
Fariborz Pakseresht

Director, Oregon Youth Authority

Fariborz Pakseresht (Fair'-borz Pahk'-ser-esht) has served as director of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) since March 2012. He joined OYA in 2008 after nearly 20 years in a variety of leadership roles with the Oregon departments of Human Services and Administrative Services.

As director, he is responsible for overseeing the operations of the state's juvenile corrections agency, which serves approximately 1,600 youth offenders ages 12-24 at any given time — 600 in close custody and another 1,000 on probation or parole.

OYA operates 10 youth correctional facilities across the state charged with protecting the public by reducing crime, holding youth offenders accountable, and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Mr. Pakseresht has become known as a proponent of efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in government. At the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, he was instrumental in consolidating all publishing and distribution functions statewide, a cost-saving initiative that gained national attention in the field.

Under his guidance at the Oregon Department of Human Services, the agency implemented the DHS Transformation Initiative, a project aimed at transitioning DHS into a high-performing organization. That project resulted in numerous streamlined processes and continues to generate significant operational savings.

At OYA he has sponsored the development of the OYA Performance Management System (OPMS), which tracks performance against goals for more than 100 core processes. Key to the success of that system is the involvement of employees at all levels and locations within the agency, and quarterly outcome reports.

Under his leadership OYA currently is implementing a new, data-driven and research-based Youth Reformation System (YRS), which is aimed at driving down recidivism rates and improving positive outcomes for youth. Both OPMS and YRS are serving as models for other public and private sector organizations in Oregon and throughout the nation.

In October 2013, Mr. Pakseresht was honored with the Outstanding Administrator Award from the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators for his leadership and contributions in the field of juvenile justice.

His community activities include serving on the board of directors for the YMCA of Marion and Polk counties, the board of the Salem Peace Plaza, and on the planning committee of the Annual Salem Peace Lecture. He also is a fellow in the American Leadership Forum and a member of the Oregon Solutions Camp Odyssey Team. His interests include management theories and practices, personal and organizational change, human potential, communications, quantum physics and mindfulness.

Mr. Pakseresht earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Willamette University in Salem and holds a certificate in public management from Willamette's Atkinson Graduate School of Management.



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