



Corrections Briefings

A digital newsletter for those interested in the work of the Oregon Department of Corrections

Spring 2004



Message from the Director

When Deputy Director Mitch Morrow and I assumed leadership of this department six months ago, we were impressed with the work that had been done in developing the department's governing principles, including implementation of the Oregon Accountability Model. Building on this, we sought best practices from all relevant arenas, including other government entities and corporate models.

Now, we are ready for the next logical step: to align the organization to best advance our mission and vision, while maintaining our values. Toward that end, the duties of four former DOC divisions – Institutions, Correctional Programs, Information Systems and Services, and Community Corrections – will be distributed among three new divisions to create greater focus on department priorities. The new structure ties together critical business functions that are closely related, and will facilitate improved services throughout the organization.

In addition to the DOC Human Resources Division (which remains unchanged), the department's three new divisions are:

- **Operations**, led by Assistant Director Stan Czerniak. Operations is responsible for prisons; all inmate health-related services including medical, mental health and pharmacy; intake; security; inmate work programs; and management of emergency, temporary and rental beds.
- **Transitional Services**, led by Assistant Director Ginger Martin. This division ties together all of the services that directly affect the ability of an offender to transition successfully back to the community. It has three sections:
 - **Classification and Sentencing** (includes Offender Information and Sentence Calculation (OISC), and Interstate Compact).
 - **Programs** (includes all programs targeted at recidivism, including alternative incarceration, education, alcohol and drug, cognitive, religious services, the Children of Incarcerated Parents Project and victims' services).
 - **Community Corrections** (led by Scott Taylor, who will manage through some fundamental changes including welcoming several counties back under DOC's umbrella).
- **General Services**, led by Assistant Director John Koreski. It will support much of the day-to-day business of the organization. It comprises Facilities Services, Central Distribution, Information Systems and Services, and Fiscal Services (including contracts, purchasing, accounting, and central trust).

As part of the Director's Office, Sue Acuff will continue to administer the budget office, new prison construction, community development, performance measures and budget note compliance. She also will assist the divisions with the logistics of these shifting responsibilities.

These are exciting changes for the future of the department. We firmly believe this reorganization will better align the department's operations to achieve our mission and vision. The changes begin almost immediately and will become final and effective on July 1, 2004.

I'm proud to lead the group of people who carry out this mission. I'm also delighted to be working with such a strong public safety community in service to Oregon. If we haven't already met in my new role, I look forward to doing so.

If you have questions or issues you would like to bring to my attention, please feel free to contact my office at (503) 945-0927, or e-mail me at: max.williams@state.or.us.

Sincerely,



Max Williams

DOC Releases High-Risk Inmate Behavior Report

Last October, the DOC commissioned a study about inmates' behaviors that put them at risk for transmission of diseases, including hepatitis and HIV. Inmates were surveyed about tattooing, body piercing, IV drug use, and consensual and non-consensual sex.

The encouraging news is the results show that high-risk behaviors happen much less frequently in Oregon's prisons than national estimates. However, it is of concern that these behaviors happen at all, and even one rape in prison is too many.

The DOC released the survey's findings on May 20. In the media release about the report, it made clear that the safety of the public, staff and inmates is of primary importance. The department already has two teams working to help combat the spread of disease and eliminate prison rape:

- **A Prison Rape Elimination Policy Group** composed of DOC central administrators, Health Services, Counseling and Treatment Services, and institution security experts is well on its way toward developing a comprehensive, unified policy regarding sexual assaults in Oregon's prisons to reinforce a culture of zero tolerance of sexual assaults. This policy will encourage reporting of every assault that occurs by safeguarding the confidentiality and safety of inmates who report sexual assaults. It will also define procedures to protect potential victims from assault. It will make inmate access to medical and mental health care more confidential and as simple as possible, and will include acute and long-term care and sexually transmitted disease (STD)/HIV testing and treatment.
- **A High-Risk Inmate Behavior Policy Group** composed of Department of Corrections experts will include Public Health representatives from the Department of Human Services. They will analyze the survey report and make recommendations for changes in DOC policy and practice that both preserve prison security and help reduce the risk of transmitting disease through voluntary acts such as tattooing, body piercing, IV drug use and consensual sex.

