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ICJ moves youth safely to and from other states

Carol Gillespie jokes about her role in juvenile corrections. "It's like being a glorified travel agent," she says, "with a little bit extra." The extra involves getting scores of youth safely to and from other states annually through the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ).

OYA staff escort only those youth in its jurisdiction being returned to Oregon, although Gillespie also makes travel arrangements for county juvenile departments and DHS child welfare. JPOs and JPPAs escort a youth back to Oregon – either flying or driving – an average of every three weeks.

Transporting youth who have absconded is a job that involves finesse, not only in protecting public safety, but also in not alarming the public. "If we're doing our job," Gillespie says, "the public shouldn't know we're transporting a delinquent." OYA escorts must obtain the necessary supports – such as a notarized JJIS face sheet, court order, identification, ICJ waiver of extradition, flight itinerary, restraints, and the OYA-issued badge – and let TSA and airport police know about the transport.

Transported youth may have run away, escaped, absconded from probation or parole, or have been in an out-of-state placement that failed. Field supervisors are responsible for assigning staff members who escort youth back to Oregon. OYA arranges air travel through a state contract with Azumano Travel.



Carol Gillespie, right, and assistant Tina Suzuki manage Interstate Compact travel and other arrangements for scores of youth annually, not only for OYA, but also for county juvenile departments and DHS child welfare.

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This month's masthead photo is by Ken Jerin. You may submit a photo for use as an *Inside OYA* masthead by e-mailing your photo to oya.communications@oya.state.or.us.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SERVICE AWARDS

These awards are for August 2012.

20 YEARS

Pete Roberts
Rogue Valley YCF

15 YEARS

James Earhart
Hillcrest YCF

Tim Fannion
Hillcrest YCF

Janet Ferris
Tillamook YCF

Donald Jeter
MacLaren YCF

James Johnson
MacLaren YCF

Ben McCanna
Eastern Oregon YCF

Sandra Nelson
Facility Services

Joseph Tollefson
Oak Creek YCF

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Our services deliver quantifiable results



Fariborz Pakseresht

The world of juvenile justice in this country is changing and evolving rapidly. OYA has been at the forefront of this change with our compilation of data through JJIS, our use of that data to monitor program performance, our adoption of evidence-based practices, and our efforts to provide educational and vocational opportunities for youth.

We know, for example, that there are four key indicators of success for the youth we serve – their progress in treatment, their educational achievement, their job-readiness, and their community connectedness. And there are tangible payoffs when youth make progress in these areas.

Studies show that, for every dollar we invest in certain types of treatment, there are very real returns. Over the course of the youth's lifetime, society receives \$25 for every \$1 invested in life-skills training, \$14 for every \$1 invested in functional family therapy, \$11 for every \$1 invested in alcohol and drug treatment, and \$8 for every \$1 invested in crime-specific interventions.

Returns on educational progress show up in recidivism declines. The average recidivism rate for youth who receive two-year college degrees is 25 percent. With a four-year degree, that drops to 13 percent. And the recidivism rate for youth who earn a graduate degree is zero.

Job-readiness also pays off with an average drop in recidivism of 10 percent for youth with job skills and professional certificates. The financial benefits to society are sig-

nificant, as the costs of dealing with crime drop and tax revenues increase thanks to more youth being employed.

Community and social connectedness also has a tangible payoff. Research shows that youth who are engaged in their communities commit fewer crimes, in some cases recidivating at significantly lower rates (20 percent vs. 32 percent). Youth commit fewer crimes when they can see themselves as valued members of a community.

As we move forward with implementation of our Youth Reformation System (YRS), we are using research and data to help improve results for youth in these four areas. Beginning at intake with existing and new assessment tools, we are improving our ability to determine the risk and needs of youth in our care and custody. We also are learning more about the six key 'typologies' of youth we serve and the treatment and staffing needs for each of these typologies. As we improve our ability to monitor treatment and programming effectiveness, we will be able to adjust the services we provide to improve outcomes.

We can best serve the youth and communities of this state by continuing our progressive and innovative approach to reforming youth. And that is what fully implementing YRS will allow us to do.

I look forward to all that we will be able to accomplish as we work together to hold youth accountable, guide their reformation, build safer communities, and reduce future victimization.

