

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Connections to Corrections



To promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.

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Directors' Message

With the start of the 2009-11 biennium, Policy Group will resume our visits to all DOC institutions. The schedule is below. For those of you who don't know, Policy Group consists of us, the Assistant Director for each division, the Inspector General and DOC's Planning and Budget Administrator.

We will meet with institution leadership at each institution to discuss institution specific goals for the next two years and what we can do to support the achievement of those goals.

Each member of the group will also meet separately with members for his or her division. For example, Tami Dohrman will meet with General Services employees at each institution. These division meetings will enable the Assistant Directors to connect with staff and plan for the next biennium.

We hope to meet many of you during our travels.

Regards,

Max Williams
Director

Mitch Morrow
Deputy Director



Director Max Williams

October 14 -	SCCI
October 27 -	PRCF
October 28 -	SRCI
November 3 -	EOCI
November 4 -	TRCI
November 10 -	DRCI
November 16 -	OSP
December 15 -	CCCF
December 18 -	CRCI
January 6 -	SCI/MCCF
January 8 -	OSCI
January 26 -	SFFC
February 9 -	WCCF



Mason Vickerman is awarded with a national ASCA scholarship

Mason Vickerman was presented with the 2009 Susan M. Hunter Scholarship by Warner Creek Correctional Facility (WCCF) Superintendent, Chuck Seeley. Mason is the son of Gyleen Vickerman, a Registered Nurse at WCCF. Mason, a 2009 graduate of Paisley High School will be attending Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, Colorado this fall. He was selected to be in the Veterinary Start program of which only five seats are given to this program in the nation. According to CSU's Web site, the Professional Veterinary Medical Program is ranked in the top three nationwide. Mason is currently interested in pursuing equine orthopedic surgery. He also received the Thornton Scholarship as well as the State FFA Degree.

The Susan M. Hunter Scholarship is given in honor of the late Susan M. Hunter. According to the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), Hunter was the former Chief of the Prisons Division, National Institute of Corrections for twenty years. She advocated correctional professionalism that requires gender parity among inmates and staff, adequate programs, special considerations for the unique needs of female inmates and those requiring mental health services. It further states that ASCA name this scholarship on her behalf as a lasting tribute to her commitment, insight, energy and enthusiasm for the field of corrections. This scholarship is given by the ASCA for assistance to a child of a corrections employee.



Mason Vickerman accepting Susan M. Hunter Scholarship from WCCF Superintendent Chuck Seeley

Relay for Life—Deer Ridge Correctional Institution



This year, the employees of DRCI participated in their second Relay for Life event. Seventeen teams joined in the Relay and DRCI's team was the third highest fundraiser, raising \$2,548.68 for the American Cancer Society. DRCI held many fundraisers, including a BBQ where staff could throw a cream pie in the face of an Exec Team member, a bake sale, silent auction, inmate contributions, and many others. DRCI inmates donated \$166. They were allowed to walk the track at DRCI on the day of the Relay. The Jefferson County Relay for Life event as a whole, raised over \$40,000. Thank you DRCI!



2009 World Police & Fire Games

Police officers, firefighters, customs and correction officers from around the world join together to take part in the 13th World Police & Fire Games, a spectacular international sporting event. The event, held biennially, is an opportunity to showcase athletic excellence in over 65 sporting events.

This year, the games were held in Vancouver, B.C. Among the participants was Oregon State Penitentiary's Corporal Robert Blackburn. This marks the 3rd Games Blackburn has attended. Corporal Blackburn's winning long jump (Men age 50-54) was 18 feet 1 inch from a field of 12 competitors. In the 25 year history of the games, it was the longest jump ever, with 10,577 athletes competing throughout the years.

To get ready for the event, Blackburn trained five days a week. His workout includes: circuit weight training, speed work, and long jump technique.

With over 10,000 athletes participating, the 2009 event marked the largest attendance for the World Police & Fire Games. If you would like information about the 2011 games, please visit <http://2011wpfg.org/>

Congratulations Corporal Blackburn!



Robert Blackburn at the 2009 World Police & Fire Games



Robert Blackburn and his winning 18 feet 1 inch long jump



PEBB Open Enrollment Updates

All eligible employees *must* enroll in a 2010 medical plan during this year's Open Enrollment. The Board made this decision in support of its mission and Vision, and to ensure integrity of the benefit program.

