



# 2011 Oregon Youth Authority Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations

Submitted in accordance  
with Senate Bill 770  
ORS 182.162-166 by the  
Oregon Youth Authority



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## Our Commitment to Oregon's Tribes



Colette S. Peters  
Director  
Oregon Youth Authority

I am pleased to present the Oregon Youth Authority's 2011 Government-to-Government report detailing our partnerships with Oregon's tribes.

OYA is committed to ensuring all youth in our care and custody receive culturally appropriate services. To that end, we work closely with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to ensure Native American youth offenders receive culturally appropriate supports that enhance the effectiveness of their treatment.

Tribes have a great impact on the success of youth returning to their communities, and serve as a vital link between youth who come to OYA and their families and culture. OYA recognizes that tribes are uniquely able to address risk factors that could contribute to a youth's delinquency.

As sovereign nations, tribal governments are crucial members of the public safety and juvenile justice continuums. They coordinate and collaborate on delivery of services for youth in OYA's custody, enabling our agency to better provide culturally relevant treatment and intervention opportunities. And, once tribal youth return to their communities, tribes help provide a range of services that offer additional support to help ensure youth are able to successfully re-enter society.

We are pleased to be able to work with our tribal partners to achieve our shared goals of improving outcomes for youth, and look forward to working with tribes in the year ahead to build on the successes we have achieved this past year.

Sincerely,

Colette S. Peters  
Director

## Report Highlights

Highlights of this year's Government-to-Government report include:

- Tribal police were recognized as peace officers in the state of Oregon with the passage of Senate Bill 421 by the 2011 Legislative Assembly. Governor John Kitzhaber wrote a letter of support for the tribes, which was sent to the Oregon State Sheriffs Association.
- The Klamath Tribal Chair and Tribal Secretary toured the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in Grants Pass.
- OYA continued to maintain memoranda of understanding with seven tribes.
- OYA continued to chair the Public Safety Cluster meetings.
- OYA's Tribal Liaison, along with a representative from the Jefferson County Juvenile Department and the OYA Central Oregon field team, conducted quarterly case management meetings with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Community Counseling.
- Representatives of OYA's Southern Oregon field staff and the OYA Tribal Liaison met with the Klamath tribal council and administration.
- OYA Deputy Director Fariborz Pakseresht met with representatives of the Burns Paiute Tribe to discuss ways the tribe and the Burns close-custody facility could work together to better promote reformation services for tribal youth.
- OYA staff and volunteers continued to provide cultural services for Native American and tribal youth in OYA custody.
- OYA's Tribal Liaison provided mandatory trainings for all Cow Creek tribal staff members.
- The Burns Paiute Tribe was invited to join the Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility advisory committee.
- The Burns Paiute Tribe invited OYA's Tribal Liaison to participate on the tribe's detention facility exploratory committee.
- The OYA Native American Advisory Committee conducted a ceremony honoring a Native American youth from Camp Florence Youth Transition Facility.

## Oregon Youth Authority

The mission of the Oregon Youth Authority is to protect the public and reduce crime by holding youth offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

OYA does this by exercising legal and physical custody of offenders adjudicated to OYA by juvenile courts, and physical custody of young offenders sentenced by adult courts. The agency serves the state's most delinquent youth ages 12 through 24 who commit crimes before their 18th birthday.

OYA manages approximately 1,800 youth offenders at any given time. Approximately 1,050 youth are in communities on probation or parole. The remainder — approximately 750 youth — live in secured close-custody facilities. Approximately 5 percent of youth in OYA's custody are Native American.

Research shows that the most effective way to encourage youth to lead crime-free lives is by providing the appropriate combination of culturally specific treatment and education. To that end, OYA engages tribal governments in four significant ways:

- Individually, through government-to-government relationships, as established in a memorandum of understanding with each tribe;
- Collectively, through the OYA Native American Advisory Committee;
- Collaboratively, through implementing and coordinating culturally relevant treatment services for Native American youth in OYA custody; and
- Through the coordination and chairing of Public Safety Cluster meetings.

This annual "Government-to-Government Report on Tribal Relations" describes the ways in which OYA and the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon worked together during 2011 to improve outcomes for Native American youth in the juvenile justice system.

The nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon are the:

- Burns Paiute Tribe;
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde;
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz;
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation;
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs;
- Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes;
- Coquille Tribe;
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians; and
- Klamath Tribes.

