



# Corrections Briefings

*An e-newsletter for those interested in the work of the Oregon Department of Corrections*

**Summer 2004**

## Housing a Growing Inmate Population

One of the biggest issues facing the Oregon Department of Corrections today is inmate population growth. Under Oregon law, DOC must accept every offender sentenced to our custody by the courts. We never have the option of saying: "Sorry, no vacancy."

In the Spring issue, you read about how we are using emergency and rental beds to accommodate the steadily growing number of prison inmates. In 1999, there were about 9,000 inmates in Oregon prisons. Today, DOC houses more than 12,750 felons in a dozen prisons around the state. With 12,412 budgeted prison beds and an added 772 emergency beds around the state, the DOC will likely be renting about 300 beds from county jail by the end of the biennium.

*If the most-recent population projection holds steady, over the next 10 years DOC's population will grow by 5,000 inmates – for a total of 17,500 men and women in prison in 2014.*

To meet the growing need for prison beds, we are taking a two-pronged approach:

- Build more prison capacity; and
- Deliver evidence-based prison programs to reduce recidivism and lower the number of offenders returning to prison.

Toward the first goal, we will seek legislative approval to move ahead with construction of the prison in Madras and to expand beds at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville. Madras will be an 864-bed minimum custody/1,240-bed medium custody prison. The expansion of Coffee Creek will be 324 beds.

We need these beds and are asking for authorization early in the next legislative session. If DOC gets that approval by March 2005, we begin the construction cycle next summer. Otherwise, construction is delayed until Spring 2006, lengthening the period of time we need to use rental beds.

Our longer-term second goal is perhaps even more important. We are committed to using the best-possible prison programs available to help inmates overcome their criminal risk factors and successfully reintegrate into our communities after release. These programs include education, drug and alcohol treatment, mental health services and job training.

Another key effort is improved transition planning and services, especially coordinating our work with community resources to help ensure that released offenders successfully reintegrate into our communities. Over time, we hope our efforts will reduce the demand for prison beds.

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](mailto:max.williams@state.or.us).

Sincerely,



Max Williams

(The April 2004 *Oregon Corrections Population Forecast* can be found on-line at [www.oea.das.state.or.us](http://www.oea.das.state.or.us).)

## **Law Libraries Integrate Technology**

Thanks to automation, inmate law libraries inside prisons are becoming more effective and efficient. Instead of bulky printed materials, inmates will be able to access legal materials through secure computers using law library software called "Premise."

The Premise case law research program is an electronic version of the West Group books the DOC's law libraries have bought in the past. As with any database, Premise allows users to search shared information more efficiently than they could with the books. "Shepard's" is another research tool that will be available electronically to users.

The secure computers are really terminals that are limited to database read-only use, without access to the Internet, personal file storage or printers. They will connect inmates to the DOC's central Law Library terminal server located at the Central Distribution Center in Salem.

Benefits include:

- Ease of use by inmates.
- Space savings within the libraries as books are replaced with digital servers.
- Fewer "legal trips" to provide inmates at smaller prisons with access to the more-detailed law libraries at larger prisons.

For more information, please contact DOC Information Services Operations Manager Jerry Johnson at (503) 378-3798 ext. 22405 or by e-mail to: [jerry.r.johnson@state.or.us](mailto:jerry.r.johnson@state.or.us).

## **Children of Incarcerated Parents Project Update: Parent/Child Study Assesses Program Effectiveness**

Knowing that children of incarcerated parents are much more likely than their peers to be incarcerated as adults, the DOC began the Children of Incarcerated Parents Project to help break the intergenerational cycle of criminality.

One of the first outcomes of the Children's Project was developing research-based parenting education targeted to the unique needs of inmate parents. That is the "Parenting Inside Out" curriculum being offered in our prisons. Now, using a \$3.2 million federal grant awarded in 2003 by the National Institute of Mental Health, the Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC) in

Eugene is evaluating the long-term effects of the parenting education program. OSLC is a not-for-profit research center dedicated to increasing the scientific understanding related to healthy development and family functioning. The information learned in this study is expected to help find the best ways to strengthen family ties in support of the Oregon Accountability Model and to help break the intergenerational cycle of criminality.

OSLC staff working on the study have been recruiting and screening inmates participants. They already are assessing more inmates in preparation for classes beginning in September. By the end of the study, OSLC hopes to have 400 inmate parents participating.