Sincerely,

Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

'You've got to believe kids can change'

You never know where you might find Funaki Letisi. On this morning, he's shopping at the Burlington Coat Factory in Salem's Lancaster Mall. The Minority Youth Transition Specialist is helping a youth pick out clothing he can wear to school and job interviews.

"You've got to believe kids can change," Letisi says. This youth has changed by turning over all of his red gang gear to Letisi, who has obtained a clothing voucher to take him clothes shopping. While the youth shops, Letisi is on his cell phone signing up the youth for participation in the tattoo-removal program (*Inside OYA*, June 2012).



Letisi helps a youth select clothes for school and work.

This youth is fairly typical of Letisi's caseload: Hispanic son of a single mom with low-income housing and poor transportation. It's common for youth in transition to have little or no job experience, be new to filling out job applications, and very likely not have a driver license. One of the youth Letisi works with today has a 4-year-old son; another has an 11-month-old daughter. One says his dad has been in prison since he was 3.

Letisi is one of two OMS transition specialists working with youth in Clackamas, Marion, Multnomah, and Washington counties (see

related story, page 9), or with Native American youth regardless of county. "Now that they're out in the community, our job is to keep them out," he says. Today he talks with two North Coast YCF youth by videoconference, takes a youth clothes shopping, begins GED enrollment for another youth, attends an impromptu safety counseling session with a youth, and goes to Hillcrest YCF to assist with Hawaiian and Micronesian dance rehearsals for a multicultural fair.

"My biggest thing is getting gang kids out of the gang," he says. "When you pull them out of the gangs you've got to fill their time with something else." He adds, "One of the kids likes soccer, so we'll go find a soccer league."

Letisi prides himself on being accessible. "I'm 24 hours a day, Bro, seven days a week," he says during a getting-to-know-you videoconference with a North Coast YCF youth who is within months of parole. He occasionally gets weekend calls from youth who want to chat or need help with issues.

On this day he also gets to watch two JPPOs connect with youth. JPPO Mark Plaza counsels a youth to call the police if she's again accosted by other youth, and talks about staying in places that are safe. JPPO Al Rodriguez does impromptu counseling with a youth in which the message boils down to, "You're doing well, here's how to impress your employer, here's how to balance praise and consequences with your son."

Since March, Letisi has been on rotation behind Christina Puentes, who in turn is on rotation to the Professional Standards Office. An OYA employee since 2004, Letisi says his experience at MacLaren YCF helps him in the transition job: "Now I work with the outcome of what they do (in the facilities). You know where they've been." ■

August 2012 service awards, continued

10 YEARS

Kristi Hood
Tillamook YCF

Tara McEachern
Hillcrest YCF

Michael Runyon
Marion PPO

5 YEARS

Sean Doohar
Tillamook YCF

Leticia Gonzalez
Hillcrest YCF

Matthew Grove
Health Services

Kevin Jackson
Hillcrest YCF

Brent Jansen
Hillcrest YCF

Abraham Kapua
North Coast YCF

Wyatt Mann
Oak Creek YCF

Mike Powers
Business Services

Richard Proctor
North Coast YCF

DEPARTURES

Jason Rekucki
Camp Tillamook YTF

ARRIVALS

James Butts
MaLaren YCF

Robyn Honeycutt
Hillcrest YCF

Nicole Loyd
Oak Creek YCF

John Malone
MaLaren YCF

Scott Manning
Camp Tillamook YTF

Montgomery Meek
Oak Creek YCF

Staci Wendt
Business Services

JPPO talks about overcoming shame in youth

Presenters scheduled to speak at the last session of a conference's final day know not to expect an impressive turnout. But when Clackamas JPPO Don Tomfohr drew that slot at September's OJDDA conference, he still had its biggest turnout – more than 60 people.

His subject: Helping youth who are highly affected by shame. "We don't address it," he says. "Everybody knows about it, but you don't really know what to do about it." He says shame affects everyone. But a higher percentage of OYA youth feel toxic shame because it is both an interpersonal and a multi-generational family problem.

Interpersonally, he says, it originates primarily from significant relationships such as non-verbal signals from caregivers who are not present, attentive, attuned, or who don't nurture youth. He says a youth in a multi-generational dysfunctional family may talk about becoming a firefighter or a musician or a sports star, but will be told 'you can't do that, you're not good enough.'