Those who don't enroll during Open Enrollment will automatically be enrolled in the employee-only tier of PEBB's Statewide Plan effective Jan. 1, 2010. Their dependents will lose coverage beginning that date.

This means you must go online to <https://pebb.benefits.oregon.gov/members> from Oct. 1-31 to:

- Select a 2010 medical plan (including Opt Out)
- Certify dependents age 19 up to 24 for the new plan year
- Re-enroll for your flexible spending accounts
- Affirm your elections



Register Now

If you haven't used the online system before, you may want to register now to avoid the rush. Go to <https://pebb.benefits.oregon.gov/members> and select "Register here."

<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/PEBB/>

If you haven't used pebb.benefits for a while, you may want to log in again now. It will help you remember your user name and password and review your current choices.

Plan for October

Some employees don't have Internet access at work. If you won't have Internet access during October, you can use a [form](#). Make sure your agency gets your form before Open Enrollment closes Oct. 31.

Stay in Touch

Make sure your online record includes your current e-mail and contact address. This information will be used if they need to contact you about your benefits.

What if I don't enroll during mandatory Open Enrollment and submit a form late?

DOC can process your enrollment form through Nov. 15 and an enrollment-remedy form through Dec. 31, 2009, with coverage effective Jan. 1, 2010.

What if I see an enrollment error in my first pay statement of 2010?

You can ask for assistance within 30 days of the pay statement. Note: Failure to act during Open Enrollment is not an error.

What if I don't enroll during mandatory Open Enrollment and I...

...need to cover my dependent Jan. 1, 2010?

You can pay for COBRA coverage within 60 days, with the coverage going back to the date it was lost.

...want to restore dependent coverage through PEBB?

You can update dependent coverage beginning Jan.1, with coverage effective the first of the month after agency processing.

...want to restore coverage for a child age 19 up to 24?

You can add the child to coverage by certifying the child's eligibility, with coverage beginning the first of the month after your agency receives the form.

...want a flexible spending account?

You can enroll during the plan year only if you experience a qualified change in status per IRS code.



Home Ownership Information

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 authorizes a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for qualified first-time home buyers purchasing a principal residence on or after January 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009. That means your home purchase needs to close by December 1st and the buying process should begin no later than the middle of October to ensure you can apply this benefit.

The following questions and answers provide basic information about the tax credit. If you have more specific questions, we strongly encourage you to consult a qualified tax advisor or legal professional about your unique situation.

Who is eligible to claim the tax credit?

First-time home buyers purchasing any kind of home—new or resale—are eligible for the tax credit. To qualify for the tax credit, a home purchase must occur on or after January 1, 2009 and before December 1, 2009. For the purposes of the tax credit, the purchase date is the date when closing occurs and the title to the property transfers to the home owner.

What is the definition of a first-time home buyer?

The law defines “first-time home buyer” as a buyer who has not owned a principal residence during the three-year period prior to the purchase. For married taxpayers, the law tests the homeownership history of both the home buyer and his/her spouse.

How is the amount of the tax credit determined?

The tax credit is equal to 10 percent of the home’s purchase price up to a maximum of \$8,000.

Are there any income limits for claiming the tax credit?

Yes. The income limit for single taxpayers is \$75,000; the limit is \$150,000 for married taxpayers filing a joint return. The tax credit amount is reduced for buyers with a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) of more than \$75,000 for single taxpayers and \$150,000 for married taxpayers filing a joint return. The phase-out range for the tax credit program is equal to \$20,000. That is, the tax credit amount is reduced to zero for taxpayers with MAGI of more than \$95,000 (single) or \$170,000 (married) and is reduced proportionally for taxpayers with MAGIs between these amounts.

5 Things a First Time Home Buyer Should Do

- 1.** Ask a lot of questions of your lender so you don’t end up missing out on the best deal.
- 2.** Act quickly and efficiently so that someone else doesn’t buy your dream home!
- 3.** Find the right agent who is willing to help you through the home buying process.
- 4.** Do as much as you possibly can to make your offer look appealing to the seller.
- 5.** Think about resale before you buy. The average first-time buyer only stays in a home for 4 years.



