

MAY
2013

INSIDE OYA

This issue of *Inside OYA* continues bringing you up to date on what's been happening at OYA while the newsletter was temporarily out of production.

Highlights of this issue...

P2
YRS
Community 101

P3
Sponsors, Inc.

P4
Invisible children

P5
Eastern Oregon

P6
Baking at Hillcrest

P7
Dogs at MacLaren

P8
J Bar J

P10
YRS terminology

Achievements earn Oak Creek PbS recognition

Oak Creek YCF is the first recipient of a new perpetual plaque that will be awarded semi-annually to the facility demonstrating the most improvement during the prior Performance-based Standards (PbS) data-collection period.

PbS Statewide Coordinator Gary Westoby presented the plaque to Oak Creek Superintendent Mike Riggan and former Superintendent Lory Humbert during November's monthly meeting of Superintendents and Camp Directors.

"I want to recognize the good work Mike and Lory have been doing at Oak Creek," he said in making the presentation. He said Oak Creek reduced Youth Incident Reports by 64 percent from a year earlier, coinciding with conversion of the Birch living unit to an intervention unit.

The rate at which youth reported fearing for their safety fell from 64 percent to 28 percent, while the rate of staff fearing for safety fell from nearly 52 percent to 15 percent. Oak Creek also improved on 94 percent of PbS critical outcome measures. "It's applying the facility improvement plans and working the plans, it's rolling up the shirt sleeves of everybody involved," Westoby said.

All 10 OYA facilities are at level 2 or 3 on the PbS four-level scale. "Only a handful of facilities anywhere have ever achieved level 4," Westoby said, "and most of those facilities are small."

OYA's level 3 facilities are Camp Florence, Camp Tillamook, RiverBend, and Tillamook. All others are level 2. Rogue Valley missed level 3 by only 0.63 percent.

The PbS perpetual plaque was crafted by Rogue Valley YCF youth in Warren Helgeson's vocational-education class. ■



Jennifer Peterson, Jeff Tegner, and Mike Freeze show off Oak Creek's PbS award plaque.

If you would like to submit a photo for use as an Inside OYA masthead, please send your photo via e-mail to oya.communications@oya.state.or.us.

SERVICE AWARDS

The service awards listed are for the first three months of 2013.

25 YEARS

Scott Barnes
Camp Florence YTF

Donald Cozad
Facility Services

20 YEARS

Ronnie Brown
RiverBend YTF

Derrick Ingram
MacLaren YCF

Paul Rankin
RiverBend YTF

James Shelly
MacLaren YCF

15 YEARS

Joann Beatty
Rogue Valley YCF

Dianna Brainard
Director's Office

Kevin Briels
Eastern Oregon YCF

YRS already helping ensure best placements

Clackamas Probation and Parole Supervisor Vikki Whitmore tells about a Clackamas County youth with minor charges whose aggressive behavior led to school expulsion and prevented him from being accepted by a residential program. But based on his typology and low ORRA score, she said, an OYA commitment didn't make sense.

"We ended up putting supports in the community," she said. "The JPPO worked hard to get supports the youth needed, and we were able to work with the juvenile department and the judge to keep him from further penetrating the system."

The supports included counseling, mentoring, an alternative school, and drug and alcohol treatment. It was an early example of how OYA's Youth Reformation System (YRS) worked to provide youth with the right treatment in the right place for the right amount of time.

YRS is based on work by OYA's Research Unit that predicts the likelihood of new offenses in the community (ORRA and ORRA-V) or of inappropriate behavior in a facility (ONIRA and OVIRA). See page 10 of this issue for more information about these terms.

It is gaining national attention because, said Director Fariborz Pakseresht, "There are no other tools nationally, that we are aware of, that tell us which youth should be in the system or where they can best be served in the system."

He said YRS also will turn attention to identifying which youth come into the system with an

Continued on page 4

Community 101 class holds mock election

The nation's political parties weren't the only ones who learned a thing or two from November's general election. So did students in Robert S. Farrell High School's Community 101 class, who conducted a mock election of their own.

