



# Issue Brief - 2007

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## Oregon Accountability Model

### Overview

The Oregon Accountability Model (OAM) encompasses the simultaneous, coordinated and efficient implementation of many Department of Corrections' (DOC) initiatives and projects that provide a foundation for inmates to lead successful lives upon release.

The ultimate goal of the OAM 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 into becoming productive citizens.

### Components of the OAM

The OAM has six components. Each of these components stands on its own as a project or a part of the Corrections organization and culture. However, woven together these six separate components form a fabric that strengthens the department's ability to hold inmates and offenders accountable for their actions and DOC staff accountable for achieving the mission and vision of the department:

- Criminal Risk Factor Assessment and Case Planning.
- Staff-Inmate Interactions.
- Work and Programs.
- Children and Families.
- Re-entry.
- Community Supervision and Programs.

### *Criminal risk factor assessment and case planning:*

During in-depth intake assessment, each inmate receives a personalized Corrections Plan that is tracked throughout his or her incarceration and supervision in the community. The corrections plan is based on mitigating seven criminogenic risk factors that research indicates predict future criminal behavior:

- Associates
- Substance Abuse
- Community Functioning
- Education and Employment
- Emotional and Mental Health
- Marital and Family Life
- Attitudes

The department provides targeted programs and services to mitigate these risk factors during incarceration and community supervision. When offenders transition successfully back into their communities there is less likelihood that they will commit new crimes.

### *Staff-inmate interactions:*

A key part of the OAM recognizes that staff interactions with inmates help shape positive behavior. The department encourages staff to influence inmates' behavior, acknowledge positive change and provide incentives to inmates to change their behavior.

### *Work and programs:*

Meaningful work is known to contribute to the success of offenders upon release. DOC assesses inmates' job skills at intake and includes work or training in each person's corrections plan.

Many correctional programs contribute to inmates' preparedness for work (such as education and/or treatment) and others teach inmates the skills they need to gain employment and succeed in the workplace. Most Oregon state inmates have a job while incarcerated to give them on-the-job experience.

### ***Children and families:***

DOC encourages productive relationships between families and inmates to strengthen ties and increase the likelihood of success upon release. The period of a parent's incarceration provides an opportunity for positive intervention with families at risk.

The department has a strong interest in the children of incarcerated parents because they are many times more likely to be incarcerated than are their peers. To improve outcomes for these children and their offender parents, DOC offers opportunities for inmates to take "Parenting Inside Out" classes, which have a curriculum tailored to the special needs of inmate families. These and other initiatives provide inmates with tools for successful parenting and allows opportunities for inmates to practice those pro-social behaviors.

### ***Re-entry:***

DOC embraces a statewide commitment to effective transition, including facilitating the seamless movement of offenders from the community to incarceration to community supervision. Eight of the department's prisons have been identified as re-entry facilities. These prisons are strategically located to encourage coordination with the community.

Connections with the community before release are important factors in offenders' transition. DOC's "Home for Good" project is building a network of faith-based partnerships to aid in the re-entry of individual inmates back to the community. ■

### ***Community supervision and programs:***

There are more than 35,000 offenders on probation or post-prison supervision in Oregon communities. DOC continually works in partnership with each county to develop, deliver and administer best practices regarding supervision, sanctions and programs for offenders and their families in the communities. The goal is to reduce the risk of future criminal behavior. ■

**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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