## Budget Reductions

As a result of budget reductions, caused by reduced General Fund revenues, the Oregon Youth Authority's close-custody capacity was reduced during 2011 from 900 beds to 750. This loss was offset somewhat by the addition of 103 beds in residential treatment programs, resulting in a total of 658 community beds. The budget cuts also resulted in the elimination of 120 positions. The capacity and staffing reductions took place at Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility (YCF) in Salem, MacLaren YCF in Woodburn, and Oak Creek YCF near Albany.

The reduction in close-custody beds dramatically alters the youth population in OYA's close-custody facilities and, with the increase of community treatment beds, shifts youth from close-custody facilities to community programs. These changes will affect many youth in OYA and, as these changes occur, the agency will be mindful of the impact on tribal and Native American youth.

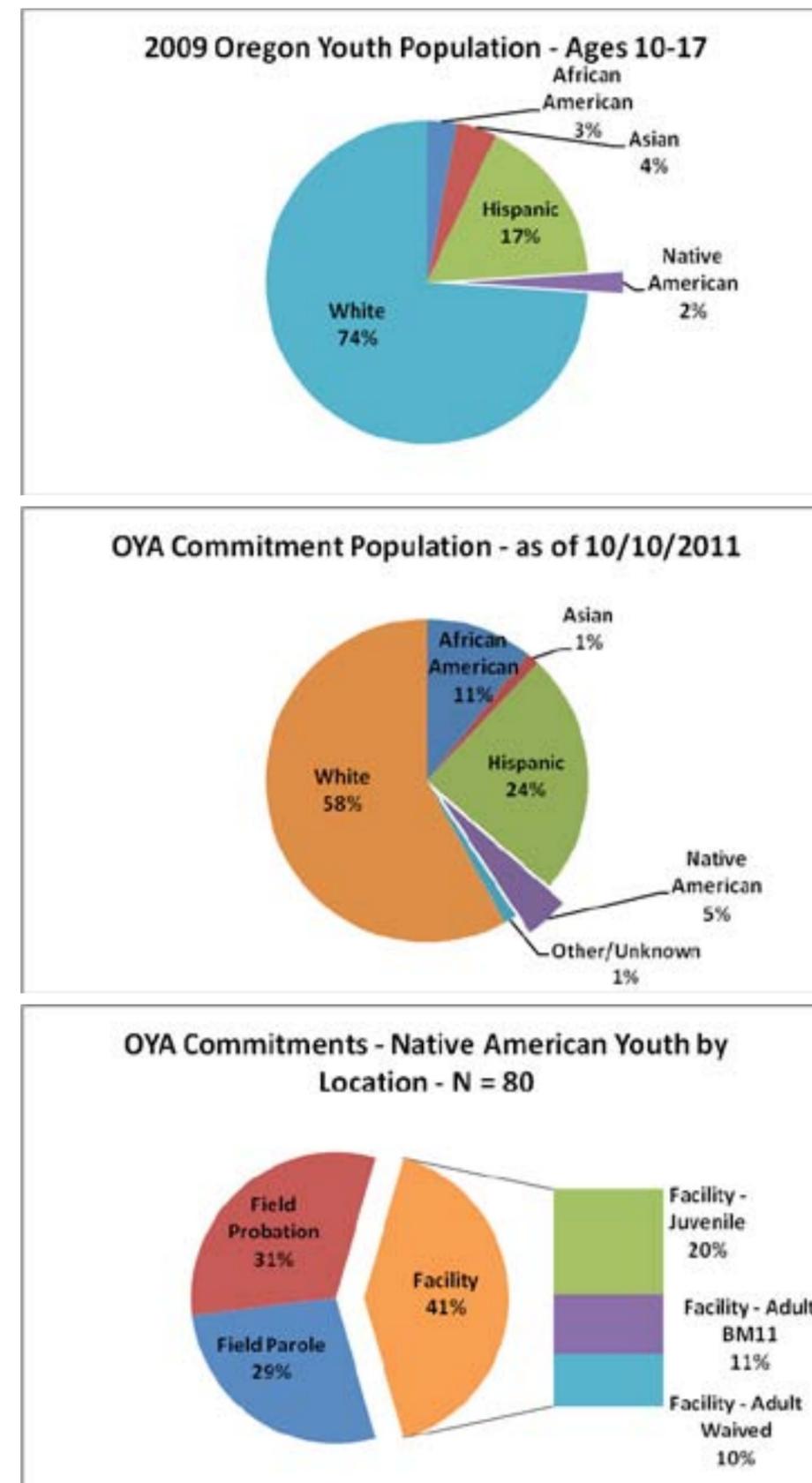
## Native American Youth

OYA has legal or physical custody of approximately 1,800 youth offenders, of whom approximately 80 self-identify as Native American. Of those, 63 are juvenile commitments and 17 are adult commitments sentenced under Measure 11 or waived to adult court.