Students learned about the issues, created the ballots, and conducted the election among both students and several school faculty and OYA staff members. Voting results were heavily weighted in favor of President Obama, although the exercise was more about education than election winners.

"I think we got a better understanding of what an election is about and what they will face when they're back in the community," said student Brandon D. Students read newspapers and conducted other research about candidates and issues, and made presentations to the full class. "I think I got to like Romney a little bit more," Brandon said. "As I got to know more about him, he's an all right guy."

Voters in the mock election also voiced opinions about six state ballot measures and three school issues.

Hillcrest's Community 101 class is best known for receiving presentations and distributing \$5,000 annually to selected nonprofits as one of 68 Oregon schools to participate in the Oregon Community Foundation program. Dr. Gordon Kruse, who taught the class for three years as a faculty member and in retirement now teaches it as a contractor, said the mock election promoted several values.

They included heightening civic awareness, conducting research, making presentations, improving written literacy, and taking initiative for community issues. "This helps students learn there is no longer us and them," Kruse said. "There's just us, and how we live together is pretty important." ■

Eugene nonprofit serves older OYA youth, providing important re-entry assistance

Interrupting his lunch preparations in the kitchen, Joseph shares his morning with visitors. "I've already gone to two AA meetings today," he said. "This place is a blessing."

This place is Sponsors Inc., a Eugene nonprofit that last year celebrated 40 years serving parolees with housing and employment. "We're the only landlord in town that requires a felony to get in," joked Executive Director Paul Solomon.

Although most Sponsors residents come from DOC, OYA Assistant Director for Community Services Phil Cox said 15 former OYA youth have gone there over the past year and a half.

Solomon said initial concerns about placing over-18 youth with older residents were unfounded. "They need to be in an environment where they're not around teen-agers because they're adults," he said.

Solomon said Sponsors is unique in Oregon as a program focusing only on former offenders. It relies heavily on community support – not only are there grants and cash donations, but Solomon pointed to dozens of bikes from the Eugene Police Department, exercise equipment donated by a local gym, track shoes from The University of Oregon, TVs from an electronics recycler, a clothing closet, and furniture to outfit new apartments.

Sponsors, which has 10 buildings at five Eugene locations offering 132 beds, was started in 1973 by community activists and Roman Catholic nuns concerned about DOC inmates being released to homelessness. Substance-abuse groups are held there, so no-shows are quickly identified. Residents have access to cognitive behavioral therapy, cooking classes, master-gardener support, and 200 community mentors. Sponsors' per-day cost is \$35, which Solomon expects to rise to \$50 because of funding cutbacks. Residents pay a modest co-pay for housing, their food stamp cards are swiped to help defray meal costs, and they are required to save for permanent housing.

"We spend so much money to apprehend, prosecute, and incarcerate people," Solomon said, "with the knowledge it takes just a little money on the other end to have a profound impact on a person's ability to become a productive member of our community. Reentry is an integral component in the continuum of the criminal justice system."

Sponsors participants get jobs. "We were employing 40 to 50 people a month despite Lane County's higher than average unemployment rate," he said. Sponsors' Amy Cook said adjudicated youth are even easier to place

"because they don't have to check the felony box."

Of 392 people served in transitional housing last year, Solomon said, 82 percent successfully completed the Sponsors program of acquiring employment and/or schooling, passing AOD testing, complying with conditions of release, and moving into permanent, sustainable housing.

"The cornerstone of the program is housing and employment," he said. "Our philosophy is based on the belief that people can change." ■