Youth also learn shame from other verbal cues. "If you tell a child 'you're a liar,' that's a shame message, you're talking about his character, it diminishes their personhood," Tomfohr says. "But 'you lied to me' is a guilt message, it says your behavior is not OK, change it. When you separate the youth's behavior from their character there's a big difference. 'You're OK, but your behavior is not.'"

Without working on shame-caused hurt and fear, he says, youth focus on their performance rather than character and excellence: "Even in my parolees, if they go to school, don't get caught, call me when they're supposed to, it's all about performance. The parolee learns, 'All I have to do is perform a certain way and I'll get by.' It doesn't address his hurt, it doesn't address his shame, so when he's away from the program on a home visit or after he transitions back home, he makes the same mistakes he always made because he never worked on the real problem."

Tomfohr – his graduate studies and thesis focused on shame – says part of the solution is to change negative thought patterns through cognitive restructuring. For example, changing "that staff hates me" to "that staff is strict but he's trying to help me" results in different feelings and behavior. Help the youth overcome his belief that he's defective, that he can't succeed, that he isn't worthy, he says. He encourages youth to read affirmations three times a day to help change their automatic negative thoughts (such as "I am free of the fear of rejection by others," "the energy I give out today will flow back to me," and "I am strong and self-assured"). Tomfohr adds, "I carry them around in my iPhone. I read them myself."

A JPPO since 2003, Tomfohr says youth take varying amounts of time to respond positively, influenced by whether they "armor up" with defense mechanisms – anger, contempt, deception, blaming, victim stance and narcissism – to protect themselves or have made a trust connection that allows vulnerability.

"The more you talk to a youth about this, the more they begin to understand, the more they start to have a positive regard for themselves," he says. "They learn, I



Tomfohr addresses youth and shame at OJDDA session.

failed, but I'm not a failure; I made a mistake, but I'm not a mistake. Instead of believing 'I'm not OK,' they start believing 'I am OK,' which causes them to behave differently." ■

Rogue Valley earns state A&D certification

Rogue Valley YCF has earned certification from the Oregon Health Authority as a facility meeting all its requirements to deliver alcohol and drug treatment.

OHA awarded the two-year license in August, resulting in OYA's first facility to implement the license facility-wide. OHA previously granted A&D treatment licenses to Hillcrest, MacLaren and North Coast YCFs, which operate treatment programs on specific units.

Superintendent Ken Jerin thanked QMHP Bill Winter, Treatment Manager Joseph Mabonga, and Program Director Randy Guisinger for their work in obtaining the license. "A majority of youth who come through here have at least been exposed to the lifestyle of substance abuse," Winter says. Becoming a licensed treatment facility sends a message that Rogue Valley is delivering evidence-based treatment to help youth become productive, crime-free citizens, he says.

Winter and Mabonga are ACCBO-certified as alcohol and drug counselors. Jerin says GLCs Dave Calvert, Ryan Murray and Matt Schulze are working toward CADC certification by attending online courses, in-class training, and working toward the required 1,000 hours of supervised clinical counseling.

"All of the treatment modalities in OYA are of a high caliber," Guisinger says, "and it's nice to have the opportunity for the A&D program here to get this acknowledgement and recognition." ■

Pettygrove Program moves to larger quarters

Youth whom OYA places in Portland's Pettygrove Program for girls now have their own bedrooms, greater privacy, and more space for treatment, cooking classes, treatment groups, and other programming as a result of the program's move to a former convent in southeast Portland.

The new house with its 12 bedrooms replaces a four-bedroom northwest Portland house that Pettygrove had occupied since 1975. The old space had as many as five girls sharing a bedroom, and used the dining table for homework, staff meetings, and conversations with families and JPPOs. The new house improves lines of supervision and has a living room, three bathrooms (instead of one), kitchen, dining room, lounge, recreation room, visiting area, and sufficient parking for visitors.



"With this increase in bedrooms, the clients will literally have room to grow into the young women they are learning to become," says Program Supervisor Michelle Ottaviano.

"The girls are truly the most excited about this change."

The Pettygrove Program is operated by Boys and Girls Aid. ■

Governor's DMC Summit scheduled Nov. 1-2

The 2012 Governor's Summit on Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact in the Juvenile Justice System is scheduled Nov. 1-2 at the Spirit Mountain Conference Center in Grand Ronde. It will be Oregon's 12th DMC summit.