Relative to Oregon's population, Native American youth are over-represented in the juvenile justice system and in OYA. Native American youth make up approximately 2 percent of Oregonians ages 10-17, but 5 percent of the youth committed to OYA.

The charts on page 7 provide more information about Native American youth in Oregon and OYA.

## Native American Youth



## Tribal and OYA Relations

### Communication liaisons

The government-to-government relationships between tribes and OYA support OYA's mission of public safety, accountability, and reformation for youth offenders. These relationships also enhance community safety by increasing the opportunities for successful reintegration of tribal youth returning to their communities.

OYA is represented in these relationships by Jack Lawson, the agency's Tribal Liaison. Each of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes also has identified a key contact to be the first link in communications between OYA and the tribes. Each key contact is a vital liaison who provides opportunities to identify mutual concerns, resources for youth offenders, and activities in OYA and communities. These individuals are instrumental in enhancing communications between OYA and the respective tribes, and also serve on OYA's Native American Advisory Committee.

### Memoranda of understanding

To establish formal relationships with Oregon's tribal governments, OYA has entered into or is in the process of negotiating memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with each tribe, pursuant to ORS 182.162-166. While the MOUs are tailored to meet the individual needs and concerns of each tribe, the agreements generally identify areas of mutual concern including services to Native American youth, mutually agreed upon roles and responsibilities, and methods for promoting effective communications and positive relationships.

Each MOU generally includes assurances that tribal youth are identified when they enter OYA custody, that tribal and Native American youth in OYA receive culturally appropriate assessments and services, and that tribes have opportunities to participate in planning the reformation efforts and transition services for tribal youth as the youth change placements or leave OYA custody.

OYA currently has MOUs with seven Oregon tribal governments:

- Burns Paiute Tribe;
- Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes;
- Coquille Tribe;
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz;
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation;
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians; and
- Klamath Tribes.

## Tribal and OYA Relations

Although OYA has yet to finalize MOUs with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the agency continues to pursue agreements with these tribes. The OYA Tribal Liaison will continue to work toward achieving agreements with all nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

Although OYA has no formal agreements with the Grand Ronde and Warm Springs tribes, OYA continues to conduct its relationship with the tribes as if agreements exist. This ensures consistent support for all nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon.

Some of the challenges in coming to an agreement have been the tribes' advocacy for conditions OYA is unable to meet under current law. These include access to OYA close-custody beds at no cost to the tribes, relative foster care payment, and acceptance of tribal foster home certification for OYA placement:

- Although ORS 420A.040 allows tribes to place youth in OYA custody, the statute states that tribes must pay reasonable expenses associated with the incarceration and treatment of the youth offender. OYA sought an opinion from the Attorney General's Office on this issue and was informed that, unless there is a change in Oregon statute, OYA is unable to provide free access for tribes to close-custody beds.
- ORS 420.888 disallows relative foster care payments. The statute, which defines a foster home, states that foster parents must be unrelated to the person by blood or marriage and unattended by the youth offender's parents or guardian.
- ORS 420.890 states that a person may not operate a youth offender foster home without a certificate of approval issued by the Oregon Youth Authority.

Although OYA is unable to reimburse families for relative foster care or accept tribal foster home certification, the agency has offered the tribes an opportunity to identify a tribal home as an OYA foster home, after which OYA would train, reimburse, and support the identified home. This offer remains under discussion.

It is important to note that, while the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) does not apply to delinquency cases and youth in juvenile corrections, OYA works to make every accommodation to ensure tribes are involved with their youth while the youth are under the jurisdiction of OYA. This includes tribal notification of each youth's status as well as ongoing communication and collaboration for treatment, intervention, and transition services.

## Tribal and OYA Relations

### Public Safety Cluster

The Public Safety Cluster (PSC) convenes state public safety agencies and tribal officials to discuss and address tribal-specific public safety issues and issues of mutual concern. OYA Tribal Liaison Jack Lawson serves as chair of the PSC.

