



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority
Office of the Director
530 Center Street NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301-3765
Voice: 503-373-7205
Fax: 503-373-7622
www.oregon.gov/OYA

October 30, 2012

MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: Jim Sellers, OYA Communications Office, 503-373-7425,
jim.sellers@oya.state.or.us



Governor's Summit on disproportionate minority contact begins Thursday

The 2012 Governor's Summit on Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System will be held Thursday and Friday at the Spirit Mountain Conference Center in Grand Ronde.

The conference – Oregon's 12th on the subject – is expected to attract more than 300 people representing state agencies, county juvenile departments, education, law enforcement, the judiciary, tribes, faith organizations and others serving youth. Approximately 42 percent of youth in the care and custody of the Oregon Youth Authority are minorities.

These are among the scheduled speakers and presentations.

THURSDAY

- Dr. Rudy Crew, chief education officer for the Oregon Education Investment Board, is scheduled to deliver opening remarks at 10:35 a.m.
- A former gang member who now is an employed member of the community will present his perspectives – including his path to incarceration and what turned him around – beginning at 11:15 a.m. He will be introduced by Oregon Youth Authority Director Fariborz Pakseresht.
- A presentation about using what is known about disproportionate minority contact to reduce it will begin at 1:10 p.m. Speaking will be Dr. William Feyerherm, Portland State University professor of criminology and criminal justice, and John Tuell, co-director of a MacArthur Foundation initiative on juvenile justice reform. Feyerherm is author of a recent study of minority youth contact with Oregon's juvenile corrections system.

FRIDAY

- First Lady of Oregon Cylvia Hayes will speak at 2:30 p.m., when Governor's Minority Youth Awards also will be presented.
- Much of Friday will be devoted to work groups developing action plans to deal with disproportionate minority contact in juvenile corrections. A detailed schedule is available online at <http://www.oregon.gov/oya/dmcsummit/2012/summit.htm>.

Lonnie Jackson, director of OYA's Office of Minority Services, said the summit's goal is to develop action plans in several areas to address the issue. He said work groups will consider how disproportionate minority contact can be more effectively monitored and tracked and assign persons responsible for ensuring work to address it gets done.

The conference is sponsored by the office of Governor John Kitzhaber and by OYA, the Oregon Department of Corrections and the Oregon Youth Development Council.

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