Among the speakers will be Dr. Rudy Crew, Chief Education Officer for the Oregon Education Investment Board; John A. Tuell, Co-Director of the MacArthur Foundation; and Cylvia Hayes, First Lady of Oregon. OYA's Faith Love will lead a breakout session on "Youth re-entry into the community," focusing on federal youth re-entry wraparound projects in Oregon.

The conference is presented by the Governor's Office, OYA, DOC, and the Youth Development Council. More information about the conference, including registration, is available online at <http://www.oregon.gov/oya/dmcsummit/2012/summit.htm> or by contacting Dianna Brainard in OYA's Office of Minority Services. ■

JPPA says respect works in escorting ICJ youth



JPPA Steve Mayo, right, meets with a Port of Portland officer, who tells him Port police find working with OYA a pleasure.

When JPPA Steve Mayo steps onto an airplane, the first person he wants to speak with is the captain. "I'm Steve Mayo with the Oregon Youth Authority," he begins. "I am escorting a youth to Portland. May I have your approval?"

This introduction is part of Mayo's blend of humility, respect and communication aimed at preventing problems as he transports youth who have absconded back to Oregon. He has alerted Port of Portland police in advance that he will be arriving with a youth, and he asks the plane's flight crew to alert them when they're 15 minutes out.

An armed police officer meets Mayo and the youth at the airport and drives them to the OYA car equipped with a screen separating the driver from the backseat passenger. Mayo takes the youth to the Donald E. Long detention center.

Mayo, who works out of OYA's Washington County field office, is one of several members of OYA's field staff who supervise interstate air and ground transports of youth through the Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ).

In dealing with airport police and TSA officials, he knows to say "youth" rather than "prisoner." He discloses "I'm not armed" without being asked. He goes to great lengths to ensure other passengers in the terminal don't see restraints – using a back tunnel and ensuring cuffs are covered – and removes restraints once on the plane (he usually boards ahead of other passengers). He ensures youth have the paperwork and ID they need to satisfy airline and TSA authorities.

Transporting youth with respect

Continued from page 1

Josephine JPPA Ron Sandler figures he's transported at least 20 youth, driving to California and flying to states as distant as Ohio, Arkansas, and Tennessee. He tells about the courtesy shown him by U.S. marshalls who had posed as college students working as painters to identify a youth; he said the marshalls not only drove him where he needed to go, but also backed him up while he waited for a flight at the Bakersfield airport.

He says airport police are helpful not only for security, but also to ensure that the escort can take a restroom break such as, for example, during a six-hour layover he experienced at Sea-Tac. One time both Sandler and the youth were surprised: They knew each other because the youth had been incarcerated at Rogue Valley YCF while Sandler was a GLC there.

Sandler says escorts have to be prepared to pay for unexpected incidentals, to sleep when they can (they can't when they're escorting a youth), and "above all have patience and expect the unexpected and be prepared to deal with it."

ICJ, on whose national executive committee Assistant Director Phil Cox serves as treasurer, expects to have a national data base operational before year's end. Gillespie says it will be helpful by sharing a youth's history and making available youth photos.

She has a ready answer to the question of why Oregon usually doesn't permit juveniles to fly unescorted, which some agencies allow. "Oregon doesn't want to be the state that has a disruptive youth on a plane and maybe somebody gets hurt," she says. "We don't want to jeopardize public safety, OYA's reputation or the airlines' willingness to do the transports." ■

ICJ moves youth to and from Oregon

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Despite what some may believe, Mayo and his colleagues agree the transports are work: "It's not easy, it's not a vacation, there are a lot of details involved," he says. Trying when possible to complete transports in a single day, he says, "I'll be at the airport at 4 in the morning and won't get home until 9 or 10 at night." He and others who transport youth back to Oregon communicate frequently with OYA's Carol Gillespie, who arranges ICJ travel for OYA, DHS, and county juvenile departments, and with their field supervisors. Besides arranging travel back to Oregon (70 youth in fiscal 2012), Gillespie also works with states retrieving larger numbers of youth from Oregon.

"It wouldn't happen without Carol working her magic," Mayo says. Gillespie, who has arranged ICJ transports since 1999, is available 24/7 to answer questions from staff doing the transports.

