NEWS RELEASE
February 3, 2015

Media contact: C. J. Drake
CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us or 503-385-5899

OYA youth medical records now fully online
Oregon Youth Authority in final phase of electronic health record implementation to make youth intake and care more efficient, accessible and cost-efficient for facilities.

In photo at left, Dr. Marcia Adams (left), medical director at the Oregon Youth Authority, reviews an electronic health record with Nurse Nancy Mills. In photo at right, Dr. Adams examines Juan, 18, whose hometown is Hillsboro.

Until late 2014, all medical records for the 650 youth in the Oregon Youth Authority’s close-custody facilities were paper files. Transferring records as youth moved between facilities and from OYA to the community required hand delivery, which was time- and staff-intensive.

OYA has now put this manual process behind it by moving all of its 10 facilities from paper to Electronic Health Records (EHRs). The new system replaces the paper process of charting youth medical and psychiatric histories.

“EHRs are the clinical standard now in place in most major health care systems, hospitals and physicians’ offices,” said OYA Director Fariborz Pakseresht, “and this innovation not only benefits our youth, it places OYA at the forefront of juvenile justice systems nationwide.”
The benefits of the new EHR system are many. As well as reducing costs of maintaining and transferring medical files as youth travel between OYA facilities, EHRs ensure that medication updates are instantly shared and accessible among all caregivers. EHRs also provide continuity of care and access to medical records for community health providers when a youth leaves a facility and returns to the community, regardless of where he or she resides. Chance of human error and time spent accessing medical records are reduced as well.

“Thanks to the cooperation of our physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners and other staff at OYA, we’re now fully online,” said OYA Medical Director Marcia Adams, M.D. “Our goal is to better serve our youth, improve continuity of care, streamline the documentation process and lower costs.”

The next major phase of the EHR transition requires implementing an electronic Medication Administration Record (eMAR) system called Sapphire, which begins this month. Sapphire will replace paper MARs with rolling medication carts assigned to each living unit. Each medication cart will feature a secure, encrypted laptop, where staff will review and document medication orders and administer medications. Medications will be stored safely and securely in the locked carts in secured rooms.

Another portion of the rollout occurring in tandem with the Sapphire transition in February is the incorporation of youth dental care information, including dental histories, treatments, X-rays and other care. When completed, every aspect of a youth’s medical record will be available electronically to authorized staff and medical providers.

NOTE: Reporters may submit requests to interview Dr. Adams to C. J. Drake at CJ.Drake@oya.state.or.us or by calling 503-385-5899.

# # #

The Oregon Youth Authority is the state’s juvenile justice agency, promoting public safety and reducing victimization by helping at-risk young people lead productive, crime-free lives. Learn more at www.oregon.gov/oya and follow OYA on Twitter @OregonYouth