



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

**Oregon Youth Authority**

**Office of the Director**

530 Center Street NE, Suite 200

Salem, OR 97301-3765

Voice: 503-373-7205

Fax: 503-373-7622

[www.oregon.gov/OYA](http://www.oregon.gov/OYA)

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Ann Snyder, OYA Communications Office, 503-378-6023,

[ann.snyder@state.or.us](mailto:ann.snyder@state.or.us)



### **Crook: OYA parole and probation officer recognized for exemplary service**

An Oregon Youth Authority parole and probation officer serving Crook County has been recognized for exemplary service to the agency and the youth it serves.

Lisa Parker received a Coin Award, a silver dollar-size medal bearing the state seal, from OYA Director Colette S. Peters and Philip Cox, assistant director for community services. The award, given to employees for excellence in reflecting agency values, was presented as part of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week observances.

Parker delivers and is an advocate for specialized services to meet the needs of youth and their families, said Donna McClung, OYA field supervisor for Crook and seven other counties. For example, when Parker was supervising a youth whose parents were deaf she learned sign language. When a youth from another county needed a Spanish-speaking parole officer, Parker accepted the assignment. She also serves on a number of youth-oriented work groups.

“Over and over I have seen Lisa step up to the plate to advocate for youth she represents, sometimes having to challenge other individuals and organizations,” McClung said. “She always stands up for what she believes is right and in the best interest of the youth she serves.”

Parker is one of 72 OYA parole and probation officers.

“Lisa Parker and other OYA professionals protect public safety and help former offenders become productive, crime-free citizens by offering support and

compassion, demanding accountability and being consistent role models,” said Peters. “They give youth consistency throughout their time with OYA, and play a critical role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend.”

Among the tasks they perform are developing agreements with youth, determining special needs and services for youth, conducting monthly reviews with youth, arranging vocational services, administering urinalyses, preparing for and testifying at hearings, and participating in quarterly meetings of team members who support each youth’s progress. A juvenile parole and probation officer is assigned when a youth is committed to OYA and provides continuity regardless of whether the youth is in a close-custody facility or being supervised in the community.

Effective community supervision by juvenile parole and probation officers helps the agency fulfill its mission to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

OYA supervises approximately 1,100 youth on parole and probation in communities across Oregon, and has custody of approximately 800 youth offenders ages 12-24 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn.

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