Mayo says the respect he shows airport officials he also shares with youth, ensuring they know who he is, the flight arrangements and what he expects. "Letting the youth know what is going on, and treating them with respect, has gotten more compliance than anything else," he says. ■

JACKSON TO RECEIVE ORCA HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

The Oregon Counseling Association is preparing to recognize Lonnie Jackson for extraordinary commitment to respecting and fostering personal empowerment and community healing.

The association will present its annual Human Rights Award Nov. 2 to Jackson, Director of OYA's Office of Minority Services, during a banquet at its annual fall conference. Jackson has been OMS director since the creation of the office, believed to be the only one of its kind in a U.S. juvenile corrections agency.

Oregon Counseling Association Past President Lara Pevzner said the board and membership selected Jackson "because of your groundbreaking work with adjudicated youth; because of

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Cultural events enrich reformation experience

Office of Minority Services Director Lonnie Jackson says he believes OYA staff have a right to ask, "Why does the agency expend so much time and energy on cultural events for youth of color?"

There are sweat lodges, pow-wows, luaus, multicultural groups, Black History and other "month" observances, cultural meals and other activities focusing on minority youth, who make up approximately 42 percent of OYA's close-custody population.

Jackson ticks off a dozen rationales for the activities, ranging from strengthening youth teamwork, self-esteem, confidence and planning skills, to easing racial tension and involving youth in promoting anti-gang, anti-violence and anti-drug messages.

"I think many of our youth have never been a part of putting together an event – having to do the research, rehearse, and put together messages through speeches, skits and poetry that reflect their culture and how they can be more productive," he says. Cultural events also put a positive focus on the creativity and intelligence of minority youth through a lens that may be new to staff, other youth, and participating community partners, he says.

He points out, too, that cultural events support positive youth development while also

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Hillcrest hosts multicultural learning event



Hillcrest YCF's September Multicultural Celebration featured food, music, dancing, games and other exciting opportunities to learn about other cultures.

Above left, Maryanne Azdine of the Foundation for Academic and Cultural Exchange shows youth artifacts from around the world. Azdine, a long-time Hillcrest multicultural volunteer, also conducted a mini-contest for youth to match the item with the country (a Gamma youth won a \$20 canteen card).

Above right, students from Tokyo International University in Salem teach Hillcrest youth calligraphy and origami. A Latino chef was on hand offering cooking tips and recipes. For more information about the value of multicultural events, please see the story at the top of this page. ■

'Every moment is a teaching moment'

When Johnny Demus is working, he remembers this: "Every moment you're working with a young person is a teaching moment. It's a moment to show them how to respect somebody else, an opportunity to show them how real adults interact, and to be that role model even though we don't say it."

Demus says that, as one of two OYA minority youth transition specialists, that philosophy supports his work in trying to keep youth off alcohol and drugs, out of gangs, and pointed toward job-supported, crime-free futures. On any given day he may be working with youth, families and providers, or he may be going to court, connecting a youth with a skills trainer, leading a training, or attending an OMS meeting.

"Every day is different," he says. He serves predominantly Multnomah and Washington counties, providing five months' intensive assistance to 15 or more youth at any given time. Transition specialists also provide multicultural resources to facilities.

"I am also the eyes and ears of the PO, and I try to be as positive as possible," he says. "I can be that confidant: 'I'm not going to snitch on you, I'm here to help you. I have a rule that if you get a new law violation, I can't help you. But if you have a bad curfew or if you're having issues with your mom and family, we can work on those things.'"

He tells about a youth who, after saving money working at Burger King and living with

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Importance of multicultural events

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educating youth, staff and others on cultures and ethnicities with which they may be unfamiliar.

"This shows them they have a proud history. They can look back and see the sacrifices and accomplishments others have made so they understand their job to honor those who sacrificed before them."

Jackson wants multicultural programming to support OYA's vision of youth going on to lead productive, crime-free lives. "Hopefully these activities support youth in their treatment, support them in participating in culturally specific groups, and lead them to supports such as Street SMARTS," he says.

"We want to value and support everyone's culture and ethnicity," he says, "but many minority youth have not had opportunities to learn about their culture, their history and significant accomplishments people of color have made. Youth of color often don't learn about their culture while they're in school." He believes OYA facilities are enriched by speakers and performers from outside, and that cultural events may help staff better understand the causes of disproportionate minority contact.