Information taken from and found on the Federal Housing Tax Credit web site:
<http://www.federalhousingtaxcredit.com/2009/index.html>
and the Enhanced Benefits Board 866-505-3244 web site:
<http://www.ebgi.org/>



Baker City Neighborhood Night Out

Neighborhood Night Out is an annual crime/drug prevention event held in Baker City. It is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

For the past two years, Baker City has invited Powder River Correctional Facility (PRCF) to participate. Jerry Plante, Inspector II and Canine Handler; Ken Neff, Institution Security Manager at PRCF and other staff had balloons for the kids, informational bulletin boards, and several staff available to answer questions.

Several photos of contraband (drugs and tobacco) and multiple visual aides (homemade tattoo guns, weapons, IV needles, cuff keys, drug paraphernalia, etc.) were displayed. Other public safety agencies involved in the event were Baker County Parole and Probation, Oregon State Police, Baker County Sheriff, Baker City Police, Baker City Fire, along with numerous other businesses.



Jerry Plante and Ken Neff with Poppy



Plante and his Canine partner "Poppy" had a good time meeting people and talking about the department, the Special Investigations Unit, and the Canine Unit to numerous citizens of Baker City and the surrounding area.

Other attending staff members not pictured:
Ron Miles, Food Services Manager
Mike Calaway, Physical Plant Manager
Vicky Clark, Health Services Manager
Vicki Reynolds, Executive Support
Russ Armstrong, Safety Manager



And the Enemy Is “Us”

We all feel it, the nudge at the base of the neck, the clenched jaw line, the angry feeling that cannot be explained and will not go away.

Stress. Webster’s defines stress as: *A. Constraining force or influence... C. A physical, chemical or emotional factor that causes bodily or mental tension and maybe a factor in disease causation.*

That’s great, we all know it, but how does that clinical definition apply to us? We are one of the few professions where stress is not just that thing that happens when we miss a deadline or when a round of layoffs come down. Sure, we feel that too, but for us, stress is different. It’s palpable, it’s constant, it causes the new officers to quit after a week. It creates a home life that is less than harmonious, and drives us into alcoholism, divorce or worse. Before we figure out ways to deal with it, let’s examine its causes.

Every one will tell you it’s the inmates, you know the people that we are supposed to be managing. We make up excuses to justify the stress like, “He’s max, that guy’s a killer, I’m surrounded by crooks,” or my favorite, “We’re locked in here with these guys for the whole shift.” All I have to say about this endless drone is we signed up for this, this is our job, this is what we all expected. Sure, dealing with felons, being confined in a small area with dangerous people is stressful, but it’s not the kind of stress that causes veteran officers to cheat on their wives. This is normal stress that comes with a dangerous profession such as ours. We accept it or we quit within the first year. Plain and simple.

The stress that causes veterans to drink or cheat is caused by, get ready this is going to stress you out... US. We cause it. We do it to each other. We make our environment more stressful than it has to be. But why? Based on what I have seen trolling the hallways of a couple of facilities, it comes down to; *because we can*. Either it’s the grizzled old bear that is miserable and wants the rest of us to be that way, or it’s the company guy that is looking for the next promotion and will step on whomever they see as the threat of the day. Or boredom or one clique

against another. The point is that reasons are many, most of them ridiculous.

So you’re reading this and thinking, that’s great, Sarg, but what do we do about it? Here is how I keep this stuff from bothering me.

1. *Don’t take it personally.* Try to let the comments, backstabbing and undermining roll off your back.
2. *Take action.* When the problem gets too big, see a supervisor/ administrator, but don’t just complain. Take evidence of the problem and take a solution with you to the meeting.
3. *Take it home.* Yes, take it home. Tell your spouse or significant other what’s going on. Don’t spend all day on it, but talk. My wife and I have a 3 minute rule. We each spend 3 minutes complaining to the other about what happened that day. Then we’re done and we deal with our home stuff.
4. *Work it off.* You don’t have to be like me and hit the gym every day, but anything helps.
5. *Take a vacation.* Your admin is going to hate this part, but take some time off throughout the year. Do something you like, even if you stay home. A day away from the stresses of work is great for your attitude, although you may not notice it right away.
6. *Get help.* This one is the most important. When you get to the point where you’re cheating on your spouse, drinking a lot, or thinking about killing yourself, it’s getting critical. Get professional help before you make a choice that cannot be undone. Choke that pride and see someone. It’s much better to have that confidential help and save your life, than to throw it all away over something that would not be a problem in the “real world.”