15 YEARS, *cont.*

Marilyn Budreau
MacLaren YCF

Kevin Bush
Tillamook YCF

Catherine Byrne
Rogue Valley YCF

Jason Carrick
Rogue Valley YCF

Richard Christensen
Deschutes PPO

Erik Conley
Hillcrest YCF

Daniel Corbus
Tillamook PPO

John Cummings
Clackamas PPO

Scott Cuthbertson
Jackson PPO

Brenda Freddi
MacLaren YCF

Robert Geiser
Information Services

Randy Guisinger
Rogue Valley YCF

Jeffrey Hames
Rogue Valley YCF

Donita Jordan
Eastern Oregon YCF

Tim Olsen
Clackamas PPO

15 YEARS, *cont.*

John Page
Rogue Valley YCF

Kim Remington
Tillamook YCF

Xochilt Robles
Hillcrest YCF

Christine Tegner
Marion PPO

Christopher Thomas
Eastern Oregon YCF

Lynn Tuttle
Rogue Valley YCF

Angela Veek
Rogue Valley YCF

10 YEARS

Alex Blevins
Oak Creek YCF

Louis Gerber
RiverBend YTF

Jean Jacquard
Eastern Oregon YCF

Amanda Johnston-
Campbell
Rogue Valley YCF

Matthew Kinch
North Coast YCF

Dami Roelse
Rogue Valley YCF

‘Invisible children’ project engages students

Scott Ryan has taught for seven years, including the past year at Oak Creek YCF’s Three Lakes High School. He said he’s never seen a group of students so engaged in a subject as this class is with this one.

It began in July when Three Lakes students in Ryan’s class read *A Long Way Gone*, Ismael Beah’s memoirs of being a boy soldier in Sierra Leone. It grew into other reading and study about atrocities against children in Africa by the Lord’s Resistance Army and Joseph Kony.

Then representatives of San Diego-based Invisible Children Inc. accepted an invitation to spend a day at the school in October, discussing the issue with all Oak Creek youth and also conducting a workshop about writing letters to elected officials. Students not only wrote letters but also watched Invisible Children’s *Kony 2012* video and heard from a Ugandan woman who had been affected by war. Ryan reached into his own pocket to buy 70 t-shirts, which students tie-dyed and decorated with a peace-related logo.

Ryan said Invisible Children Inc. staff members also were impressed with the Three Lakes students: “They came to me and said of all the presentations they’ve done, this was by far the most engaged and enthusiastic audience they’ve ever had.” (Criticisms lodged against Invisible Children Inc. were addressed head-on by the organization’s representatives, Ryan said.)

He believes the study is educating, empowering, and giving empathy to the students. During Invisible Children’s Oct. 31 visit, he said, youth were engaged, behaved well, and asked appropriate questions. “I believe it’s sparked an interest in the concept that there are others out there in more need. A lot of them have asked what it would take to be involved. I think it’s empowered them to think about something positive for their future.” ■

YRS

Continued from page 2

eye to diversion; which communities and programs are most successful in preventing recidivism; and learning more about which expenditures are most effective. He said the goal is to “reduce the risk to re-offend by focusing on the need of the youth.”

“Research has shown that the correctional model does not yield the best result in dealing with juvenile offenders,” Pakseresht said. “Juveniles are different than adults, and their brain as well as their behavior continues to form and develop well into their mid-20s.”

OYA Research Analyst Shannon Myrick said ORRA and ORRA-V are more accurate than the former predictors of low, medium, and high risk. She said the new tools’ numerical scores – 40 means a 40 percent risk of re-offending or, conversely, a 60 percent likelihood of not doing so – are accurate 73 percent of the time; that compares with 66 percent for the old tools.

“As a result, youth might exit the system earlier because they’re getting the right level of treatment, the right dosage, and for the right period of time,” Myrick said. She said the tools “can be revisited and recalibrated every few years to ensure continued accuracy.”

Data are available not only to OYA staff but also to judges, district attorneys, juvenile departments, residential providers, and others with JJIS access. OYA is receiving technical support from the University of Massachusetts, whose representatives have said the instruments will be of interest to juvenile justice officials nationally.

Pakseresht credits former OYA Director Colette S. Peters for getting the research started and for bringing in Paul Bellatty to lead OYA’s research team in addition to continuing his work at DOC. “It is rare that you find the skill set they have,” Pakseresht said of the OYA and DOC research units, “combined with the passion they bring to the table.” ■

Eastern Oregon YCF volunteers serve youth

As much as we appreciate our volunteers, we don't always know how much energy they expend for youth in OYA's care and custody. At the request of Treatment Manager Charmarie Bradach, volunteer Peggy Asmussen wrote this description of holiday preparations for Eastern Oregon YCF.

