▲ OYA has implemented a centralized system of health care management that improves the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of health care delivery.
- ▲ Medical professionals are in charge of all health care decisions for youth.
- ▲ OYA provides a level of health care consistent with community standards.

### Delivering health care

Most youth who come to the Oregon Youth Authority have no primary care physician. In most cases they have either never received health care or have received health care only from hospital emergency departments and urgent care clinics. For these youth, their first true regular health care begins when they are placed in OYA's care and custody.

All youth receive a health care assessment when they arrive in close custody. Health care begins at intake – at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Salem for males and at Oak Creek YCF in Albany for females. Medical professionals conduct complete physical, dental and mental health examinations, and collect youths' medical histories.

Youth are caught up on immunizations and offered HPV vaccine. Pap smears are provided for females. Screenings are offered for sexually transmitted diseases, and an OB/GYN is contracted to provide prenatal care to pregnant young women at the Oak Creek facility. Blood work is done based on indications, and young women are checked for anemia.

Non-urgent services such as glasses are delayed until youth are assigned to and living in their anticipated long-term OYA facility. If a youth is ill or requires surgery, a nurse will notify the family if such contact is authorized.

Throughout a youth's stay in close custody, OYA medical professionals stress prevention. This includes monitoring moles, teaching youth how to perform self-exams, promoting avoidance of drugs and tobacco, discussing safe sex, and talking about the importance of diet, exercise and the health risks of obesity.

## **Oregon Youth Authority**

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### **Mission**

The Oregon Youth Authority protects the public and reduces crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.



### **Vision**

Youth who leave OYA go on to lead productive, crime-free lives.



### **Core Values**

Integrity  
Professionalism  
Accountability  
Respect



### **Director**

**Colette S. Peters**



### **Deputy Director**

**Fariborz Pakseresht**



Assistant Director  
for Business Services

**Jean Straight**



Assistant Director  
for Community Services

**Philip Cox**



Assistant Director  
for Facility Services

**Karen Daniels**

## **Staffing health care**

OYA's medical director, with the assistance of a nurse manager, oversees delivery of health care at all 10 close-custody facilities.

The two largest facilities, MacLaren YCF in Woodburn and Hillcrest YCF in Salem, each have a physician on staff. Contract physicians or nurse practitioners regularly visit youth at other facilities. Dentists are on staff at MacLaren YCF and Hillcrest YCF, and on contract with the other facilities. All facilities except one are assigned one or more of the agency's 29 nurses. Camp Florence Youth Transitional Facility contracts with a local clinic and a dentist to provide health care services for its 25 youth.

OYA contracts for pharmacy services and uses lower-cost generic medications whenever possible. Staff members monitor administration of prescribed medications. OYA also contracts with radiologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, testing laboratories, and other specialists. The agency employs qualified mental health professionals who assess, evaluate, and care for mental health issues, and provide a link between mental health and corrections treatment.

## **Paying for health care**

To support youths' successful treatment and education, OYA provides the cost-effective standard of care that prevails in the community. The agency does not pay for cosmetic issues, dental braces, orthodontics or contact lenses.

OYA receives a limited budget from the state General Fund to provide medical services to youth housed in OYA correctional and transition facilities. Federal law prohibits Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) payments for incarcerated individuals except for overnight hospitalizations. In the rare instance that a youth is covered by private health insurance, that insurance may pay for some health care services.

For youth on probation or parole in the community, health care costs are the responsibility of the youth, the youth's parents, the Oregon Health Plan, or other insurance.