

OYA *In the Loop*

July 6, 2009

I am pleased to share with you news you may have heard already from the Governor's Office (pasted below): Colette S. Peters has been appointed director of the Oregon Youth Authority, pending Senate confirmation.

Colette and I have been talking over the weekend, and she asked me to share with you these thoughts: "I am honored, humbled, and thrilled to serve in this capacity. I am impressed by OYA and its commitment to public safety, accountability, and youth reformation. I look forward to joining the organization and learning more about its services so that I can be a champion for you, for the youth we serve, and for OYA's role in the juvenile justice system. You will find me to be involved and engaged. I look forward to working with all of you to achieve OYA's mission."



With this position, Colette's career has come full circle. Her first public safety job was in the juvenile justice field and, as she told me last week, that's what inspired her to pursue a career in public safety.

Colette completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees while working in the public safety arena – with juvenile offenders, courts, victims and law enforcement in Minnesota and Colorado. She was responsible for policy research, analysis and making recommendations to members of the Colorado legislature on criminal justice, public safety and other policy issues. By joining the Oregon Department of Corrections five years ago and working with issues facing adult corrections, Colette

rounded out her background in public safety.

I believe that it is this breadth of experience that first caught the Governor's attention, but it is Colette's commitment to principled leadership, communication and building connections among constituencies that makes her a good fit for OYA. She has a positive track record working with the Legislature, labor, community partners, staff, victims, families, agencies, offenders and the public, and she understands the value of maintaining and building even more relationships in order to be an effective advocate for Oregon's juvenile justice community.

After joining DOC in April 2004 as Public Affairs administrator, Colette was quickly promoted to assistant director for Public Services. She was concurrently appointed

inspector general and held those two positions for more than three years. She and her family returned to Minnesota last year for personal reasons, and she and her husband look forward to returning their three little native Oregonians back to their home state.

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to spend time with Colette when she was in Oregon several weeks ago, and I have talked with her by phone many times since. I have found her to be authentic, a good listener and genuinely caring about youth and staff. Colette plans to join the agency on July 20th, and has already expressed her desire to visit OYA facilities, field offices and partners before fall. I know when you meet her you will be as impressed as I was. We can all look forward to her leadership, vision and stewardship.



Press Release

July 6, 2009

Governor Kulongoski announces new Oregon Youth Authority director

Governor appointment of Colette Peters is effective July 20, 2009

(Salem) - Governor Ted Kulongoski today announced the appointment of Colette S. Peters to serve as director of the Oregon Youth Authority. Peters succeeds Interim Director Bobby S. Mink, who is returning to retirement, in leading the state's juvenile corrections agency.

"Colette has experience in many facets of public safety, but her enduring passion is working with youth, where she started her career," the Governor said. "Furthermore, she has a solid foundation in organizational leadership, an exceptional understanding of government ethics, and has built enduring partnerships in the criminal justice community."

Peters was assistant director and inspector general of the Oregon Department of Corrections between 2005 and late 2008, when she moved to the Midwest. Before that she was the Department of Corrections Public Affairs administrator, a research and policy associate with the Colorado Legislature, a victim's advocate and crisis mediator with the Denver Police Department, and a juvenile counselor in a boy's shelter in Minneapolis and in a residential treatment center in Johnston, Iowa.

Peters holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota and a master's degree in criminal justice from the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado.

Peters' appointment is effective July 20, 2009 as Acting Director, pending state senate confirmation in the fall.

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