The PSC met three times in 2011. All of the meetings were hosted by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). These meetings brought together state and tribal public safety agencies, departments, commissions, and judicial systems. The PSC is appreciative of the DPSST for continued support and collaboration with the government-to-government meetings.

The PSC meetings provide a forum for identifying issues affecting public safety in tribal and Oregon communities. These meetings enable participants to share ideas, information, and strategies to promote safer communities throughout Oregon. In addition, these meetings enhance government-to-government relationships among state agencies and tribal public safety partners.

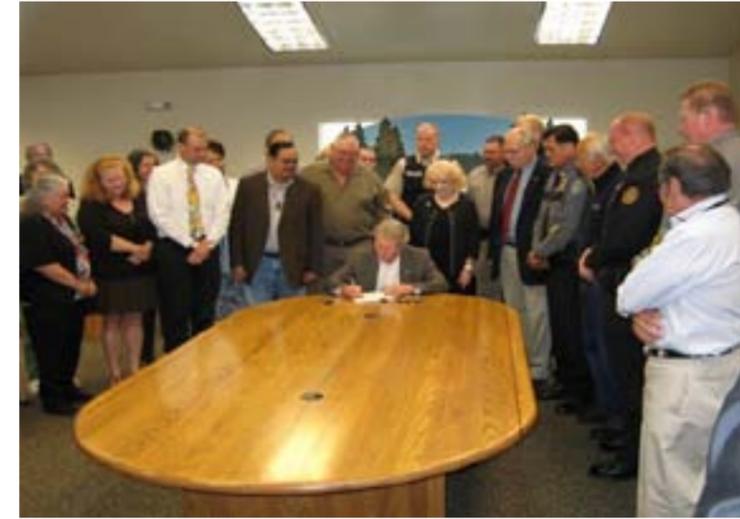
OYA looks forward to continuing to chair the PSC in 2011, and to continuing to make the meetings productive and meaningful for the members.

## Tribal and OYA Relations

### Peace Officers

One outgrowth of these meetings and discussions was support from the PSC for Senate Bill 412, which was passed by the 2011 Legislative Assembly and signed into law by Governor John Kitzhaber. The passage of this bill changed state statute by including tribal police in the definition of peace officer in the state of Oregon. The signing ceremony took place in July at an event hosted by the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Tribes.

The issue of the definition of peace officer is one that had been on the PSC agenda for approximately 10 years. Some of the many people who helped make passage of this bill possible were Governor John Kitzhaber and key legislators; the tribal chiefs of police (Brad Kneaper, Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes; Tim Addleman, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Mark Creighton, Burns Paiute Tribe; and Carmen Smith, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs); Jim Soules, former Public Safety Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and Scott LeFever, Coquille Tribe member. PSC is proud of these individuals' efforts and honored to have been a part of this accomplishment.



Members of the Public Safety Cluster watch as Governor John Kitzhaber signs Senate Bill 412 into law.

## Tribal and OYA Relations

### Native American Advisory Committee

The Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) is formulated to assist OYA with matters concerning Native American communities throughout Oregon. The committee comprises representatives from the nine federally recognized tribes within Oregon and identified community representatives throughout the state.

During 2011, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz appointed Lorraine Butler as the new key contact to serve on NAAC. She replaces George Nagel, who had represented the Siletz on NAAC for seven years. NAAC thanks Mr. Nagel for his service.

NAAC's primary functions are to:

- Establish community links between OYA and the Native American community;
- Recruit volunteers to support services offered by OYA for Native American youth in OYA close-custody facilities;
- Consult regarding transition and aftercare services for Native American youth;
- Develop staff training on Native American culture and tribal structure;
- Recruit and retain Native American staff within OYA to sustain an employee workforce that reflects the diversity of the youth offender population;
- Consult on the cultural competency of programs, services, and policies regarding Native American youth within OYA; and
- Establish resources for out-of-home placements (foster homes).

Topics of advisory committee meetings have included:

- Priorities of the tribes,
- Review of Native American youth in OYA custody,
- OYA's Tribal Notification Policy, and
- Services to Native American and tribal youth.

During 2011, committee members continued to meet regularly to articulate the priorities of each tribe and identify ways in which the committee may better serve tribal and OYA interests and needs. The tribes and OYA agree NAAC should focus on system issues, policy reviews, and development of resources for youth.

NAAC, at its January 20, 2011, meeting in Portland, conducted a recognition ceremony for a Native American youth from Camp Florence Youth Transition Facility. This was the first such recognition ceremony NAAC has conducted.