Of the 71 inmate parents already enrolled in the study, 18 have completed the Parenting Inside Out classes, with another dozen expected to graduate in August. The remaining inmates are members of the control group that doesn't take the parenting classes.

Study participants complete in-depth interviews and questionnaires while incarcerated. OSLC staff interview participants immediately after release and again six months later.

The caregivers of children of inmates enrolled in the study are also invited to participate. About 60 percent have chosen to do so, and are assessed on the same schedule as the inmate parents.

For more information about the study, please contact Becky Lamoureux at the Oregon Social Learning Center by e-mail: [BeckyL@oslc.org](mailto:BeckyL@oslc.org).

## **Oregon Corrections Emergency Preparedness System**

Flexibility, cost-savings and effectiveness were just a few of the reasons the DOC developed its own Oregon Corrections Emergency Preparedness System. Changes to the emergency preparedness system are a part of the department's commitment to readiness, with an emphasis on improved coordination between emergency preparedness, security threat group management and tactical response. First and foremost, it is an integrated system that reflects Oregon's experience and expertise while maximizing prudent use of scarce resources.

All DOC staff are being trained on the new system in the 2004 In-service classes. According to SRCI Security Manager Sonny Rider, the new training program challenges staff to become more-effective commanders, leaders and communicators. The new emergency manuals easy to use, with checklists and forms to reflect the DOC's new strategic system.

"The new Emergency Preparedness System builds on solid past practices," concludes DOC Security Chief Paula Allen. "We've refined our approach to emergencies, with improved response and follow-up." Watch for more about the new system in coming issues of *Corrections News Online* or contact Ms. Allen at (503) 945-0955 or by e-mail: [paula.allen@state.or.us](mailto:paula.allen@state.or.us).

## **Coffee Creek's Even Start Program**

The Coffee Creek Even Start family literacy program fits well with the goals of the Oregon Accountability Model. Even Start seeks to first improve inmate parents' ability to read and then to reach their children. Additionally, through family literacy programs, activities inside CCCF provide the means for important bonding that otherwise wouldn't happen between an

incarcerated mother and her child. The ultimate goal is to help break the intergenerational cycle of criminality.

The Even Start family literacy program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility is the nation's first and remains the only Even Start in a correctional institution. It began in 2003 to improve educational opportunities for families by reducing illiteracy and poverty. CCCF's Even Start goes one step further and combines adult literacy, parenting education and early childhood education.

To inmates must attend adult education or work-based education programs. They also must participate in the Parenting Inside/Out classes and Even Start Parent Time classes and workshops. Participating inmate mothers and their children attend school together twice a month in an early childhood education classroom inside the facility. Actively involved with their children's educations, the mothers receive regular progress reports and participate in parent-teacher conferences by telephone.

The mother-child activities vary, and most often are education based. Recently, the children planted a family garden at CCCF with their mothers, which involved learning about plants, insects, weather, data collection and seasonal cycles. The children also can check out books from an on-site collection to read; prizes are awarded to children who complete five book reports. The program also has a book club where the inmates read and discuss literature provided by Even Start.

### ***About the Even Start Staff***

- Director of Corrections Education for Portland Community College Julie Kopet oversees CCCF's Even Start Program and its federal grant.
- Jessica Katz coordinates the program. She holds a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and has 12 years' experience working with parents and children in crisis. She enrolls women in the program, facilitates caregiver and parent meetings, coordinates with schools, and coordinates transition meetings to further support the family and children.
- Family Advocate and Early Childhood Educator Kerry Sessler holds a master's degree in women's studies. She previously worked in Ireland with homeless mothers and children to secure housing and teach self-sufficiency skills. She has 24 years' experience working with severely emotionally disturbed and learning disabled children. She teaches the "Parent and Child Time," conducts home visits with the custodial families, and coordinates school conferences that include inmate mothers.

## **Community Supervision and Programs: Component #6 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 sixth component of the Oregon Accountability Model (OAM) is **Community Supervision and Programs**. There are more than 30,000 offenders in Oregon's

communities on felony probation, parole, and post-prison supervision. People are sentenced directly to community supervision (probation) or to supervision following a prison term (post-prison supervision or parole). To help prevent offenders from committing additional crimes, the Department of Corrections works closely with each of the state's 36 counties regarding the delivery of supervision, services and sanctions to these offenders.

