



Oregon

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July 22, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

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Lane: OYA parole and probation officer recognized for exemplary service

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

Frances Howells 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.

Howells, who works with female youth offenders, was recognized for her dedication to supporting successful community reintegration of paroled youth. “She is in constant contact with providers, making sure the right services are in place,” Field Supervisor Debbi Martin said of Howells’ work with residential, treatment, foster care and other providers. “She works exceptionally well with her colleagues and community partners and has a natural ability to find a way to connect with other people and collaborate effectively.”

Howells is one of 72 OYA parole and probation officers.

“Frances Howells 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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