The tribes recognized this youth for his efforts at changing his destructive life patterns, engaging in Native American cultural activities, participating in sweat lodge ceremonies, and mentoring and supporting other youth while confined in OYA facilities.

## Tribal and OYA Relations

This ceremony had a tremendously positive impact on the youth. The tribes plan to continue to refine the recognition ceremony and to work with OYA to develop a sustainable recognition process. An elder from the Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA), Cultural Coordinator Philip Archumbault, conducted the ceremony.

### Statewide Advisory Committee

OYA maintains an advisory committee of juvenile justice partners and stakeholders to provide input and information on issues and events affecting juvenile justice, as well as to advise OYA on its policies and practices. The tribal NAAC co-chair continues to represent tribal concerns on the Statewide Advisory Committee and to share tribal issues that need to be addressed by all of the agency's stakeholders.

### Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility Advisory Committee

The Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility has created an advisory committee composed of local stakeholders and partners in the Burns area to promote communication and collaboration, and to provide a forum for local juvenile justice issues. The Burns Paiute Tribe has been invited to be a member of the advisory council.

### Ongoing support

OYA's leadership remains committed to maintaining ongoing, open communications with the tribes in Oregon, and to developing ways to ensure better outcomes for Native American youth in the custody of OYA.

## OYA and Individual Tribes

### Meetings with individual tribes

#### Burns Paiute Tribe

OYA Deputy Director Fariborz Pakseresht met with representatives of the Burns Paiute Tribe to discuss the tribe's connection to the local close-custody facility, and how the tribe and OYA could work together to provide better reformation services for tribal youth. Deputy Director Pakseresht extended an invitation to the tribe to visit the Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility and to help provide culturally appropriate services for Native American youth in the facility.

OYA's Tribal Liaison was invited to participate in developing a strategy for a detention center for the Burns Paiute Tribe. Eastern Oregon Youth Correctional Facility Superintendent Doug Smith attended the meeting to introduce himself to the tribal representatives, continue to make connections with the tribe, and promote continued communication and collaboration.

The Burns Paiute Tribal Council has approved OYA Tribal Liaison Jack Lawson to be on the tribe's planning committee to develop a detention center for the tribe. OYA's tribal liaison looks forward to the opportunity to work with the tribe on this project.

#### Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Community Counseling continued to meet quarterly with OYA's Central Oregon Juvenile Probation and Parole Supervisor, a representative from the Jefferson County Juvenile Department, and the OYA Tribal Liaison to strengthen the partnership and collaboration between the tribe and OYA, and to establish a continuum of services for tribal youth offenders as they prepare to re-enter the Warm Springs community. The group discussed collaborative services for Warm Springs tribal youth, reviewed Warm Springs tribal youth cases, and agreed to continue to identify and collaborate on resources and strategies for Warm Springs tribal youth in OYA custody. Recognizing the benefit of these meetings, the tribe and OYA have agreed to continue to hold these meetings on a quarterly basis.

## OYA and Individual Tribes

### Klamath Tribes

The Klamath Tribal Chair, members of the tribal council, and tribal administrators met with OYA's Tribal Liaison, Southern Oregon field supervisor, and juvenile probation and parole officers. The purpose of the meeting was to make introductions and provide information to the tribe about OYA programs for Native American youth. In addition, the meeting provided a forum to discuss re-entry processes for Klamath tribal youth returning to the community and identify collaborative efforts and resources to aid in their successful transition.

Klamath Tribal Chair Gary Frost, and Klamath Tribal Secretary Torina Case toured the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in Grants Pass. Rogue Valley YCF Superintendent Ken Jerin led the tour. Tour participants included administration staff, program directors, treatment managers, Southern Oregon Field Supervisor Craig Contreras, and OYA's Tribal Liaison. In addition to meeting with Rogue Valley YCF staff, Klamath tribal representatives had an opportunity to meet with several of the youth. Chairman Frost reported that he enjoyed the tour and was impressed with the facility and the work OYA is doing with youth.

## A Shared Commitment

### Reconnecting Native American youth with cultural traditions

Services provided to Native American youth in OYA custody promote personal responsibility, accountability, community safety, and reintegration into family and community. Services include transitional assistance, culturally relevant treatment and interventions, culturally relevant social and spiritual activities, and tribal support resources.

