



Consolidation of Hillcrest and MacLaren Youth Correctional Facilities

Frequently Asked Questions Updated: May 5, 2016

We know you may have questions about the Oregon Youth Authority's plans to close Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility in Salem and combine it with MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn.

Nichole Kisor, OYA's project manager for the consolidation — with help from other facilities staff — will answer many of the most common questions here. We will update this list regularly, so check back for new information.

If you have a question that you don't see here, send it to OYATenYearPlan@oya.state.or.us.

Q: Is it true that you're closing Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility in Salem? When? Why?

A: Yes, we are closing Hillcrest and moving all of its youth, staff, and programs to MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn by June 2017.

Juvenile crime has decreased in recent years and, as a result, MacLaren and Hillcrest — the two largest of OYA's 10 close-custody facilities — are each about half full. Both facilities also have significant deferred maintenance needs.

We will save taxpayers money and increase efficiency by closing Hillcrest and combining it with MacLaren. The acreage of the MacLaren campus is much larger than Hillcrest, so we will be able to provide youth with more open space for recreational and vocational activities, while also giving us flexibility if we need to expand in the future.

In addition to saving costs, this consolidation will create better outcomes for youth and community safety. The new and remodeled buildings at MacLaren will provide programming spaces for youth that better support the agency's positive human development approach and encourage youth progress. Youth will have more opportunities to engage in supportive interactions and treatment, and to gain the skills they need to become productive, crime-free citizens after they leave OYA.

Q: Are the Hillcrest staff going to lose their jobs?

A: No. OYA will not lay off any current staff as a result of the consolidation. As we combine departments that are duplicated on the Hillcrest and MacLaren campuses, we may find that there are extra positions we eventually need to phase out. If that happens, we'll develop a plan to reach the right staffing levels in each department through attrition, meaning we won't refill the extra positions when they are vacated.

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Q: What will happen to the Hillcrest buildings and property?

A: We are looking into the possibility of selling it at a later date. Right now we are getting an evaluation of the property to determine its likely selling price. In the meantime, we are preparing to mothball the property — maintain it and keep everything in basic working order. We'll share more details when we have them.

Q: How is MacLaren going to change when the two campuses combine?

A: The physical size of campus will not change, and the fence line will not move. However, the size of the youth population will double, to about 300, and the staff size also will double.

Many of the buildings at MacLaren have been empty for a while because we've had fewer youth living there. We will accommodate the additional youth and staff by remodeling and moving back into unused buildings and constructing six new housing units. We also are upgrading some existing housing units and other buildings, including the health clinic.

Hillcrest currently houses intake for all male youth coming to OYA facilities. Intake will move to MacLaren when the two facilities combine.

We plan to move all of the programs at Hillcrest over to the MacLaren campus along with the staff and youth, so there may be some additional services at MacLaren that were not there in the past. This is still in the planning stage.

We will continue to share updates about changes at MacLaren as they develop.

Q: How much do all these changes cost? How are you paying for it?

A: The changes are part of OYA's 10-Year Strategic Plan for Facilities, which lays out updates to all of our close-custody facilities throughout the state. ([Read the entire plan](#)) The 2015 Legislature authorized \$49 million in bond sales to pay for the first two years of the 10-Year Plan, which includes needed work at facilities around the state. The largest portion of that amount — approximately \$33 million to \$34 million — is dedicated to constructing new buildings and renovating current buildings on the MacLaren campus in preparation for moving Hillcrest youth, staff, and programs there by the end of June 2017.

Q: I am a parent/family member of a youth at Hillcrest or MacLaren. How will this change affect me and my youth?

We know that families have a lot of questions about to this project. We are developing an FAQ geared toward families. Stay tuned! If you have any specific questions you're wondering about, you can email them to OYATenYearPlan@oya.state.or.us.

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Q: Will this change affect any of OYA's other close-custody facilities?

A: The consolidation won't have any large impacts on our other facilities. The consolidation is just one part of OYA's 10-Year Strategic Plan, which includes upgrades at all of our close-custody facilities. ([Read the entire plan](#))

Q: I am a juvenile justice department/judge/public safety agency employee who deals frequently with Hillcrest and/or MacLaren. How will that change?

A: We are evaluating all of the changes to determine how they will impact you. We're also developing a communications plan to keep you updated about these changes, including a regular update newsletter. If you have specific questions, you can email them to OYATenYearPlan@oya.state.or.us.

Q: I volunteer and/or have a contract to do work at Hillcrest. How will that change with the consolidation?

A: We're evaluating how the consolidation will impact all of our community partners, and we will have more specific information in the coming months.

We greatly appreciate the work of volunteers in all of our facilities, and we hope that these valuable partnerships can continue when Hillcrest and MacLaren are on one campus. We will be talking separately with Hillcrest volunteers about the impact of the consolidation on their work.

We also will be communicating separately with our contractors about our plans and potential changes.

Q: Hillcrest provides a program or service to the community that I currently use (examples: culinary/baking program, bike repair and donation program). Is that program going to end?

A: Our goal is to transfer all current programs and services to the MacLaren campus. We will have more specific information in the coming months, and we will share our plans as they develop.

Q: Hillcrest has a long history in the community. Are you going to celebrate that in some way?

A: Yes, we plan to host a public celebration at Hillcrest as it closes. We will share more details when we have them.