

Oregon Department of Corrections Division News

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

Director's Message

Max Williams, Director



The 2009 Legislative Session was a busy time for all of us at the Department of Corrections (DOC) and with the many changes to sentencing laws, we continue to stay busy. I will briefly outline where we are with the major changes. As we move into the fall I will continue to update all of the department's stakeholders on our progress.

Basic Corrections Course

House Bill 3199 allows DOC to train new Correctional Officers (COs). The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSSST) is currently training the last cohort of COs. We will continue to work with DPSSST as they audit the Basic Corrections Course. This is a great opportunity for the department and we are working hard to polish the final details of the training we have been designing since last winter. We are confi-

dent we will provide DOC specific training that trains our new staff with the specific skills they need.

ICE Rapid Repatriation

We currently house 1,200 offenders with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees; this detainee indicates that the offender is foreign born. For an offender who has an ICE detainee, incarcerated for a crime other than a person felony or Class A misdemeanor, has six months or less left to serve and waives objections to deportation the Governor may choose to commute their sentence. This would make them eligible for ICE to deport them. DOC's Research Unit estimates that approximately 225 offenders meet the broad eligibility criteria for possible deportation. We are currently reviewing the list of eligible offenders and ICE will conduct the necessary interviews.

30% Earned Time Credit

We are in the process of identifying which inmates are eligible for the in-

crease of Earned Time Credit (ETC) from 20% to 30%. We have until August 31, to compile the list and begin notifying inmates, the Courts and the District Attorneys. We estimate that approximately 4,500 offenders could be affected. However, it is not known now many offenders may go through the expedited process and how many may go through the contested case process. This increase in ETC is expected to save the department approximately six million dollars.

We will continue to keep you updated on our progress about these and other DOC issues. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Regards,

Max Williams

Director

Human Resources Division

Kim Brockamp, Assistant Director

Vitality program adds to employee wellness

In 2008, the Public Employees Benefit Board identified four DOC sites to participate in the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Vitality program.

Vitality is a customized worksite wellness program conducted by a wellness consultant working to help groups create and personalize their own health and wellness strategy.

"We're very fortunate because the Vitality program allows employees to work with the consultant to decide what's best for their institution," said Kim Brockamp, Assistant Director.

In conjunction with the Vitality wellness consultant, each of the four

pilot sites (DRCI, EOCI, SRCI, SCCI) has implemented services and activities to promote employee wellness.

Vitality Benchmarks

- Senior level commitment and presence
- Creating and formalizing a cohesive wellness team
- Assessing the environment, culture and employee interest
- Forming and documenting a wellness plan and budget
- Choosing appropriate interventions and incentives
- Evaluating program outcomes

These activities and services vary among the four institutions, and have included health screenings and health fairs. Some institutions have also started wellness libraries and wellness bulletin boards.

An employee survey of the Vitality program indicated that respondents were highly satisfied with the program and most are very pleased with the value that Vitality provides to their institutions.

DOC, in conjunction with BCBS, is looking to expand the Vitality program to three other institutions.

Transitional Services Division

Ginger Martin, Assistant Director

Governor's Reentry Council makes progress towards helping offenders succeed upon release

Ensuring to the greatest degree possible that offenders are successful after their release from custody serves a fundamental public safety interest for Oregon's communities. The successful reintegration of offenders returning from custody requires the efforts of multiple state and local agencies.

Recognizing the importance and complexity of this task, the Governor created the Reentry Council in May 2007. The following provides an overview of the council's accomplishments over the past two years.

Statewide Transition Network

A new statewide network was formed, including prison-based and community corrections-based individuals working on reentry and transition. The purpose of the network is to improve release planning and information sharing.

Identification

Obtaining state identification is one of the largest barriers facing offenders who are transitioning out of prison. Because of this, DOC has created several partnerships to address this issue.

- DOC partnered with the Department of Human Services to streamline the process of issuing Oregon birth certificates to inmates prior to release.
- The Social Security Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DOC so that replacement social security cards can be provided to inmates prior to release.

- DOC and the Department of Motor Vehicles recently began a pilot program whereby inmates are securely transported to a local DMV for issuance of state photo ID cards. The ID is kept in the inmate's file and given to the inmate the day of release.

