May 16, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

The state’s economic forecast released today by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis offers some hopeful news about Oregon’s fiscal climate, but balances that news with a dose of caution. In general, Oregon’s economy is improving, but slowly.

The good news is that 2013-15 General Fund revenues are expected to be slightly higher than previously forecast, which relieves some of the pressure on the Governor and Legislature as they seek to develop a final budget for next biennium. However, Oregon’s economic recovery remains fragile, so it continues to be important that all state agencies stay focused on providing cost-effective and efficient services to Oregonians.

And, although this is positive news for next biennium, we continue to face a very tight budget for the remainder of the current biennium, which ends June 30. As you remember, we began this biennium with a significant budget reduction. That reduction required us to lay off employees, close units, reduce funding for community beds, and delay needed program expenditures. With your help we have been able to hold down expenses, and we must continue to be diligent if we are to end this biennium within budget.

It is still too early to know what OYA’s 2013-15 budget will look like, but we appreciate the support we have received from the Governor, Legislature, and many other external stakeholders for the direction this agency is headed. Your participation in implementing the OYA Performance Management System and the Youth Reformation System is key to maintaining that support.

We will keep you posted as OYA’s 2013-15 budget develops. In the meantime, we thank you for your continued dedication to improving the lives of the youth in our care and custody. The work you do is making a positive difference for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

Joe O’Leary
Deputy Director