"To begin, Faith Baptist Church of Harney County accepts donations from their congregation for the Christmas gifts for OYA. We have collected approximately \$2,500 each year, which gives us about \$50 per youth.

"I asked one youth to make the original wish list form and help with passing out and collecting the wish list from each young man. Another youth helped with the forms. The youth who made the wish list form gave a spiel in each unit telling the guys what we needed them to put on the form. The main point was that they put their needs first and their wants last.

"After the lists are collected we start breaking them down into groups as far as shirts, types, and sizes. Quite a few want food so we can make a list of foods that we need to purchase. Then we start with other wants such as games, CD players, headphones, etc. We try to purchase as much as possible in town and then for the other stuff we plan a shopping trip. We spend a lot of time checking out prices and sales. I also order on line from Amazon.com. We have had quite a few stores that have given us extra discounts when they find out why we are buying the products.

Continued on page 9

Youth craft origami cranes for memorial



One thousand cranes made their way from Burns to Hiroshima.

Visitors to the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima, Japan, now are likely to see origami cranes that are identified as having been made by youth in Burns, Oregon.

A box of 1,000 paper cranes was mailed to Japan late last year after two youth at Eastern Oregon YCF made them. The project was prompted by a presentation about Japanese culture, part of the facility's continuing effort to introduce youth to diverse cultures, by Monica McCanna, wife of GLC Ben McCanna.

She talked to youth about Japanese culture, tea ceremonies, geishas, musical instruments, temples, and shrines. "You may come around the corner of a 10-story building," she told them, "and see an ancient temple or shrine." The McCannas have been active in 4-H International exchange-student programs for nearly a decade,

both hosting students in their Burns home and visiting Japan.

But it was Monica McCanna's comments about the Children's Peace Monument that captured the imagination of two of the youth, who made the 1,000 origami cranes. The monument was prompted by the death of Sadako Sasaki, a 10-year-old girl who survived the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima but died a decade later of leukemia. Paper cranes, which Sadako was making at the

Continued on page 9

10 YEARS, *cont.*

Winifred Skinner
Director's Office

William Winter
Rogue Valley YCF

5 YEARS

Jason Atkinson
Oak Creek YCF

Ed Babcock
Oak Creek YCF

Robert Beers
Eastern Oregon YCF

Donna Blakley
MacLaren YCF

Kelly Braaten
Jefferson PPO

Pamela Cahill
Multnomah PPO

Gary Cross
Hillcrest YCF

Joshua Duyck
Hillcrest YCF

Laura Eaton
Hillcrest YCF

Dorcas Gilley
Camp Florence YTF

Andrew Goins
MacLaren YCF

John Graves
MacLaren YCF

5 YEARS, *cont.*

Amanda Haudenschild
Klamath PPO

Michael Hill
Oak Creek YCF

Emily Holmes
Treatment Services

Kila Jager
Director's Office

Shirley Jones
Oak Creek YCF

Anthony Kelley
Oak Creek YCF

Dawn Leon
Health Services

Deborah Martin
Lane PPO

Mark McDonald
Community Services

William McElroy
RiverBend YTF

Earl McGee
Eastern Oregon YCF

Christina Olson
Oak Creek YCF

Danielle Olson
Tillamook YCF

Benjamin Schumacher
Hillcrest YCF

DeeAnn Smith
Business Services

Baking job 'perfect fit' for Hillcrest youth

Pablo G. hasn't been out in the community in a while, but his pound cakes have been: They're available in the display case at the IKE Box, a coffee shop and music venue a short walk from the State Capitol.

"We were pretty excited when we learned the IKE Box was interested in our baking," he said while working in Hillcrest YCF's canteen.

It's what Hillcrest Superintendent Troy Gregg described as "a perfect fit," given that

the IKE Box works with divested youth to give them job training, employment, life skills, and hope. "I wish they could see or hear the compliments," IKE Box General Manager Tiffany Bulgin said of what she hears about youth-made products coming out of Hillcrest's kitchen.