Reentry programming

DOC now offers a transition curriculum in all regional release facilities. The "Road to Success" program focuses on employment skills, success on supervision, family relationships, financial management and being a better renter.

In addition, a faith-based reentry curriculum has recently been introduced within DOC prisons. This program is designed to assist participants in preparing for the challenges and opportunities of reentry by tapping into sacred stories, teachings and traditions of their own faith.

A new gender-specific cognitive change/reentry program for women began in 2008 at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Each participant completes a minimum of 197 curriculum hours with transition planning being an important component of the program.

Continuity of health and mental health care

DOC improved internal processes to ensure all people leaving prison have a 30-day supply of necessary medications.

A prequalification process has been put in place through a cooperative effort between Seniors and People with Disabilities and DOC so that those who may qualify for federal benefits upon release can begin receiving them immediately at the time of release.

Increased opportunities for education

Scholarships for college courses are now available through the Chemeketa Foundation for male inmates at Oregon State Penitentiary and Oregon State Correctional Institution. During the 2007-08 school year, 81 inmates participated in college courses; 59 of those were supported by scholarships through the foundation.

Employment

DOC installed employment kiosks in each regional reentry prison to assist inmates in their job search prior to release. The Oregon Employment Department provided information to be used in the kiosks.

Housing

Sponsors Inc. in Eugene received \$4.4 million from Oregon Housing and Community Services to create new transitional housing for offenders in Lane County. The grant will provide for 45 new housing units and 62 additional transition beds in the community.

Services to Veterans

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs contacts all known inmate veterans prior to release to ensure veteran services are made available during transition.



General Services Division

Tami Dohrman, Assistant Director



Federal stimulus dollars fund capital projects for DOC

On February 5, Governor Kulongoski signed *Go Oregon!* into law, authorizing sales of bonds to fund important capital projects at public facilities throughout Oregon.



As part of the "Go Oregon" economic stimulus plan, DOC will receive just under \$6.7 million to fund the following ten agency projects.

Replace freezer lighting at Central Distribution Center (CDC)

Replace 250 watt light fixtures in the main freezer with energy efficient LED lighting. This is an energy conservation project to reduce our electricity consumption.

Completed July 2009

Duration: 1.5 months

Funded amount: \$100,000

Replace expired wireless system batters at five institutions

This equipment life cycle replacement project will replace the existing direct-current wireless system power supply at OSP, OSCI, SCI, MCCF and SFFC.

Start Date: May 2009

Duration: 6 months

Funded amount: \$210,000

Replace backup electrical system with solar system

This energy conservation project will install a solar photovoltaic (PV) generating system to charge the direct current wireless system power supply at TRCI.

Start Date: May 2009

Duration: 6 months

Funded amount: \$240,000

Install solar energy system at TRCI's laundry and food bank building

This renewable energy project will install a solar photo-electric system at TRCI to provide electrical power to two small support buildings located outside the secure perimeter of the institution.

Start Date: July 2009

Duration: 6 months

Funded amount: \$240,000

Replace out-of-date security system at TRCI

This project is to upgrade the electronic security systems hardware and software for the entire institution; no additional capabilities will be added to the systems.

Start Date: June 2009

Duration: 5 months

Funded amount: \$270,000

Replace failing housing unit door control systems at TRCI

This project will replace original control panels and other equipment with a computer-based human machine interface (HMI) software and touch screens for operation of locks, intercoms and cameras located within each housing unit at TRCI.

Start Date: June 2009

Duration: 12 months

Funded amount: \$400,000

Replace lighting fixtures at CDC

This energy conservation project will replace existing high bay lighting at CDC with more efficient t-5 fluorescent lighting.

Start Date: May 2009

Duration: 4 months

Funded amount: \$475,000

Electrical panel upgrades

This code compliance project will accomplish the electrical code requirement to individually evaluate and label each electrical panel for required personnel protective equipment (PPE) and safety zone for working on the panels.

Start Date: July 2009

Duration: 19 months

Funded amount: \$550,000

Replace out-of-date security electronics network at SRCI

This project will replace the security electronic network, hardware and software for the entire institution; no additional capabilities will be added to the network.

