



Oregon

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Nov. 24, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

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OYA names veteran state manager in policy and government relations role

A state administrator with extensive experience in child welfare issues is the new public policy and government relations manager in the Oregon Youth Authority.

Helen Hoang of Portland most recently was administrator of the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office, which supports the work of the state commissions on Asian, Black, Hispanic and Women's Affairs.

In her new role at OYA, Hoang will provide legislative and policy analysis, oversee responses to legal issues and public records requests, and help plan agency priorities and goals.

OYA is the state's juvenile corrections agency charged with protecting public safety and reducing crime by holding youthful offenders accountable and providing opportunities for reformation in safe environments.

Hoang has experience in child welfare issues at both the Oregon Judicial Department and the Oregon Department of Human Services.

At Judicial, Hoang worked two and a half years as court improvement program analyst, a job in which she was part of a team working to improve the court process for children. At Human Services for nearly 10 years, she worked as a child welfare caseworker, supervisor, policy analyst and manager of a program in the office of the division administrator. She began her career working as an Asian outreach and diversion specialist for the Urban League in Portland.

"Helen Hoang is a high-energy manager who brings a rich background to support the agency mission to protect public safety as we help youth learn to make positive choices," said Colette S. Peters, OYA director. "She will be effective not only in

working with legislators and stakeholders but also in managing critical internal issues of budget, policy, law and agency priorities.”

Hoang holds undergraduate degrees in biology and psychology from the University of Oregon, and master’s degrees in public and health administration and in social work from Portland State University. She came to the United States in 1975 as a Vietnamese war refugee with her parents and siblings.

In the OYA role, Hoang succeeds Robyn Cole, who retired in September.

OYA has custody of approximately 925 youthful offenders ages 12 to 25 in correctional and transitional facilities in Albany, Burns, Florence, Grants Pass, La Grande, Salem, Tillamook, Warrenton and Woodburn, and the agency also supervises approximately 1,000 youth on parole and probation.

(Pronouncer: Hoang is pronounced “hwong.”)

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