Those products include a seasonal pumpkin bread, pound cake, s'mores bars and Rice Krispie treats. "Kerstine Munger gets all the credit," Gregg said, for working with Bulgin and the youth to try out recipes, work on getting them just right for retail, and teaching youth useful skills related to packaging, inventory, shelf life, pricing, and turning a profit.

Munger, who manages the canteen, said a typical week sees deliveries to the IKE Box of four loaves of pumpkin bread, a couple of pound cakes, and 40 s'mores bars and Rice Krispie treats. "I think it will be a lot easier for them to get a job when they get out," she said of the six participating youth, all high-tag high school graduates. "I think it gives them a lot of confidence, too. They light up when other people say, 'Oh, that was so good.'"

Foster parents for 16 years, Tiffany and Mark Bulgin opened the IKE Box several years ago as a tribute to their late son Isaac. She worked with Munger and the Hillcrest bakers to select the products and perfect the recipes and packaging. "It inspired me to know there are people out there who want to help kids who have had trouble growing up," Curtis S. said about the Bulgins' work.

"Tiffany approached it as just another extension of the ministry they have at the IKE Box," Gregg said, "and it couldn't have been a more perfect fit for us."

Baking for the IKE Box, which grew out of a conversation Gregg had with IKE Box board member D.J. Vincent, is part of Hillcrest's larger culinary program. It also includes The Lunch Box café, catering for special events, and preparing cupcakes, ice cream cakes, and other goodies for sale to staff and youth. ■



Nathan C. (left) and Pablo G. display the results of their baking talent in the kitchen at Hillcrest.

IKE
[BOX]
Coffee • Music • Space

Dahl makes ‘killer’ contributions to POOCH

Joan Dalton first learned Dave Dahl’s story several years ago when she purchased a loaf of Dave’s Killer Bread and read his story on the label. “I thought he would be a perfect partner to work with us,” said Dalton, Executive Director of Project POOCH, “since he left prison and became a contributing member of society.”

She was right. For the past five years Dahl has contributed generously to Project POOCH, including \$10,000 in 2011 and 2012. She said the unrestricted contributions support the program that teaches MacLaren YCF youth skills and empathy.

She said Dahl’s contributions put money in youth accounts to pay for online college courses as well as tuition for youth after they leave OYA. “Dave’s donations also purchase boots, shirts, coats, and gloves for youth when they are walking dogs. His donations help us pay for the pet first aid training for all youth and canine testing for certification.”

Dahl employs a number of former offenders at his Milwaukie bakery, and has spoken to Hillcrest YCF youth about his story (*Inside OYA*, September 2011).

He and several MacLaren youth talked about Project POOCH in a short video posted on his company Web site. “A lot of us are going to be coming out eventually,” one youth said, “and we’re going to be a part of that community, and to help us is to help you once we get out.” Dahl concludes the video by saying, “You, too, can support Project POOCH by going to Pooch.org today.” ■

Pilot puts another pooch to work at MacLaren

Although MacLaren YCF’s best-known dogs are those in Project POOCH, the facility now has a different kind of dog: Axel. Axel is trained to find cell phones and tobacco.

Introduced to the facility in late October, the 3-year-old boxer and English pointer mix is trained to search out cell phones by smelling their batteries or the gas on their circuit boards.

Campus Operations Manager Robert Spencer said the one-year pilot with Axel was prompted by discovery of six or seven contraband cell phones at MacLaren during an 18-month period. Although DOC will lend its dog to search out contraband, he said, that can take up to a week to schedule.

He said Program Manager Abraham Rios presented the idea to the facility’s Youth Advisory Council, whose members said they supported having such a dog on campus so they were not put at risk by youth who had contraband.

Axel works 4-6 hours a week either on specific assignments or random searches. “He’s very good at it,” Spencer said. “When we do training sessions he finds everything.”