Hillcrest and MacLaren YCFs have OMS staff members, and all facilities have OMS liaisons. Although the OMS program is comprehensive enough that other states have sought its advice, Jackson says he also wants to hear from OYA staff: "We're always receptive to feedback. If people have an idea how we can improve, we're open to that." ■

the compassion you bring to your work; and for your vision and passion as a gifted leader in the community." Nominations of Jackson said he had been "at the forefront of advocating for racial equality;" had "worked with gang-affected minority youth in a strength-based way;" and had "gained the respect of judges, legislators, agency directors and the Governor."

Jackson joined MacLaren YCF two decades ago, when it was still a part of DHS, and worked there as a GLC and a treatment counselor for sex offenders. In those roles he also began volunteering to work with minority youth, who account for 42 percent of OYA's close-custody population. OMS was begun following the Legislature's 1995 decision to establish OYA as a separate agency. ■

EMPLOYEE SAYS 'THANK YOU' FOR DONATED LEAVE

When Richard Hendricks left his Clatsop County JPPO job last November to fight esophageal cancer, he took with him a generous amount of banked vacation and sick leave. But when the leave ran out in mid-June, an e-mail alerted other OYA employees to the opportunity to donate vacation leave to him.

"I thought I'd get a couple of weeks, maybe a month," he remembers. Instead, he received enough donated time to carry him through to his Sept. 17 return to work. He says his family was "amazed" by his colleagues' generosity, and that he appreciated the sacrifice of vacation time people donated to him: "We all work very hard for our vacation, and it doesn't come easy."

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New help offered in solving tough youth cases

Every JPPO will recognize this as a difficult case: The close-custody youth is in his early 20s, was in the child welfare system before coming to OYA and has serious challenges with basic daily living skills. He has developmental disability and mental health issues, but isn't a good fit for either system. And his needs for supervision and structure very likely exceed what those systems could offer.



Richard Hendricks

"There's nothing worse than being responsible for a youth and not having the resources available to get their needs met," says Paula Bauer, OYA's Program Administrator for Treatment Services, and herself a former JPPO and child welfare and mental health case manager. "It's a horrible feeling."



Paula Bauer says new panel streamlines help for tough cases.

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Partnership to bring HIV pilot to Hillcrest

OYA staff are meeting this autumn with Cascade AIDS Project officials to plan implementation of an HIV/AIDS education pilot at Hillcrest YCF.

OYA will be among beneficiaries of a three-year, \$225,000-a-year federal grant to the Cascade AIDS Project. "The goal of our partnership with OYA is to bring HIV peer education programming and resources to youth in juvenile corrections," says Michael Anderson-Nathe, CAP's Director of Prevention and Education Services.

The pilot will begin with intake youth at Hillcrest. Both Anderson-Nathe and OMS Director Lonnie Jackson say they are hopeful the pilot can be extended to the rest of Hillcrest and to other OYA facilities by the grant's second and third years.

"It will be open to all OYA youth but the focus will be on providing services to youth of color who often have been an underserved population," Jackson says. HIV/AIDS education will be delivered by CAP staff and by CAP-trained peers predominantly ages 13-19. "Youth like hearing this kind of information from their peers," Jackson says.

Anderson-Nathe says the intended outcomes are to increase youth knowledge of HIV/AIDS, increase their ability to protect themselves from HIV, and learn at least one skill they intend to use to lower their risk. He and Jackson also want youth to learn what resources are available in the community.

CAP's grant is a renewal of an earlier three-year award that expired in August. OYA is expected to be among as many as 20 beneficiaries, Anderson-Nathe says, perhaps with it and Portland's Native American Youth and Family Center receiving the largest share of resources. The Hillcrest pilot is expected to begin before year's end. ■

Marion office's library offers youth free books

Linda Snyder knows why most OYA youth aren't voracious readers. "High-risk youth and their families often don't visit public libraries, or have library cards or feel comfortable in the library," she says. To remedy that, she worked with staff to develop a small collection of free books at OYA's Marion field office.



The books were provided by the local Reading for All initiative as well as by the office's JPPOs. Scores of books are on a bookcase from which youth may take books for themselves or a sibling, or families may read while they're in the office. "It's heartening to watch mothers and fathers reading to their little ones while they wait," Snyder says. Not only youth, but also parents, take books home.

"There are clear correlations between low reading levels, poor school performance, and juvenile criminal behaviors," she says.

