



# Director's Message

April 15, 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Every six months, Oregon's Office of Economic Analysis releases a forecast that projects the number of youth who will need OYA's services in the years ahead. The forecast provides a framework that serves as a guide for long-term planning.

[The latest forecast](#), which was released today, incorporates JJIS data about crime and commitment trends and youth risk factors. The forecast suggests that the ideal system in the coming years would use 105 fewer close-custody beds and 841 more community residential beds.

The forecast, as expected, reflects the declining juvenile crime trends we are seeing nationwide. It also recognizes that evidence increasingly shows many youth do better when they have access to residential programs, either as step-downs from close custody or in lieu of close custody. We will be analyzing the possible system changes that would be required to implement these capacity changes.

We understand these raw numbers may generate concerns and questions about their potential impact on OYA's operations. However, it is important to remember that the forecast is simply a predictor and may not affect the 2013-15 budget. It is far too early to begin discussing any specific plans.

If you have questions or concerns about the contents of [the latest forecast](#) or how the forecasts are developed and used, we encourage you to talk with your supervisor. If needed, supervisors will work with their assistant directors to gather more information from the Office of Economic Analysis.

Although this new forecast may generate some uncertainty and anxiety about the future, it also represents an opportunity to align our practices with latest data and research in order to create even better outcomes for youth and communities in the years ahead. While we cannot predict what the future will look like, what we do know is that it will look different from today.

We know that the world of juvenile justice is changing. We must continually look for more efficient and cost-effective methods of serving the youth who come to us, lowering recidivism, and protecting public safety. We already are taking steps to do that through the OYA Performance Management System and our Youth Reformation System. These initiatives provide us with a unique opportunity to work together to shape the future, and to address the changing nature of the jobs we perform.

As always, thank you for the important work you do on behalf of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Fariborz Pakseresht  
Director



Joe O'Leary  
Deputy Director