



# News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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## Powder River Correctional Facility hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Talk

On October 22 Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF) hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Talk. The Public Talk was developed to provide a platform for community members to connect, including public officials, business leaders, volunteers, and staff. Attendees came together in a positive way to share resources with adults in custody as they prepare for release. The event was attended by more than 60 people.

Department of Corrections (DOC) Deputy Director Kim Brockamp opened the event by sharing the department's mission of ensuring that adults in custody are offered tools to succeed and are given a safe environment to learn. During her remarks, Ms. Brockamp stressed that DOC's role is not to punish, but rather foster and help those incarcerated become better citizens upon release.

Former inmate and guest speaker Casey Bailey shared some of the struggles he faced upon release, such as obtaining a driver's license and social security card. Ms. Brockamp was able to update the group on DOC's efforts to help those in custody obtain both of these critical pieces of documentation.

Jake Jacobs and Bob Savage with Oregon Small Business Organization were also in attendance. Both men have volunteered a significant amount of time working with incarcerated individuals who are interested in developing small businesses upon release. Adults in custody are afforded this opportunity through the Small Business Program at PRCF. During the six-month program, participants are given the tools to research and learn the fundamentals of business, practice communication skills, and study basic fundamentals of computers. At the end of the course, they prepare a presentation to share with the community. They are able to talk in an open forum and field questions from community members about their business plan. Mr. Jacobs asked the audience to consider this, "We, the



*Local community members enjoy dinner and conversation at PRCF.*



*Deputy Director Kim Brockamp and PRCF Superintendent Brad Cain visit with Health Services Manager, Vicki Clark.*

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**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.**

community, have an obligation to be part of the solution as these men will be your neighbor someday, and we need to do whatever we can to break down the barriers they face upon release.”

Mr. Cain, PRCF Superintendent said, “It is encouraging to see the community come together in support of the adults in custody, and it was apparent they had a sincere interest in being part of the solution for their successful re-entry.” The Oregon Small Business Organization plans to extend their resources to other facilities in the future.

PRCF is a minimum-security prison in Baker City that houses approximately 366 male inmates who are within four years of release. PRCF serves as a transition and re-entry facility and is focused on cognitive programming, work programs, and preparing inmates for return to the community. PRCF is home to the 128-bed New Directions (Drug and Alcohol Treatment) Alternative Incarceration Program. Individuals who successfully complete this 180-day in-prison program are released to the community for a 90-day transitional leave period. Individuals who successfully complete the transitional leave period are granted a reduction in their sentence and move to post-prison supervision. PRCF opened in November 1989.

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