

OYA *In the Loop*

March 24, 2009

Mea Culpa and other news

A quick follow-up to yesterday's In the Loop.

We have looked at many options over the last several days. One option that held the county juvenile departments harmless from more reductions in this latest round of budget cuts required that we reduce the young women's transition program (YWTP) at Corvallis House as described in the last In the Loop. That option has been set aside for now. So yesterday's In the Loop was accurate except for the reference to the YWTP. I apologize to our Corvallis House staff for causing them undue anxiety.

But all of our employees need to know that nothing is etched in stone. A lot more work has to be done before we know the final result of all this. As we continue discussing this with our partners, the Department of Administrative Services, the Governor's Office, and the legislature, it is possible for us to see fewer reductions, more reductions, or different reductions.

For example, if the option about holding the county juvenile departments harmless from more reductions gains new life through these discussions, the reduction to the young women's transition program could reappear. And it is possible that the reductions we have identified could be replaced with others.

We simply do not know what will happen because there are lots of variables. A lot depends on the June revenue forecast, on the legislature's willingness to consider new revenue sources, and on the willingness of Oregonians to support an effort to raise more revenue.

I'm not telling you this to cause all of you anxiety and worry. I'm telling you so that you will not be surprised as this process works itself out to a conclusion. I'm also telling you so you can remain hopeful that these terrible reductions to public safety, to youths' treatment and reformation, to employees' jobs, and to Oregon's communities can be minimized.

Budget Hearing Scheduled

OYA has three days of budget hearings scheduled in early April. We are scheduled to testify before the Public Safety Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and

Means beginning April 9. On April 10 there will be no hearing. On April 13, the subcommittee will hear public testimony about OYA's budget. On April 14 and 15, we will finish our presentation.

Those who have been around the legislative process know that those dates are fluid, but we will be prepared and will update you of any schedule changes brought to our attention.

If you watch or listen via the Web, or read the documents, you will notice that most of the numbers presented are those from the Governor's Recommended Budget. Recent budget developments add some presentation challenges, but we will be there doing our best to represent the importance of our public safety mission.

Changes in Meal Pricing Delayed until May

As mentioned in an In the Loop earlier this month, the price for meals purchased in OYA facilities was to increase from \$1.50 to \$2.75 on April 1, 2009. The start date for the new rate has been changed to May 1, 2009, in order to prepare and finalize a statewide process for meal ticket purchases.

Once the procedure is finalized, it will be placed in Outlook for everyone to refer to for guidance. Updated meal tickets with the new rate will be distributed to all facilities in the next few weeks.

Reminder about Information Sharing

Communication is two-way. Among the tools available to you are writing to me at oyaintheloop@oya.state.or.us.

One of the ways I share information with you is via the public folder on Outlook (nested in All Staff) called Agency News.

Economic Stimulus Web Site Launched

Curious about the destiny of dollars from various economic stimulus packages? The Governor launched a Web site to track that information: <http://www.oregon.gov/recovery/>