Under the Oregon Accountability Model a natural partnership has developed between county community corrections agencies and the DOC to improve the transition of offenders from prison to the community. There is a strong correlation between a well-planned transition and an offender's successful reintegration.

Some of the most challenging aspects of transition are also known risk factors. Employment, housing, transportation, and the availability of programs all contribute to an offender's chances for success on the outside. It is the goal of the Department of Corrections to work closely with community corrections agencies to put these pieces into place before an offender's release from prison and to make transition as "seamless" as possible.

While under supervision, all felony offenders are classified based on their risk to recidivate. Requirements of supervision are determined by the offender's risk to the community, individual needs, and court-ordered conditions of supervision. High-risk offenders are supervised more closely than lower risk offenders.

### **Community Corrections Programs and Interventions**

There are a wide range of programs available in the community such as substance abuse treatment, cognitive skills development, employment readiness and job search, sex offender treatment, drug testing, drug court and intensive supervision programs. Referrals to these programs are generated by the supervising parole/probation officer based on the needs of offenders and by court-ordered conditions of supervision.

Recognizing that cost and effectiveness are important, counties look to the same research on best practices that has influenced the Department of Corrections in creating the Oregon Accountability Model. Consistent with the Oregon Accountability Model, county community corrections agencies assess each offender's risk to re-offend and the needs or problems of offenders that are related to ongoing criminal behavior. The most intensive supervision and programs are focused on the higher risk individuals and interventions are designed to address the criminogenic risk factors in order to reduce the likelihood of future criminal behavior.

For more information about the Oregon Accountability Model and reentry, go to: [www.doc.state.or.us/oam/welcome\\_oam.shtml](http://www.doc.state.or.us/oam/welcome_oam.shtml)

## **In Brief...**

- **Welcome to DOC's new Assistant Director for Human Resources Shellí Honeywell.** Shellí has more than 15 years' experience in human resources and labor relations. She comes to the DOC from the Department of Administrative Services, where she served as the senior state human resources consultant and H.I.R.E. program manager. Shellí holds a bachelor's degree in business from Western Oregon University, a master's degree in

business from the Atkinson Graduate School of Management, and a doctor of jurisprudence degree from Willamette University College of Law.

- **DOC has a new chief psychiatrist, Daryl Ruthvend, M.D.** Dr. Ruthvend graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and completed his residency at Oregon Health Sciences University. Following service at the Veterans' Administration, in 1993 he opened a private practice in Salem. Dr. Ruthvend served the DOC as a consultant since 1998, and joined the staff full time on July 1. He succeeds Dr. Marvin Fickle, who recently left the DOC to become superintendent of Oregon State Hospital.
- **Congratulations to DOC's newest superintendent, Tim Causey.** Tim was selected to lead Shutter Creek Correctional Institution in North Bend, where he has been acting superintendent since Sharon Blacketter left the position to move to Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution last November. Tim joined the DOC in July 1990, and served six years as a correctional officer at Oregon State Penitentiary, including five years in the Special Management Unit. In 1996, Tim transferred to Shutter Creek as a counselor. He was AFSCME president and chief steward at SCCI for the non-security unit for two years. Following a job rotation as food services manager, Tim became SCCI Program Services manager in August 2002. He holds an associate's degree in corrections from Chemeketa Community College in Salem, and served in the U.S. Air Force.
- **Darcey Baker joins Parole Board:** On June 24, the Oregon Senate confirmed Darcey Baker to a four-year term on the three-member Board of Parole and Post Prison Supervision. Ms. Baker brings with her a wealth of parole and probation experience including 25 years with Clackamas County Community Corrections. She is a recognized leader in sex offender notification issues, and served on the legislative committee that addressed locating predatory and sexually violent offenders in the community.
- **The US Bureau of Justice Statistics publication: "State Prison Expenditures, 2001"** presents comparative data on the cost of operating the nation's state prisons including state-level spending on prison employee salaries and wages, supplies, food, inmate medical care, utilities, contractual services, and capital expenditures (building construction, renovations, major repairs, and land purchases). In total, states report spending 29.5 billion on prisons in fiscal year 2001. The report is available online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/spe01.htm>.
- **The US Bureau of Justice Statistics publication: "Probation and Parole in the United States, 2003"** is available online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ppus03.htm>. The report presents the number of persons on probation and parole by state at year-end 2003 and compares the totals with 1995 and 2002.



**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.

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