Start Date: May 2009

Duration: 28 months

Funded amount: \$1,600,000

Replace fluorescent lighting with LED lighting

This energy conservation project will replace existing fluorescent and incandescent light fixtures in non-inmate handling areas with more efficient LED lighting at all DOC institutions.

EOCI completed July 2009

Start Date for WCCF: August 2009

Duration: 29 months

Funded amount: \$2,600,000

For more information on *Go Oregon!* please visit www.oregon.gov/DOC/recovery/

DOC Staff Participate in Activities Across Oregon

DOC employees participate in Relay For Life

Relay for Life, a signature activity for The American Cancer Society, is an annual 24-hour event, which raises money to fight cancer and raise awareness of cancer prevention and treatment. Many DOC sites participated in this year's relay.

DOC's Polk County Team included about 35 staff members, friends and family from AOCE, Oregon State Penitentiary, Oregon Correctional Officers Association, and Correctional Peace Officers Foundation. The team raised about \$1,800 from their relay held on May 15th and 16th at Independence Riverview Park.

Oregon State Correctional Institution joined the June 19th and 20th relay. This team started fundraising six months ago and grew to 60 walking members. Deputy Director Mitch Morrow attended the opening ceremonies. They raised \$3,200 to help find a cure.

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility participated in the Relay for Life for the second year on June 19th and 20th. The team consisted of eight staff members and their families, raising \$500. Their efforts to raise money continue; their goal is to raise \$1,500 by the end of August.

Snake River Correctional Institution's team included staff, friends and family who participated on June 12th and 13th. The team is also continuing to raise funds for the August deadline. The DOC Honor Guard was proud to present at the Closing Ceremony in Ontario.



Snake River Correctional Institution Relay For Life Team

DOC's Paul Peloquin rides 1,100 miles for a good cause



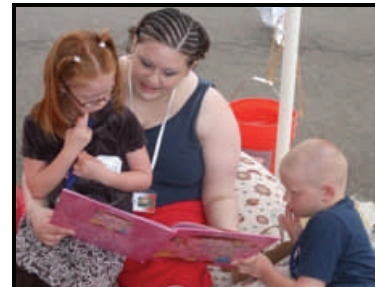
Paul and his Yamaha FJR

Paul Peloquin set out to raise money for the Shelly's House by riding his Yamaha FJR just over 1,100 miles to all 14 Oregon prisons in one day. The ride began on June 19, 2009 at 3 a.m. at Shutter Creek Correctional Institution in North Bend and ended at 11:57 p.m. at Warner Creek Correctional Facility in Lakeview the same day. The benefit for the Shelley's House was a Governor's sanctioned event for the Sesquicentennial Celebration, Oregon's 150th birthday. Paul is a Training and Development Specialist in the Professional Development Unit of DOC. Paul serves as Treasurer of PRISM, Inc., sponsor of Shelly's House. For almost a decade now, he has participated in endurance rides across the country.

Shelly's House, located in Salem, is transitional drug-free housing for up to 16 women offenders supervised by Marion County. The women in the house are required to attend drug/alcohol recovery activities, seek employment, and work towards recovery and self sufficiency. The average length of stay is six months. Monthly expenses for the house are approximately \$1,400. Paul's ride has raised about \$2,600.

Staff volunteer their time to bring moms and kids together

July 11th and 12th was a special event for some female inmate parents at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF) and their children. "Through a Child's Eyes" (TACE) brought together 600 people -- moms, kids and members of the community -- for two days of activities, including food, crafts and games. Sponsored by the Wilsonville Rotary Club, DOC staff volunteers and members of the Prison Advisory Committee worked with the Rotarians to make the annual event a success. The TACE event was open to minimum and medium custody inmates who had six months without misconduct reports and who had completed parenting education or who are enrolled in the classes. TACE brought together incarcerated mothers and their children in a setting that enabled them to interact in a more relaxed and friendly environment.



Operations Division

Michael Gower, Assistant Director

CRCI recycling program creates cost-savings and inmate opportunities

In May of 2008, Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI) initiated an institution-wide comprehensive recycling program. The program is a collaborative effort designed to fully recycle and reuse as many materials as possible, including paper, cardboard, plastics, inmate clothing, shoes and organic waste.

