

# OYA *In the Loop*

**May 29, 2009**

In my May 19<sup>th</sup> "In the Loop," I told all of you that the Ways and Means Co-Chairs' budget did not require us to close any of our facilities. At the end of that communication, I warned that the process wasn't over yet and that there could be new developments that might impact our budget.

There is new information that I must share with you. The Co-Chairs' proposed budget for public safety assumed there would be \$77.8 million saved through "changes to sentencing and other changes to reduce the need for prison beds." The major part of these changes (\$60 million) is the delayed implementation of Measure 57. Sentencing changes make up the remainder of the \$77.8 million. Because Measure 57 was voted into law by the people, a two-thirds majority of the House and the Senate is required to enact a law to delay it. So, of course, the question is: What will be cut if the legislature cannot pass a bill to delay Measure 57 and to change some sentencing standards?

Legislative leaders and others have worked on how to balance the budget in the event a bill is not passed.

Just this afternoon I received a list of possible reductions that could happen. The Juvenile Justice System and the Oregon Youth Authority have several reductions on this list. The following are not in any priority order:

Reduce Hillcrest to 104 beds by Sept 09	\$ 7,000,000
Cut Multnomah County Gang by 25%	\$ 772,937
Eliminate 70 foster care beds plus certifiers by Sept 09	\$ 2,402,757
Close EOYCF in Burns by Sept 09	\$ 6,176,321
Reduce parole and probation staff (8.63 FTE) by Sept 09	\$ 1,346,647
Reduce Individual Services, JCP & Diversion another 10%	\$ 2,079,815

If the legislature passes the bill that delays Measure 57 and changes some sentences, then these reductions will not be needed to balance the Co-Chairs' proposed budget. Of course, it is possible the legislature could decide to take cuts other than these in the event a bill is not passed.

I'm sorry that the landscape keeps changing. We are in extraordinary times with a lot of budget uncertainty. Let's hope that we can get through this without all of these reductions. I'll keep you posted as I get more information.

Bobby