

December 15, 2004

The Honorable Theodore Kulongoski
Governor
254 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Jay Minthorn, Chair
Legislative Commission on Indian Services
167 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Governor Kulongoski and Chair Minthorn,

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is pleased to provide you with its annual report of the agency's relationships with and activities relating to Oregon Indian tribes, as directed by ORS 182.166.

While the OYA does not operate specific tribal programs, it does sponsor culturally specific ceremonies and incorporates culturally specific elements into all of its programs and services that affect Native American youth.

The OYA has continued the services and activities with Oregon's tribes as reported in the 2003 report. The OYA also was one of the participating state agencies in Oregon's Native American Juvenile Justice Summit, which was held in September 2004 after an eight-year absence.

The OYA values tribal sovereignty and the government-to- government relationships which exist between state agencies and tribal governments. As sovereigns, the collaboration between the State of Oregon and tribal governments provides for increased opportunities to provide for public safety, as well as treatment and reformation efforts for Oregon's tribally enrolled youth.

.If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Jack Lawson, OYA's Native American Coordinator, at (503) 378-6973.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Jester
Director

Oregon Youth Authority

Senate Bill 770
Government-to-Government Report
December 15, 2004

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) is the primary state agency involved in Oregon's juvenile justice system. OYA provides housing, supervision, and services to youth offenders whose ages range from 12 to 25. OYA's population includes youth who are convicted in adult courts and placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections but are housed with the Oregon Youth Authority because of their age.

As a public safety agency, the OYA has a unique mission in serving Oregon's youth offenders. This mission is two fold: to hold youth accountable for their actions and to provide opportunities for treatment and reformation. It is through treatment and reformation efforts, and identifying service gaps through collaborative efforts, which enhances the partnership between tribal governments and the OYA.

The following are examples of the collaborative efforts between the OYA and tribes:

- Assisting youth to enroll in their tribes.
- Utilizing a tribally identified home for out-of-home placement for youth.
- Coordinating transitional services for youth transferring from a close custody facility.
- Retaining youth in a local facility, to increase opportunities for the tribe to be involved in the treatment, reformation, and placement of their youth.
- Tribal representatives assisting in training OYA staff.

COMMUNICATIONS/RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRIBES

Memoranda of Understanding

The OYA continues to implement Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Oregon's federally recognized tribes. The MOUs define the government-to-government relationship between the OYA and Oregon's tribes and are centered on defining, coordinating, and implementing culturally relevant treatment, reformation, and transition services for tribally enrolled youth within OYA custody.

A centerpiece of the MOUs is tribal notification. Notification allows the tribes to identify tribal youth in the OYA system and facilitates collaborative services to address the needs of those youth.

To date, the OYA has signed MOUs with the following tribes: Klamath Tribes, Burns Paiute Tribe, Cow Creek Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and Confederated Tribes of Coquille. Although the OYA has signed agreements with only five of Oregon's nine tribes, the OYA continues to meet with all tribes regarding formal government-to-government relations and is working with the remaining tribes as if an MOU does exist, while pursuing formal agreements with them.

2004 Governor's Summit on SB 770

This year, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation hosted the summit on SB 770. Lonnie Jackson, Director of OYA's Office of Minority Services, and Jack Lawson, OYA's Native American Coordinator, represented the agency.

Public Safety Cluster

The OYA continues to be an active member of the Public Safety Cluster group. Jack Lawson represents the agency. The Public Safety Cluster meetings are chaired by John Minnis, Director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

OYA's Statewide Advisory Committee

A member of the agency's Native American Advisory Committee sits on OYA's statewide advisory committee to allow tribal needs to be identified and addressed by all of the agency's stakeholders. George Nagel, a Siletz tribe mental health specialist, represents the tribe on the OYA Native American Advisory Committee and also serves on the statewide advisory committee.

OYA's Native American Advisory Committee

The Native American Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and Native American community providers. The committee continues to meet regularly in order to identify service gaps for tribal youth, identify areas of concern, and engage in problem solving efforts.

Goals and Purposes of the OYA Native American Advisory Committee (Approved June 14, 2001)

- Establish community links between the OYA and Native American communities.
- Provide consultation to assist in the cultural competency of programs, services, and policies regarding Native American youth within OYA.
- Recruit volunteers to support services offered by OYA for Native American youth in close custody.
- Recruit and retain Native American staff: OYA is committed to having an employee workforce that reflects the diversity of the youth population it serves.
- Provide consultation regarding transition services for Native American youth.

- Provide staff training on Native American culture and tribal structure.
- Establish resources for out-of-home placements.
- Address key issues of youth.
- Ensure safety in the community and OYA facilities.
- Advocate for the best interests of youth and their families.
- Develop communication lines and trust between OYA and the tribes.

Native American Juvenile Justice Summit

In September 2004, a Native American Juvenile Justice Summit was conducted at the Spirit Mountain Lodge in Grand Ronde to build partnerships with tribes, service providers, and government agencies, as well as to provide education and training in tribal relationships. This effort was coordinated by the Native American Rehabilitation Association (NARA) with a grant received from the state Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee. Representatives from the Department of Human Services, NARA, Grand Ronde Tribe, Criminal Justice Commission, and the OYA worked collaboratively to coordinate the summit.