Many of the Native American youth who enter OYA have not had contact with their tribes and cultural or spiritual traditions prior to entering the juvenile justice system. While these youth will receive interventions from the ongoing cognitive behavioral programs offered by OYA, the exposure to and practice of Native American values and traditions provides a uniquely important opportunity for many Native American youth to become acquainted with their culture and heritage for the first time. OYA views these services as crucial to the treatment and reformation needs of Native American youth.

OYA encourages tribes to engage with their youth while the youth are in close-custody facilities. Tribes are welcome to conduct ceremonies and rituals specific to their tribal traditions.

### Coordinating treatment services

OYA juvenile probation and parole officers (JPPOs) working out of OYA field offices are responsible for both the direct supervision of youth offenders in the community and for case management of youth in OYA's close-custody facilities. JPPOs coordinate multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings for youth to develop and monitor treatment plans.

In coordinating treatment services for youth offenders, the JPPOs have direct contact with tribes. OYA's Tribal Notification Policy directs JPPOs to notify the tribes and the OYA Tribal Liaison when a youth in OYA's custody is identified as a tribal youth. Additionally, tribes are included as MDT core members for their youth, enabling them to participate in planning and delivering services to tribal youth.

## A Shared Commitment

### Providing culturally relevant services

OYA recognizes that treatment and reformation efforts are more effective when provided in the context of each youth's culture. OYA is the only juvenile justice agency in the United States with an Office of Minority Services (OMS) dedicated to meeting the specific cultural and linguistic needs of minority youth. OMS coordinates a variety of cultural events, provides culturally specific support groups, provides staff training, and coordinates and provides gang intervention services through a curriculum developed by OMS.

OMS services provide Native American and tribal youth opportunities to participate in sweatlodge and pipe ceremonies, talking circles, pow wows, culturally relevant support groups, and individual meetings with staff, contracted providers, and volunteers. In addition, OYA welcomes tribal participation if tribes wish to conduct a ceremony for their youth in OYA custody.

These services provide youth with positive identity development, strengthen resistance to negative peer associations, offer increased options for positive thinking and behavior, and generally support and enhance other treatment opportunities in OYA. Participation in these programs provides youth with opportunities to incorporate values from Native American cultures into their thinking and beliefs, which then become part of the youths' treatment and reformation.

### Supporting minority youth transition

OYA's Office of Minority Services continues to employ two full-time transition specialists, Christina Puentes and Johnny Demus, who coordinate treatment and aftercare for youth returning to their communities from close-custody facilities. Ms. Puentes provides transition services for youth living in Marion, Polk, Multnomah, and Washington counties. Mr. Demus provides transition services for youth living in Clackamas, Washington, and Multnomah counties.

Native American youth eligible for these transition services include not only enrolled youth from Oregon's tribes, but also youth whose tribes are outside Oregon. The transition program has a pool of community contractors who provide culturally specific and language-appropriate services for youth as they return to their communities.

## A Shared Commitment

The goal of the Minority Youth Transition Program is to have minority youth be successful in their community following incarceration in a youth correctional facility. Reducing recidivism rates of minority youth is a primary goal of the transition program. This is accomplished through a collaborative effort that includes tribes, contracted service providers, the youth's parole officer, and other community resources.

### Collaborating on facility programs

Many OYA staff, contractors, and volunteers work together to meet the objective of incorporating services for Native American youth.

#### Coastal Oregon

- Camp Florence Youth Transitional Facility (Florence)
- Camp Tillamook YTF (Tillamook)
- North Coast Youth Correctional Facility (Warrenton)
- Tillamook YCF (Tillamook)

Dusty McKay continued to provide sweatlodge services at Camp Florence YTF, Camp Tillamook YTF, North Coast YCF, and Tillamook YTF.

Tillamook YCF hosted their first pow wow, which included youth from Camp Tillamook YTF. The event was a great success and the facility was especially appreciative of the community support. Traditional dancers Tony Whitehead and Stuart Whitehead, members of their families, and members of NARA and the Veterans Color Guard, participated in the event.



The Veterans Color Guard participates in the Tillamook YCF pow wow.

## A Shared Commitment

#### Eastern Oregon

- Eastern Oregon YCF (Burns)

OYA's Tribal Liaison conducted sweatlodge ceremonies for the youth in the facility. OYA continues to look for support from the tribe and local area for services.

- RiverBend YTF (La Grande)

The RiverBend Transition Program in La Grande now has a sweatlodge. OYA's Tribal Liaison conducted ceremonies for the youth in the facility and continues to look for local support for services at the facility.