The success of the recycling program depends on the participation of the inmate population. As a result, the program has created inmate incentives and new inmate work assignments. The goal is to achieve a savings through an investment of equipment and a collaboration of community support, and to sustain an environmentally friendly program that will benefit the community and the state's leadership in this area.

The program is already proving to be successful. CRCI's landfill trash has reduced from 40 yards to just 8 yards, saving the facility nearly \$2,000 per month.

"We're very excited about the success of this program," said Assistant Director Mike Gower. "Not only are we realizing cost-savings, we're contributing to a better environment and creating viable work opportunities for inmates."

The recycling program is the brainchild of Physical Plant Manager Dale Ahlstrom. He uses ongoing recycling education and interventions for both inmates and staff in order to protect the integrity of the program.

"It is because of Dale's innovation and initiative that the program has become so successful," commented Gower. "We hope that we can use his model to enhance our recycling efforts at other facilities."

Public Services Division

Chane Griggs, Assistant Director

Office of public affairs introduces the Oregon Reentry Wiki

In an effort to improve offenders' successful transition from incarceration to community life, DOC has created the new Oregon Reentry Wiki, and is partnering with local community corrections agencies to post information to the "one-stop-shop" Web site.

"Our intention is that the reentry wiki will become a valuable tool for offenders and their families, ensuring that they have access to state and local resources needed to successfully transition back into the community, after serving time in Oregon's prisons," said DOC Director Max Williams.

The site is modeled after the internationally-renowned Wikipedia Web site, which allows contributors from all over the world to voluntarily add, modify and monitor the accuracy of content on thousands of topics.

The reentry wiki will allow offenders and their families to access information about services and programs provided by the state. It will also include information on local employment, housing and treatment options available to offenders upon release.

"The most important aspect of the wiki is that everything will be provided in one easy-to-use Web site," Williams explained.

The idea of the wiki was developed through the Governor's Reentry Council, as a means to improve offenders' ability to reintegrate into society and reduce the recidivism rate in Oregon's prison system.

The Oregon Reentry Wiki can be found at:

<http://oregonreentry.wikidot.com/>

Oregon State Correctional Institution celebrates fifty years

On May 22, more than 50 guests gathered in the visiting room at Oregon State Correctional Institution (OSCI) to celebrate the facility's 50th anniversary.

To mark the event, OSCI's 50th Anniversary Committee created a historical book and DVD featuring pictures and general information about OSCI's past 50 years. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the purchase of a new sign (see picture) for the entrance of the facility.

OSCI was established by the 1955 legislature and became fully operational on June 1, 1959.

Originally designed for an inmate population of 475, today's capacity is 892 inmates, many of whom are within six months of their release.



Office of the Inspector General

Stan Czerniak, Inspector General

The Right to be Safe in Prison

The Office of the Inspector General, as of February 2009, oversees the Special Needs Population Management office. This office is dedicated to the elimination of sexual violence in Oregon's prisons, assisting inmates with disabilities, language barriers, and addressing the needs of the geriatric inmate population. One of the projects completed by this office is "The Right to be Safe in Prison."

DOC's "The Right to be Safe in Prison" initiative is completed and was made possible due to a million dollar grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) as part of a Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities initiative.

The primary goal of the initiative was to increase inmate and public safety by addressing the issues of sexual assault and other high-risk behaviors among Oregon's 14 prisons and to reduce the impact on society when those offenders are released.

Below are key strategies that helped DOC meet this goal:

- Automation of the Conduct Management System
- Cameras with recording capabilities installed in "areas of opportunity" throughout the prisons
- Special Needs Population Manager dedicated to this project
- Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) training
- Inmate education and training on 'zero tolerance' for sexual violence
- Staff training on evidence preservation, red flags for sexual violence and reporting sexual assaults
- Oregon State Police sexual violence response agreement
- Special Investigations Inspectors (Eastside and Westside of Oregon) dedicated to sexual assault investigations

DOC is committed to working towards the elimination of prison rape and addressing staff sexual misconduct.

The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.



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