

# OYA *In the Loop*

**March 2, 2009**

As you know, the Ways and Means Committee is moving forward with a rebalance plan that, among other reductions, calls for OYA to close two living units this biennium. Rather than closing the entire facility in Burns, we provided an option that called for closing two units at Hillcrest and/or MacLaren. The Public Safety Subcommittee approved this option.

Mike Riggan and his leadership team, meanwhile, came up with a creative alternative that saves some beds but gets to the bottom-line dollars the Legislature needs. While this alternative means two units will indeed close and 23 jobs will be lost, it reduces the impact on youth and, therefore, public safety.

So here's what MacLaren is going to do between now and June 1, 2009:

1. Close McKay Cottage
2. Close the Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) program at MacLaren.
3. Move the current Geer 2 program and staffing to the CIU building. As you know, Geer 2 focuses on challenged and violent offenders.
  - a. Repurpose the Geer 2 program to provide a structured 45 - 60 day treatment program for difficult-to-manage offenders.
  - b. Expand the new Geer 2 program to also provide short term segregation for offenders that require time out and separation from their living unit.

The impacts on OYA:

- It closes two units – McKay and Geer 2.
- It meets the needs of facility operations to provide a short-term specialized treatment for offenders who need housing and programs that enhance the safety of youth and staff.
- It focuses treatment on behavior change so offenders can be safely returned to their home facility or living unit.
- It allows for some expansion of the Secure Intensive Treatment Program (SITP) to serve more offenders and house violent offenders in a more secure setting (e.g. using some of the vacated Geer 2 beds for the purposes of sleeping) and reducing the number of offenders sleeping in a dorm.
- It allows OYA to take advantage of the Geer 2 treatment program and staffing to provide services to these offenders.

MacLaren's willingness to step up and absorb these reductions is appreciated and will be considered if further reductions are necessary.

It is anticipated that 23 staff positions will be affected. SEIU leadership and Human Resources will work together to do everything possible to find positions for staff.