#### Southern Oregon

- Rogue Valley YCF (Grants Pass)

Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility continually has had a sweatlodge on its grounds since 2001. Members of the Southern Oregon Indian Center (SOIC) in Grants Pass assisted in the construction of the sweatlodge. Although SOIC no longer is in operation, Nick Hall and other former members of the center continue to be active participants in the lives of the young men in the facility. Services they provide include bi-weekly sweatlodge ceremonies, regular Sunday meetings, other spiritual ceremonies, and training with an emphasis on connecting the youth with their cultures. These volunteers also help coordinate the facility's annual pow wows.

#### Willamette Valley

- Hillcrest YCF (Salem)

Dusty McKay, the contracted provider for Hillcrest YCF, coordinates sweatlodge ceremonies, talking circles, support groups, and individual youth meetings, and assists with the coordination of Hillcrest's annual pow wow.

Hillcrest YCF continued to host annual pow wows. The pow wows provide opportunities for community participation by tribes and Native American organizations, allow youth contact with their tribal and cultural values, and educate all youth offenders about Native American culture. OYA appreciates the generosity of the Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA) for the drum and singers for the Hillcrest pow wows and NARA's ongoing support for youth in OYA facilities. Youth and OYA staff gain a lasting benefit from participating in the pow wows.

## A Shared Commitment

- MacLaren YCF (Woodburn)

Steve Llanes, the Native American Services coordinator at MacLaren YCF, coordinates and conducts sweatlodge ceremonies; meets with youth individually; facilitates talking circles, support groups, mentorship groups, and drumming groups; attends treatment Multidisciplinary Team meetings with youth; and coordinates the annual MacLaren pow wow. In addition, Mr. Llanes supports training activities and works with community partners.

MacLaren YCF continued to host annual pow wows. The pow wows provide opportunities for community participation by tribes and Native American organizations, allow youth contact with their tribal and cultural values, and educate all youth offenders about Native American culture. OYA appreciates the generosity of the Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA) for the drum and singers for the MacLaren pow wows and their ongoing support for youth in OYA facilities. Youth and OYA staff gain a lasting benefit from participating in the pow wows.

- Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility (Albany)

Oak Creek Youth Correctional Facility is OYA's all-female close-custody facility. Volunteers Jan Smith and Michelle Bouvia-Emeott visit the facility to conduct sweatlodge ceremonies and meet with the young women on a regular basis. Both are dedicated to the Native American culture and serve as positive influences for the girls in the facility.

Oak Creek hosted its fourth annual pow wow in July. Nick Sixkiller, an employee of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, emceed the event.



Veterans Color Guard members served as flag bearers for the pow wow at Oak Creek YCF.

## Improving Outcomes

### Supporting successful re-entry

OYA received a federal grant award in late 2009 from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The purpose of this Second Chance Re-entry Grant is to improve outcomes for youth released to parole from OYA close-custody facilities. The overall goal is the continued development of a comprehensive infrastructure to provide youth with needed alcohol and drug treatment and other transitional supports such as access to appropriate mental and physical health services, education and vocation training, employment, housing, independent living skills, and other re-entry services.

The project design establishes two primary council structures: the Statewide Re-entry Advisory Council and three regional re-entry committees. A representative from the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has been invited to serve as a member on the Statewide Re-entry Advisory Council. Other tribes will be invited to serve on the regional advisory committees.

### Reducing recidivism

OYA tracks recidivism as a key performance measure. The official measure OYA reports to the Oregon Legislature is a felony adjudication or adult conviction with a disposition of formal supervision by the state or county calculated at 36 months after release from close custody. The tables on page 22 represent the 36-month recidivism rate by race/ethnicity for youth who were released from close custody from July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2006.

## Improving Outcomes

Dashes replace percentages where there are fewer than 30 youth in the cohort. Because of the small numbers of youth involved, the Native American recidivism rates can fluctuate greatly from year to year.