Axel came to MacLaren at no cost. The California-based Search Dog Foundation provided Axel to Rock Solid K9, whose Nicole Reusser trained the dog and then gave him to Spencer’s nonprofit Woof Project, which gave Axel to MacLaren with a year’s worth of dog food. Reusser also spent two days at MacLaren when she was in the Pacific Northwest for other work, and Spencer said he is training MacLaren GLC Robert Pitt as Axel’s handler.

Spencer said evidence of contraband cell phones usually results from observations by staff. “It’s a great deterrent just having him here because the youth know this dog can find cell phones and tobacco.” ■



5 YEARS, *cont.*

Kyle Smith
Hillcrest YCF

Jennifer Spreadborough
Multnomah PPO

Dale Stiers
Hillcrest YCF

Sid Thompson
MacLaren YCF

Daniel Xiong
Hillcrest YCF

*Axel shows off his
super sniffer.*

DEPARTURES

Robert Andrews
MacLaren YCF

Jean Bergen
Director's Office

Yvonne Blakemore
Health Services

Ronald Flory
MacLaren YCF

Shannon Lee
MacLaren YCF

Scott Manning
MacLaren YCF

Isaiah Montoya
MacLaren YCF

Susan Nanson
MacLaren YCF

Elizabeth Rice
MacLaren YCF

Doug Schoonmaker
MacLaren YCF

Jerry Sevey
Information Services

Julian Wallace
MacLaren YCF

Susan Wyant
Business Services

J Bar J Ranch helps feed hungry Bend-area kids

In the spirit of the holiday season and in memory of the lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School, J Bar J Boys Ranch residents are helping feed hungry kids in their community. The boys packed food bags with kid-friendly, non-perishable snacks for hungry students living in the Bend-La Pine School District.

J Bar J Ranch is a level 4 BRS facility in Central Oregon that is home to 25 boys ages 13-18 who are in the care and custody of OYA. The holiday project, part of the staff's effort to incorporate community service projects regardless of court-mandated hours, was undertaken through an organization – Backpacks in Bend – that provides backpacks of food for Bend-La Pine children to take home over the weekend.

"Some youth who participate in packing the food then want to give back to people in their communities," said J Bar J Treatment Manager Bruce Waldrup. "It introduces them to volunteering."

The Backpack concept is simple: Each week the program purchases food such as granola bars, peanut butter, applesauce, pasta meals, and trail mix, which schools distribute to the neediest children. With more than 7,000 of Bend-La Pine's 16,000 students qualifying for free- and reduced-priced meals, Waldrup said, Backpacks in Bend represents a good opportunity for the boys to help others.

Feeding America's "Map the Meal Gap" says 29.2 percent of all Oregon kids are food-insecure, meaning they are not always sure where their next meal is coming from. Oregon also has the nation's second highest proportion of its citizens using food stamps. Waldrup said some J Bar J residents have experienced hunger: "Some of the youth in our program have been homeless and have not had the proper food, and this allows youth to demonstrate empathy."

Backpacks in Bend is only one of the community organizations that J Bar J residents assist. Last spring, the boys pulled more than 600 canoes and kayaks during the Pole Pedal Paddle. They also have mended fences at the High Desert Museum and in the Badlands Wilderness Area. They have volunteered at a host of community events such as the yearly dog sled races, local walks, and concerts.

As one boy put it, "It just feels good when you get to help people, especially kids." ■



Snacks are ready for backpacks.

Central Office staff walking across the country

The OYA Central Office Walking Club celebrated its one-year anniversary in February 2013. Club members held their fourth quarterly milestone meeting and took note of their accomplishments during the year.

Club members have diligently tracked both their monthly mileage and cumulative results. Their collective distances are impressive. As of the end of last year they had walked a combined total of 3,816 miles.

From April to November, they walked the equivalent mileage from Salem, Oregon, to Salem, Mass. They now are walking their way across the southern United States.

Congratulations for maintaining this healthy, fun activity. ■



Eastern Oregon volunteers

Continued from page 5

“After we get everything purchased, then we match each gift with the correct young man. You should see my extra bedroom after we start sorting. It looks like a bomb went off.