The DOC's goal is to eliminate these behaviors in order to maintain a safe environment, reduce the pain and suffering of incarcerated persons and protect the public health of our communities as these offenders are released from prison.

You can read the full report at:

www.doc.state.or.us/publicaffairs/news_release.shtml?2004news/survey_highrisk_inmates

For more information, contact DOC Special Projects Manager Nancy Sellers at (503) 945-9225 or by e-mail: nancy.sellers@state.or.us

Emergency Beds Open to Accommodate Growing Inmate Population

The April 2004 Oregon Corrections Population Forecast shows continued growth in the number of inmates in the custody of the Department of Corrections. What do we do now that the number of inmates exceeds the number of beds?

“Everything we safely can,” says Institutions Division Operations Chief Brian Bemus.

The department was authorized by the Legislature last year to install emergency beds and to rent beds from Oregon jails (and outside the state if necessary). The DOC is first working to meet the immediate need through creating emergency beds inside existing prisons. Emergency beds have already gone in at Santiam, Columbia River, OSP, OSCI, EOCl and Two Rivers.

The Deschutes Conservation Camp, which opened May 7, will alleviate the pressure for a few months by housing about 115 inmates in the mobile work camp. However, when the camp closes in late July, those inmates will need beds inside the prisons.

“Our commitment is to open only those emergency beds we can operate safely,” says Mr. Bemus. “That means – if population projections hold true – the department may be renting between 200 and 300 county beds by the end of the biennium.”

Construction continues in Lakeview on the 400-bed Warner Creek Correctional Facility. “However, ...” concludes Mr. Bemus, “... by the time WCCF opens in September 2005, we will already have enough inmates in rental beds to basically fill it.”

The April 2004 *Oregon Corrections Population Forecast* can be found on-line at www.oea.das.state.or.us.

Warner Creek On-Track for September 2005 Opening

This summer will see a flurry of activity at the Warner Creek Correctional Facility construction site in Lakeview. The construction trailers are now in place, and four DOC staff are working on the property.

“We’re on-track for the July 1, 2005 completion date, and will be ready for inmates as scheduled on September 1, 2005,” says DOC New Prison Construction Administrator Doug Young. “Contractor Hoffman Construction has begun excavation for the prison’s mechanical piping and plumbing, and is pouring footings for B Building, a 32,000-square-foot building that will house operations, master control, kitchen, dining, laundry and the warehouse.”

Sustainability feature: A unique component of Warner Creek will be the use of geothermal energy for heating. The Town of Lakeview will provide the geothermal heat as a utility, much as it provides water and sewer services.

The geothermal heat is collected from water heated by natural underground sources. The heated water will be brought up from a well through pipes to a heat exchanger. The heat will then be transferred to the DOC’s heating water loop system, and the original water returned to the ground.

The geothermal heating system provides both energy and sustainability benefits. It avoids burning fossil fuels or using electricity to generate heat in a conventional boiler. The only cost of providing the heated water is the cost of electricity to pump the water to the heat exchanger, which will significantly reduce the overall heating costs of the prison.

For more information on Warner Creek, contact Doug Young at (503) 373-1572 X7121 or by e-mail at: doug.e.young@doc.state.or.us.

New DOC Public Affairs Administrator

Colette S. Peters joined the department in April as Public Affairs administrator. Her 13 years working in the criminal justice arena includes direct work with victims and offenders and in broader policy roles. She most recently served the Colorado legislature in a non-partisan capacity, where she was responsible for policy research, analysis and recommendations to legislators on criminal justice, public safety and other policy issues.

“It is an honor to work with the leadership and dedicated professionals in the DOC,” says Ms. Peters. She goes on to describe this as an exciting time to be part of the state’s public safety team. “There are so many challenges and opportunities facing Corrections today. I look forward to meeting and working with all of the DOC’s stakeholders.”

Ms. Peters holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the College of Saint Benedict in Minnesota and a master’s degree in criminal justice from the Graduate School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado. She succeeds Claudia Black, who left the DOC last September for a position with Portland State University.

