

# OYA Director's Message



OYA

Dear Colleagues,

These past few weeks have been stressful for many of us as we awaited the results of yesterday's election. Those results are now in, and they confirm that the majority of Oregon voters have a commitment to public safety. It is now up to us to ensure the public's trust is rewarded. For that reason we will remain ever so mindful of the need to be good stewards of taxpayers' money as we promote public safety and youth reformation.

Therefore, we are continuing to seek ways to find more efficient and effective methods of delivering services. We already have some efforts under way. These include:

- A mapping initiative to ensure youth in our custody are placed in the most appropriate programs for their needs;
- A field office staffing analysis to review the number and type of staff needed to serve youth on probation and parole;
- A centralization of nutrition and food purchasing designed to implement nutrition standards within our facilities and gain efficiencies; and
- A new medical model that centralizes responsibility for health care decisions, standardizes delivery of medical care for youth, and is exploring the development of a centralized pharmaceutical purchasing system designed to contain costs and streamline the ordering process.

We also are extending our efforts to improve the effectiveness of the services we provide youth by collaborating with our many partners throughout the state to plan for a statewide Juvenile Justice Summit later this year. Our collective goal is to bring together everyone who works in the juvenile justice and public safety communities to review our current processes and develop ideas for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of our systems.

As we move forward in this still-struggling economy, we must prepare for the fiscal challenges ahead in this biennium and the next. I encourage you to actively participate in these efforts, to raise additional ideas for improving the delivery and outcomes of our services, and to build cooperative and productive relationships with our partners. The youth, families and communities we serve deserve our best efforts.

Thank you for all that you do for public safety in Oregon and the future of the youth we serve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colette S. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Colette S. Peters  
Director