Snyder tells about an 18-year-old youth with low reading proficiency for whom she obtained "Goosebumps" books at fifth- and sixth-grade reading levels. "He's already moved up a couple of reading levels," she says. The Reading for All initiative, which conducts an annual book drive, also provides gift certificates so requested books can be purchased for youth.

Snyder, who has been associated with the Marion office through Project STAYOUT, says JPPOs have been helpful in organizing the books and pointing youth toward them. She says other OYA field offices interested in establishing libraries for youth and families may contact Arturo Vargas, Marion County's community coordinator, for more information at avargas@co.marion.or.us.

Although Snyder left the Marion office Sept. 30, she says, "That's an amazing office, I'm leaving the books in very good hands." ■

Teaching moments

Continued from page 9

his mom, set out to find an apartment. But he set his sights higher than his budget; Demus counseled him on appropriate housing and helped him find another youth with whom he could share rent.

Demus says he works with an Employment Department representative who provides job listings such as sales clerk, warehouseman, custodian and general labor. "The toughest part right now is all of the jobs are online," he says, because some youth don't know how to navigate the Internet. He sets them up with accounts at a public library.

In his 17-year OYA career, he says, he's noticed two significant trends. One is more youth who don't fear the consequences of their negative behavior. The other is more youth with psychiatric issues who might not be in correctional facilities if they'd had access to sufficient mental health resources in the community.

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Hendricks says he also appreciated management's response. He says Supervisor Cathy Baird "was always reassuring, saying 'get better, when you're ready to come back to work we'll bring you back.'"

He moved his family to Sutherlin, where wife Jeanie grew up and has family, and says Supervisor Robyn Jacobson was patient while he recovered and was able to begin a part-time Douglas County JPPA job on a six-month rotation.

He received cards and calls from co-workers, whom he wants to know how much he appreciated their generous support during chemotherapy, surgery and recovery. Doctors tell him he's now cancer-free. "It's good to be with an organization that really cares about you as a person," he says. "When you work with people who really do care, it feels good." ■

Fariborz Pakseresht
Director

Joe O'Leary
Deputy Director

For more information, to submit ideas, or to write an article, please contact the Communications Office:

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Send your stories for the November issue by October 31. Articles received after that date will be held for the December newsletter.



Helping with tough youth cases

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Enter the Statewide Multidisciplinary Assistance Committee, a panel designed to help not only OYA staff but also primary case managers in other state and county agencies find solutions for youth whose issues may cross multiple disciplines. "The committee itself doesn't have additional resources or money," Bauer says. "What we have are contacts and connections."

Members represent diverse areas of OYA, DOC, OHA, DHS, and ODE, as well as the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Collectively, committee members possess a state-level view of services, know eligibility rules, and have contacts in communities across the state.

To start the process a primary case manager may send an e-mail to SMAC@oya.state.or.us. Many questions about the process are answered on the OYA Net SMAC Homepage, which also includes a PowerPoint presentation and referral forms. Other questions may be referred to Bauer, Laura Ward, or Patty Taylor. The SMAC homepage can be accessed on OYA Net under Treatment Services Committees.

OYA previously had another group that did this work – the Resource Development and Consultation Committee – but Bauer says the new panel streamlines the process. Primary case managers can get started with a simple e-mail and won't be expected to provide cumbersome referral packets and paperwork to obtain help.

"A JPPO has knowledge of the OYA system and knows the resources available to OYA youth," Bauer says. "But JPPOs may handle a case like this once every five years. We can give the JPPO ideas or options they may not have been aware of."

Besides resolving difficult cases, she says, the committee also will identify and quantify gaps in services for youth for whom services are not readily available. "Having information about the profiles and needs of the youth we have difficulty serving will help us develop systemic collaborations to meet their needs."

She sees a prevention role, as well: "We're hoping this committee will eventually reduce the numbers of these cases coming to OYA. If a case is staffed early in the process, preferably before commitment to OYA, we may find the youth is more appropriately served by the mental health or developmental disability system. I would say we've been successful if we see a reduction in the number of low-functioning or severely mentally ill youth committed to correctional facilities." ■

Teaching moments

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Demus offsets the negatives of his job as a volunteer coach of middle school football and basketball in Wilsonville and helping out at a sports camp.

"We do have young people who turn it around," he says, although many don't. "I don't have a magic pill, I don't have a magic wand. I wish I did."

But he does have one key piece of advice: "You have to give them hope." ■