Sixth Annual Deschutes Conservation Camp Opens

DOC staff and inmates are again camped out in the woods for the summer, but certainly not for a vacation. One hundred and fifteen minimum-custody inmates will spend the summer doing hard physical labor to help restore forest health and reduce fire hazards in central Oregon’s national forest areas. The Deschutes Conservation Camp is in its sixth year working with the U.S. Forest Service.

Forest Service employees provide technical direction for the inmate crews, which are deployed six days a week.

This summer’s program will focus on protecting homes adjacent to forested land in Sisters, Camp Sherman, Crescent and La Pine from wildland fires. The inmates will also complete projects that reduce fire threats to the Bend watershed, and critical threatened and endangered species habitat.

“Over the past five years, we’ve increased the quality and quantity of our work,” says Camp Commander Captain Jeff Forbes. “We’ve proven that setting clear goals for productivity and achieving or surpassing those goals creates high morale and a safer, more-productive inmate workforce.”

During the past five years, inmates hand-piled more than 20,000 acres of hazardous fuels on the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests. The work included reducing fuels around 12 local communities, including Sisters, Black Butte Ranch, Pringle Falls, Crescent, Crescent Lake, Sunriver and La Pine.

“Last year, we invited the program back for a fall session because of the inmates’ success in hand piling over 5,000 acres of brush and woody debris in the forest,” said Deschutes National Forest Supervisor Leslie Weldon. “This resulted in another 2,000 acres of fuels treatment with a focus on protecting homes, recreation sites throughout the forest, and cabins near Crescent Lake.”

In addition, she said the inmates learned critical outdoor skills that will help them obtain employment upon release in landscaping, nursery and forestry fields.

For more information about the camp, contact Inmate Work Programs Administrator Debra Slater at (503) 945-9232 or by e-mail: debra.slater@doc.state.or.us

VINE System Provides Offender Info to Oregonians

If you were a victim of crime, knowing accurate information about the offender who victimized you might be more than a little reassuring. Since January 2002, Oregon has had a way to automatically notify registered users of any offender’s change of status within the overall system of corrections.

VINE stands for “Victim Information and Notification Everyday.” It's a free, anonymous computer system that uses state-of-the-art technology and a central call center to connect people with vital offender information through a toll-free hotline. Users also may sign up to be notified when there is a change in the status of an offender, including lawful release, escape, work release, and 16 other scenarios.

A joint effort of the Oregon Departments of Corrections and Justice, VINE is now operational for all DOC prisons, Oregon Youth Authority facilities, community corrections agencies and all county jails.

Anyone can use VINE, and registering for notifications is easy by telephone. The system is available in both English and Spanish at (877) OR-4-VINE / (877) 674-8463. VINE is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Since Oregon's first VINE sites began in January 2002, nearly 250,000 calls have been received or generated about Oregon cases. More than 9,000 individuals are registered to receive automatic notifications and 10,500 confirmed notifications have gone out.

“VINE has been enthusiastically received by victims of crime in Oregon,” says DOC's Vine Project Manager Keith Benefiel. “Many users report an increased sense of safety and security from knowing they will receive accurate, timely information about those who victimized them.”

For more information, contact Keith Benefiel at (503) 945-9064 or by e-mail to: keith.a.benefiel@state.or.us

Inmate Telephone Options Changing

The Department of Corrections has two new options for inmate phone calling. After prison-by-prison installations are completed this summer, the new phone system will offer inmates three calling choices:

- The existing system for inmates to make collect calls.
- Debit calling (the inmate or someone on the outside puts money in the inmate's phone account that can be used for the calls of the inmate's choice).
- Pre-paid calling (someone on the outside puts money in the inmate's phone account that may only be used to call one pre-defined number).

Debit calling offers up to a 40 percent discount on local, in-state, out-of-state and international calls. There is no discount on collect calls or pre-paid calling. As each institution changes to the new system, inmates get more information on how to use it and how their families and friends can use the debit and pre-paid calling options.