The summit had 107 registrants with representatives from tribes, the state, and counties. In addition, several state agency leaders made presentations on a panel relating to implementation of 2003 SB 267 (evidence-based practices). Those leaders included OYA's Director, Bob Jester; Department of Corrections Director, Max Williams; Commission on Children and Families Deputy Director, Carol Wire; Criminal Justice Commission's Juvenile Crime Prevention Coordinator, Becky Eklund; and Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Administrator, Bob Nikkel.

The last Native American Juvenile Justice Summit held in Oregon was in May 1996. The planning committee recognizes the value of the summit and the opportunities the summit provides for tribes to engage the State of Oregon on issues related to juvenile justice in Indian Country. The planning committee will be exploring opportunities to make the summit an annual event.

AGENCY-SPECIFIC SERVICES AND TRAINING

Governor's Summit on Minority Over-Representation in the Juvenile Justice System

As a guiding member for the planning committee of the Governor's Summit on Minority Over-Representation in the Juvenile Justice, the OYA has strived to engage all Oregon tribes in the

annual summit's planning and implementation. This year, the summit included a presentation on 2003 SB 267's impact on culturally specific services, as well as a workshop on tribal-based juvenile crime prevention strategies.

Two graduates of the OYA's Minority Youth Transition Program received the Governor's Youth Award at the summit. Those recipients were Andrea Pacheco, a Grand Ronde tribal member, and Glenn Lamonte, from the Choctaw nation. The Governor's Youth Award is presented to youth who have faced difficult challenges and have overcome those challenges to lead productive lives.

Training Opportunities for OYA staff

OYA's staff continue to receive ongoing training on tribal issues. This training is conducted by the OYA's Native American Coordinator and includes tribal representatives when available. Training on tribal governments continues to occur in all areas of the OYA including field offices (parole and probation), youth correctional facilities, and contracted community providers.

In addition, cultural competency training is required for all OYA staff working with youth offenders. This training includes information on the statutory requirements for state agency relationships with tribes, is coordinated with the OYA's Training Academy, and is provided during the new employee orientation as well as annual staff update trainings.

Culturally Relevant Events

The MacLaren and Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facilities each hosted annual Pow Wows in 2004. Both events were very successful, leaving the youth with feelings of excitement and the motivation to continue to seek out cultural and spiritual values. In addition to providing the youth in these facilities with an opportunity to have positive community contact and attachment, these events also aided in the fostering of positive identity development.

The MacLaren Pow Wow was held on September 11, 2004, and was coordinated by Mathew Poteet, Acting Native American Services Coordinator for MacLaren. This was a unique event with representatives from the Woodburn Fire Department, Woodburn Police Department, and Marion County Sheriff Raul Ramirez, along with Deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Department in attendance as honored guests. This honoring was a celebration and recognition of public safety agencies for their sacrifices and roles in protecting communities since the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Without broad community support, these events would not have been possible. There were, however, community members who provided extra effort in their support. OYA would like to recognize the Leno family and Grand Ronde tribal members for their generosity and support of the MacLaren Pow Wow who provided and cooked salmon for the event.

The Hillcrest Pow Wow was conducted on Saturday, October 9, 2004. Many community members contributed to the success of this event. The Native American Rehabilitation Association provided the event's host drum, and youth from the facility assisted in the preparation of Indian tacos for the meal.

Minority Youth Transition Services

The OYA's Office of Minority Services employs a transition specialist, Christina Puentes, who coordinates treatment and aftercare for youth returning to their communities. She works with all Native American youth residing in Marion, Washington Clackamas, Lincoln, and Multnomah Counties. These youth include not only tribally enrolled youth from Oregon tribes, but also Native American youth who may not be an enrolled as a tribal member or whose tribe is located outside of Oregon. The transition program has several community contractors that provide specific services for the youth as they return to their communities.

Culturally Relevant Services

OYA staff coordinates and provides Native American services at both Hillcrest and MacLaren. In addition, OYA has contracted out services for female youth at Hillcrest. Along with OYA's staff and contracted providers, the agency has volunteers and organizations that assist in providing services to the regional facilities. An example of this is the Southern Oregon Indian Center, located in Grants Pass, which conducts services for Native American youth in OYA's Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility, also in Grants Pass.

The OYA offers Native American youth opportunities to participate in an array of cultural and spiritual services, which include sweatlodge ceremonies, talking ceremonies, pipe ceremonies, and support groups. While these types of services may not be indigenous to Oregon's tribes, they offer youth an opportunity to participate in cultural and spiritual ceremonies. This participation provides avenues for youth to receive information that builds positive self-esteem and cultural experiences which, together, provide for an increased positive cultural identity. These services ultimately help to build a foundation for the youth to learn about their own culture and heritage.

The OYA recognizes that each tribe has its own ceremonies, traditions, and rituals. Through this recognition, the agency works with the tribes and community providers to access culturally specific services to Native American youth on supervision, and incorporate that into agency training, transition, and other ongoing services.

If a tribal youth seeks culturally specific services or ceremonies for his or her tribe, the OYA will coordinate with the tribe for those services.

Ongoing

The agency's Native American Coordinator continues to meet with the tribal key contacts to share information, coordinate services, resolve concerns, review and negotiate the MOUs, and provide update reports to tribal councils.

The OYA is actively committed to building and supporting strong government-to-government relationships with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.