



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE

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OYA hires corrections administrator to head Professional Standards Office

A former Oregon Department of Corrections administrator who began his career as a correctional officer is the new administrator and chief investigator for the Oregon Youth Authority's Professional Standards Office.

Ken Jeske of Monmouth will head the team responsible for ensuring agency staff members meet safety, security and ethical standards and that youth and staff have safe, effective ways to raise concerns.

OYA is the state's juvenile corrections agency charged with protecting public safety and reducing crime by holding youthful offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Jeske, who began his career in 1995 as a correctional officer at Santiam Correctional Institution in Salem, most recently was hearings administrator for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC). In that job, he provided direction to hearings staff and was agency liaison with the Oregon Department of Justice for inmate litigation.

In DOC's special investigations unit, where Jeske became assistant chief investigator, he conducted inmate and staff investigations, oversaw the fugitive and drug investigation units, and supervised more than 30 employees across the state. He also chaired the department's suicide review team, which reviewed factors contributing to inmate suicides and how to prevent them.

He was a member of a National Institute of Corrections work group that developed the national Prison Rape Elimination Act model, for which he also will be responsible at OYA. He holds corrections and reserve police training certification from the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Jeske also has served on the Falls City School Board, Falls City Planning Commission and as a reserve officer for the Amity Police Department. He was named Oregon Department of Corrections' 2008 manager of the year.

“Ken Jeske’s experience, motivation and unwavering ethics will be valuable to OYA as we further our efforts in ensuring a safe, ethical and transparent workplace,” said Colette S. Peters, OYA director. “At Corrections Ken built productive relationships with institution management, unions and external stakeholders who appreciated his service-oriented approach.”

At OYA, Jeske succeeds Jason Barber, who joined the Oregon Department of Agriculture as a division administrator.

OYA has custody of approximately 925 youthful offenders ages 12 to 25 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and the agency also supervises approximately 1,000 youth on parole and probation.

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