



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority
Director's Office
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301-3765
PHONE: (503) 373-7212
FAX: (503) 373-7622

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ann Snyder, Interim Communications Manager, 503-378-6023,
ann.snyder@oya.state.or.us

Linn, Benton, Lincoln juvenile parole and probation officer honored

Colynn Elder, a juvenile parole and probation officer working with youth in Linn, Benton and Lincoln counties, was honored Wednesday for exemplary service to the Oregon Youth Authority and the youth the agency serves.

Elder received one of the state juvenile corrections agency's "coin awards," a silver dollar-size medal bearing the state seal and given to employees for excellence in reflecting agency values. Elder also works as the OYA foster care certifier for Linn, Benton, Lincoln and part of Marion counties.

Her supervisor, Jim Kramer, said Elder's confidence and professionalism have enabled her to meet the expectations for both jobs for nearly two years. "Colynn's peers see her as someone they can depend on to have answers while the foster parents she certifies feel supported and appreciated," Kramer said.

Elder is among several OYA staff members being recognized statewide as part of Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 18-24. Governor Ted Kulongoski said in his proclamation, "Community corrections professionals uphold the law with dignity, model positive behavior for offenders and dedicate themselves to the public's right to be protected from criminal activity."

"Colynn Elder and other OYA professionals offer compassion and demand accountability that helps former offenders find the promise of productive, crime-free lives," said OYA Director Colette S. Peters. "They play an important role in minimizing the number of OYA youth who reoffend."

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 accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Among the tasks performed by parole and probation officers 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 the youth. A juvenile parole and probation officer is assigned when a youth is committed to OYA and provides continuity regardless of whether the youth is being supervised in the community or a close custody facility.

OYA has 82 juvenile parole and probation officers across the state with caseloads averaging 25 youth.

In her role as a foster care certifier, Elder recruits, certifies and supports foster parents for OYA youth who are on probation or parole, need an out-of-home placement, may be in various stages of treatment for their offenses and for whom an evaluation has shown foster care to be appropriate.

OYA supervises approximately 1,100 youth on parole and probation in communities throughout Oregon, and has custody of approximately 900 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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