



# Oregon

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Nov. 30, 2009

## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Oregon Youth Authority hires nurse manager to strengthen health care**

The Oregon Youth Authority has hired its first nurse manager to strengthen consistency of care for the approximately 925 youthful offenders in its custody.

Teresa Griffin, R.N., came to OYA from the Oregon Department of Corrections, where she was nurse manager for the Snake River Correctional Institution in Ontario. In that job, Griffin supervised approximately 35 nurses who care for nearly 3,000 inmates.

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

Griffin began her career as a medical-surgical and critical care nurse at Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. After three years there, she took a position as a staff nurse at the Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, the adult prison in Pendleton, before transferring to the Ontario prison. She was promoted to acting nurse manager there almost two years ago and to the permanent position in October 2008.

She holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the Oregon Health & Science University, and expects to complete a dual degree master's program in nursing and business with an emphasis on health care management next spring from the University of Phoenix.

“For many youthful offenders, OYA offers the first regular health care they have received,” said Colette S. Peters, OYA director. “Making all health care decisions at the direction of the agency’s medical director and nurse manager will help to ensure health care is medically appropriate and consistent across the facilities.”

Griffin will supervise an OYA nursing staff of 29, report to OYA's medical director, Dr. Marcia Adams, and have an office at the Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility in Salem. All OYA facilities have one or more staff nurses except Camp Florence, which contracts with a clinic in the community to provide medical services.

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.

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