

OYA *In the Loop*

July 2, 2009

More budget news

Our budget staff has been earnestly sorting through details of the end-of-session legislation. As we've already shared with you, our budget does contain reductions, but candidly, it could have been worse.

The fact that we fared relatively well and likely won't have layoffs or program reductions is important to recognize. With the relief we are all feeling, there should also be great pride. A lot of people in the Central Office worked amazingly long hours to provide information and alternatives to decision makers. Our stakeholders spoke up in support of the agency. And, importantly, labor and management collaborated to advocate for those scenarios that minimized service reductions.

We now have a legislatively adopted budget for OYA for the 09-11 biennium. I've attached a summary of the reductions our agency took throughout the budget process.

Of note is \$130 million in unspecified cuts that the Legislature wrote into the overall state budget. OYA's share of this reduction is \$8.3 million. Meetings will be held this month to evaluate the legislation, and as soon as the details are known, I will share them with you.

Our budget, as reported out by the Public Safety Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, did not include any budget notes. As you know, those are instructions that the committee gives agencies. The subcommittee did express interest in hearing back from us, however, on the following issues during the interim:

- The nature of decisions to transfer youth to the Department of Corrections. Specifically, the subcommittee wanted assurances that transfers are handled with consistency and using clear criteria.
- The subcommittee requested an update on challenges in the young women's programs at the Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility.
- The subcommittee asked the agency to analyze how parole and probation services might be used most effectively and efficiently.

These issues will be on the agenda of an upcoming Cabinet meeting. I look forward to engaging you in planning to address these requests.

Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome. I would also like to remind you that you can contact me directly or through our *In the Loop* mailbox, oyaintheloop@oya.state.or.us.

Independence Day holds great meaning for me. As we celebrate the birth of our nation, it is also important to reflect on the meaning of freedom and the sacrifices made by those who defend it.

With gratitude, I wish you all a fun and safe holiday weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fabian". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.