### OYA Probation

Oregon Youth Authority Recidivism Rates through June 30, 2011 OYA Probation Commitments During the Cohort Year by Race/Ethnicity Recidivism Tracking: Months Since Commitment to OYA Probation				
Fiscal-Year Cohort	Race/Ethnicity	# In Cohort	36 Months	
			#	Rate
FY08	African American	24	8	—
	Asian	8	1	—
	Caucasian	281	61	21.7%
	Hispanic	80	21	26.3%
	Native American	14	2	—
	Other/Unknown	6	2	—

### OYA Parole

Oregon Youth Authority Recidivism Rates through June 30, 2011 First-Time OYA Parole Releases During the Cohort Year by Race/Ethnicity Recidivism Tracking: Months Since Release from Close Custody				
Fiscal-Year Cohort	Race/Ethnicity	# In Cohort	36 Months	
			#	Rate
FY08	African American	33	13	39.4%
	Asian	10	4	—
	Caucasian	218	55	25.2%
	Hispanic	64	24	37.5%
	Native American	20	10	—
	Other/Unknown	4	0	—

### DOC Youth Released to Post-Prison Supervision from OYA Close Custody

Oregon Youth Authority Recidivism Rates through June 30, 2011 First-Time DOC Releases from OYA Close Custody During the Cohort Year by Race/Ethnicity Recidivism Tracking: Months Since Release from Close Custody				
Fiscal-Year Cohort	Race/Ethnicity	# In Cohort	36 Months	
			#	Rate
FY08	African American	11	2	—
	Asian	1	0	—
	Caucasian	37	4	10.8%
	Hispanic	9	1	—
	Native American	6	1	—
	Other/Unknown	0	0	—

## Improving Outcomes

### Reducing overrepresentation of Native American youth

OYA has been granted permission by the Governor's Office to take the lead in coordinating a 2012 Governor's Summit on Disproportionate Minority Contact. The purpose of the Governor's Summit will be to review data and highlight specific strategies that reduce the incarceration, detention, and adjudication of minority youth in Oregon.

OYA will seek to include legislators, law enforcement officers, state agency directors, tribal members, youth advocates, educators, community members, and other stakeholders involved in working with minority youth. The summit planning committee will invite a tribal representative to be on the planning committee and will reach out to the tribes for their participation.

In addition, each of Oregon's tribes has developed a juvenile crime prevention plan and has been implementing those plans in their communities.

## Looking Ahead

### Training opportunities for OYA staff

OYA staff attended 2011 Tribal Information Day in May at the Oregon Capitol. Among those attending were OYA Deputy Director Fariborz Pakseresht, MaClaren Youth Correctional Facility Native American Services Coordinator Steve Llanes, Office of Minority Services Manager Lonnie Jackson, and Tribal Liaison Jack Lawson.

All new employees of OYA receive an orientation on tribal governments and Senate Bill 770. Training on tribal governments during new employee orientation ensures that all OYA employees will have a basic awareness of tribes within Oregon and OYA's government-to-government relationships with them.

Cultural competency training is required for all OYA staff working with youth offenders. All new OYA employees are expected have a basic awareness of Native American cultural values, beliefs, social norms, and customs. This training begins laying the foundation for new employees to work with minority youth and describes the need for culturally relevant services.

In addition, OYA began rolling out a new agency-wide performance system during 2011 that incorporates cultural competence as a key goal for OYA's workforce. An initiative led by the Office of Minority Services is under way to improve the agency's ability to hire, train, and retain diverse and culturally competent staff.

### Training classes for tribal staff

OYA's Tribal Liaison was invited by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians to conduct two day-long cultural competency training sessions for all tribal staff. The first session took place in October; the second session is scheduled for late November.

These trainings are an avenue to enable open discussion on culture and cultural differences, and promote and foster positive relationships between tribal and non-tribal staff. OYA Tribal Liaison Jack Lawson is appreciative of the opportunity to work with the Cow Creek tribal staff and looks forward to ongoing opportunities to work with the tribe.

## Looking Ahead

### Ongoing relationship building

OYA's Native American Coordinator continues to meet with the tribal communication liaisons to share information, coordinate services, resolve concerns, review and negotiate memoranda of understanding, and provide updated reports to tribal councils. OYA continues to be actively committed to building, maintaining, and supporting strong government-to-government relations with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

## Additional Resources

More information about tribal and state government relations is available from:

OYA Tribal Liaison Jack Lawson  
503-378-6973 or [jack.lawson@oya.state.or.us](mailto:jack.lawson@oya.state.or.us)

Tribal Key Contact Directory:  
[http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis/key\\_contacts/agencies\\_and\\_clusters.pdf](http://www.leg.state.or.us/cis/key_contacts/agencies_and_clusters.pdf)

Oregon Tribal Evidence-Based and Cultural Best Practices  
<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/ebp/tribal-ebp-report.pdf?ga=t>

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