

# OYA *In the Loop*

**September 18, 2008**

## **SIP report submitted to Governor**

The SIP 90-Day Progress Report requested by Governor Kulongoski is complete and was submitted Monday. You can find a copy of the report on our website by visiting [www.oregon.gov/OYA/reports/SIP90day\\_summary.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OYA/reports/SIP90day_summary.pdf).

I am pleased with the report for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it represents a terrific collaboration among many people on our staff regardless of job title, work assignment or labor union. I am proud not only of the work we did to identify and articulate issues, but also the progress-to-date on resolving them.

When you hear me talk about a principle-based organization, you can be sure that one of those principles is “doing what you’ll say you’ll do.” SIP is a shining example of our follow-through. We will keep the momentum going and be an ever-evolving and ever-improving organization.

Speaking of following through, you’ll have an opportunity to share your thoughts about our work, workplaces, and values on the culture/climate survey next month. This is an outcome of the SIP and its validity depends on YOU. The survey will take only a few minutes to complete, and you will be given time during the workday to go online and tell us what you think.

## **MacLaren drinking water**

This week we announced that levels of arsenic in the drinking water at MacLaren exceed the federal standard by 7 parts per billion (ppb). The federal standard dropped from 50 ppb to 10 ppb, and many well water systems in the Willamette Valley have found that their arsenic levels were too high.

As a stop-gap, we are voluntarily providing bottled drinking water at the Woodburn facility. An engineering firm has been engaged to find a permanent solution to removing the arsenic.

Arsenic is a naturally occurring element in aquifers, and is particularly prevalent in areas like the Pacific Northwest that have volcanic rock.

## **Business Services leadership changes**

I am delighted to officially let you know that Deputy Secretary of State Jean Straight will join OYA in November as assistant director of Business Services.

Jean has been with the Secretary of State's Office since 1997 in various business management positions with responsibility for information systems, accounting, budget, legislative relations and strategic planning. She brings strong ethics, sound business knowledge, and broad government experience, all of which will be assets for OYA.

Jean is active in the community and is a member of the boards of directors of the Luke Center and the Central Willamette Community Credit Union. She attended Oregon State University, received a certificate in public management from Willamette University and participated in the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard.

Because Jean can't join us until after the November elections, I've asked a familiar name in state government to lead Business Services in the interim. Sue Wilson, who recently retired after 30 years in state government, joins OYA Wednesday and will work half-time.

Sue has a long resume and corresponding list of accomplishments. She worked for 18 years in the legislative branch, eventually becoming legislative administrator. In 1996, she moved to the Department of Justice as Administrative Services director. For the last five years of her state tenure she was administrator of the DAS Human Resource Services Division. She now teaches part-time at Willamette's Atkinson Graduate School of Management and is the program manager.

I would like to extend a huge thank-you to Linda Gesler for filling in the last few months and am sure that she's breathing a huge sigh of relief during this busy budget season to be refocused on that work.

### **Superintendent news**

Now that the dust has settled in leadership changes in our facilities, one vacancy remains to be filled. An open-competitive announcement for superintendent of Rogue Valley YCF is expected to go out this week.

Ken Jerin, RYVYCF program director, agreed to be the interim superintendent until a new superintendent is named.

We have worked out start dates for Mike Riggan at MacLaren YCF and Troy Gregg at Hillcrest YCF. Mike will take the reins from Interim Superintendent Gary Lawhead on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Troy will officially transfer to Hillcrest YCF on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **New residential program opens in Eugene**

A contract with Looking Glass, Inc., has been signed, and fifteen beds will be opened in Eugene to serve girls with co-occurring disorders. The program, tentatively called Pathways, will add five beds per month until it reaches capacity by the end of the year.