A Sample of DOC's Work with the Oregon Food Bank

Sustainability is a way of conserving and sharing the state's resources for the cumulative benefit of all Oregonians. It also is a priority for state government. Toward that end, the DOC supports the Oregon Food Bank in a variety of ways, including:

- SRCI sends crews to the Heinz/Ore-Ida building each week to sort, bag and load onions for transport to food banks in Oregon and other western states.
- CRCI sends crews to the Oregon Food Bank to sort on the food reclamation line, work in the warehouse, and repackage food for distribution to families and agencies.
- TRCI crews receive bulk deliveries from the food bank that they repackage into smaller, more usable sizes for distribution to families.
- PRCF coordinates fundraisers to benefit local aid organizations and gleans potatoes from local farms in the fall for donation to the Governor's State Employees Food Drive.

Fast Facts:

How Much Flour Does it Take to Run a Prison System?

With more than 12,500 inmates in our custody, it takes a lot of careful pricing and purchasing to stay within the DOC's per-inmate food budget of \$2.36 a day. The department serves more than 13 million inmate meals a year. All those meals require purchasing, delivering, and preparing tremendous amounts of raw ingredients. To help keep costs down, DOC Food Services Administrator Fred Monem makes spot buys and bulk purchases. The institutions do a lot of the labor-intensive work, such as baking bread. Here are a few examples of some food supplies the DOC goes through:

	Monthly	Yearly
Flour	200,000 lbs.	2.4 million lbs.
Beef	150,000 lbs.	1.8 million lbs.
Chicken	68,000 lbs.	860,000 lbs.
Turkey	80,000 lbs.	960,000 lbs.
Lettuce	22,000 lbs.	264,000 lbs.
Cold cereal	35,000 lbs.	420,000 lbs.
Hot cereal	40,000 lbs.	480,000 lbs.
Milk	60,000 gallons	720,000 gallons
Eggs	804,000 eggs	9.6 million eggs

Reentry:

Component #5 of the Oregon Accountability Model

The ultimate goal of the Oregon Accountability Model is to improve public safety. The model ties together many concurrent and interrelated efforts of the department and its partners into a cohesive strategy to reduce recidivism and influence inmates to become productive citizens upon release to our communities.

The fifth component of the Oregon Accountability Model (OAM) is reentry. Seven of the department's prisons have been identified as reentry facilities. Reentry prisons are geared to preparing inmates for release during their last six months of incarceration. These prisons are strategically located to encourage interaction with the community. Connections with the community before release are important factors in offenders' successes on the outside, and may include work, treatment (medical, mental health, and substance abuse), religion and housing.

Counselors at the reentry prisons work with inmates to evaluate which risk areas have been mitigated and which areas need to be addressed once the offender is released to community supervision. Each inmate receives a plan that is developed jointly with the inmate, community corrections and the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision.

The department also is involved in statewide projects that focus on reentry: a seamless transition of offenders from the community to incarceration to community supervision. The project is intended to eliminate duplication of services and increase effective and efficient use of partnerships, particularly with the faith-based community.

Other reentry components include helping families prepare for the successful return of the offender to the family after release. This includes family orientations about the details of reentry and post-prison supervision and how to access community services and support groups.

For more information about the Oregon Accountability Model and reentry, go to:
www.doc.state.or.us/oam/welcome_oam.shtml

In Brief...

- **The U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics just released *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2003*.** This annual report includes the number of inmates for each state and the federal system and the overall incarceration rate per 100,000 residents. It offers trends since 1995 and percentage changes in prison populations. You can read the report at:
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pjim03.htm
- **Santiam Correctional Institution efficiently evacuated staff and inmates to the yard** in the early hours of Tuesday, April 27. Firefighters responded at about 4:30 a.m. to reports of smoke coming from an overheating boiler. Salem Fire Department quickly responded, the boiler was shut down, and staff returned inmates to their bunks in about an hour. During the evacuation, alert staff found an unresponsive and incoherent inmate in his bunk suffering from complications of diabetes. The inmate was assisted to safety and treated for his medical condition.



DOC Corrections Briefings

Oregon Department of Corrections

Max Williams, Director

Mitch Morrow, Deputy Director

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.

For more information, please contact Nancy Sellers in the DOC Public Affairs Office at (503) 945-9225 or e-mail: nancy.sellers@doc.state.or.us