“The next thing is getting it all to OYA and holding the wrapping party. Usually the OYA staff plan a potluck and invite others from the local schools to come help wrap. We have a great time and the wrapping goes quite quickly.

“Christmas is celebrated by the youth on Christmas morning. The staff deliver the gifts to the units during the night so that when the guys wake up the gifts are under the tree.

“We buy for all of the boys because we aren’t sure if their parents will remember them or not. One of the boys was explaining to another that he has no family and really appreciates us remembering them. He was trying to make a point with the young man that not all of the guys have anyone who cares.”

Thanks to the spirit, energy and generosity of volunteers at Eastern and other OYA facilities, youth benefit from caring individuals not only during the holidays, but all year long. ■

Cranes

Continued from page 5

time of her death, are recognized as a symbol of good luck, long life, or recovery from illness.

The McCannas took the cranes home and strung them as described on the monument’s Web site. After cranes are displayed they are saved and the donors are recorded in a databank.

Ben McCanna said the youth needed no prodding to complete the project. “I was gone for a few days and when I got back they said, ‘We’re up to six or seven hundred,’” he recalled. “I just think it’s awesome what these kids did.”

Superintendent Doug Smith agreed, saying youth benefited from learning about Japan’s history, its shared history with the U.S., and peace. “Any time youth who are incarcerated have a chance to give back to the community – or, in this case, the world – it’s a very good thing,” he said. ■

ARRIVALS

Ritu Guzman
Business Services

Stephanie Holmes
Business Services

Judy O’Malia
Business Services

Elray Sampson
MacLaren YCF

Brian Smith
MacLaren YCF

Dean Spreadborough
Business Services

INSIDE OYA

Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

Joe O'Leary
Deputy Director

For more information, to submit ideas, or to write an article, please contact the Communications Office:

Ann Snyder
503-378-6023
ann.snyder@
oya.state.or.us

C.J. Drake
503-373-7425
cj.drake@
oya.state.or.us

Send your stories for the June issue by June 7. Articles received after that date will be held for the July newsletter.



ORRA, ONIRA, typologies — what it all means

Members of OYA's Research Unit have developed four assessments to gauge risks in facilities and the community, as well as six typologies for youth.

- OYA Nuisance Incident Risk Assessment (ONIRA) predicts the likelihood a youth will engage in at least four nuisance incidents within six months of admission to OYA close custody. This score assists in placement and, for high-risk youth, helps prepare staff to deal with incidents.
- OYA Violent Incident Risk Assessment (OVIRA) predicts the likelihood a youth will engage in at least one violent incident within six months of admission to OYA close custody. Like ONIRA, this score assists in placement and, for high-risk youth, helps prepare staff to deal with incidents.
- OYA Recidivism Risk Assessment (ORRA) predicts the likelihood a youth will recidivate with a felony adjudication or conviction within 36 months of placement on or commitment to probation, or release from OYA close custody.
- OYA Recidivism Risk Assessment-Violent Crime (ORRA-V) predicts the likelihood a youth will recidivate with a felony adjudication or conviction for a violent crime within 36 months of placement on or commitment to probation, or release from OYA close custody. These include violent or threatening crimes such as homicide, assault, rape, robbery, and weapon offenses that could or do result in physical harm.

In addition, male youth are classified in one of six typologies the Research Unit has developed; typologies for female youth are being developed. A typology provides a profile of each youth's needs, and offers an additional tool for staff to use before commitment or at OYA intake to inform placement decisions and treatment strategies.

For example, Typology A describes a youth with few or no protective factors; current or past AOD use; poor relationships and relationship skills; attitude issues and a high level of aggression; prominent education issues; and a high need for mental health follow-up. The other five typologies rate a youth's status on these six factors. Detail of the typologies may be read at <http://www.oregon.gov/oya/pages/research/jjisriskoverview.aspx#Typology> on the OYA Web site.

The data are intended to support professional judgment, said Shannon Myrick, an OYA Research Analyst who has been a principal in developing the instruments. "Our numbers are helpful, but they will never represent the whole picture of a youth's situation." ■