These things are not the be all and end all to dealing with stress. I am by no means perfect and I work in the same place you do and catch the same stressors. The important part is to keep driving forward and keep your mission in focus.

Sgt. Jon Jones is the Recruitment and Training Sergeant for Detention Services at the Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office.

jon.jones@co.yavapai.az.us



The Leg Irons run the Hood to Coast



The Hood to Coast is a 197 mile relay, which raises money for the American Cancer Society. Each team has 12 runners and they alternative running segments of the course.

This year marked the 28th year of the race. The relay lasts for two days and consists of 12,000 runners and 3,500 volunteers. This year's event took place on August 28-29 and is the largest relay in the World.

Team Leg Irons consists of DOC employees. The team was started more than 20 years ago by Bob and Fran Schiedler, now retired DOC employees. The current captain of the

team, Craig Mitchell, has ran thirteen Hood to Coast relays. The team members running this year's relay are:

- Tony Ruvalcaba—CCCF
- Xue Lor—OSP
- Joe Harding—OSP
- Mike Puerini—OSCI
- Sean Banks—OSCI
- Scott Jones—SCI
- Garry Russell—Dome Building



Sponsoring team Leg Irons is the OSP Fitness Center, Randy Briones and the CCCF Fitness Center, Bob Adams. The OSP Fitness Center has sponsored the team every year.

Chane Griggs, Assistant Director for the Public Services Division, is a member of the Femme Fatale team that will be running this year. Chane has ran in more than 20 Hood to Coast relays.

Director Max Williams is a member of the Board Feet team also running this year. Max has run the race six times.

This year's goal for Hood to Coast is to raise \$350,000. As of August 18th, \$209,850 has been raised for the American Cancer Society.

For more information visit—www.hoodtocoast.com





Kudos to CCCF Staff

August 14, 2009

Mr. Max Williams, Director
Oregon Department of Corrections
2575 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-4667

Dear Director Williams:

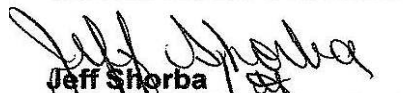
It was a pleasure to again have the opportunity to provide technical assistance, in the area of "Staff Sexual Misconduct", to the Oregon Department of Corrections. We want to express appreciation for the warm reception we received and the professionalism displayed by your Administrators and staff of the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility during our visit. The attached report reflects our evaluation of the polices and procedures we reviewed.

The issues surrounding "Staff Sexual Misconduct" continue to be complex and there are no easy solutions. Our recommendations focus on assisting you in continuing to make the changes necessary to address the issues surrounding staff sexual misconduct and the management of the female offender.

We trust that the observations that we make and the recommendations we provide will be of assistance in developing a response to current areas of concern. If we can be of any help in your future efforts in, training or evaluation, please do not hesitate to call. Should you have any questions or require clarification of our findings, we have included contact information in the attached report.


Teena Farmon
Criminal Justice Consultant


Susan Poole
Criminal Justice Consultant


Jeff Shorba
Criminal Justice Consultant

Attachments

Cc: Mary Lou Baker
National Institute of Corrections
Prisons Division



Comings and Goings

New Hire

<u>Name</u>	<u>Institution/Unit</u>
BEARS, KIMBERLEE A	CRCI Food Services
BLAIR JR, PATRICK E	CCCF Food Services
BOTTOMLEY, DONALD K	EOCI Security
BOWKER, CHRISTY A	CCCF CTS
CHAMPAGNE, XAVIER J	CCCF Health Services - Medical
CLAFLIN, SCOTT	TRCI Health Services
DICKSON, ANGELINA	TRCI Health Services
DOOLEY, COLLEEN	SRCI Pharmacy
ESCUDERO, JAMES A	EOCI Security
GABBARD, ERIKA	OSP General Security
GAITHER, BRIAN J	OSP General Security
GREENEWALD, RYAN W	SRCI Health Services
HANSEN, LEONE J	TRCI Food Services
HOLIMAN, DAVID S	OSP General Security
HOWE, KENNETH	CCCF Physical Plant
HUMPHREYS, JACOB L	OSP General Security
LIMA, LIZA YEVET	DRCI Hearings
MARTEL, TIMOTHY E	SFFC Food Services
MARTIN, DANIEL S	SFFC Food Services
PAULSON, REED E	CCCF Health Services - Medical
PENNINGTON, JASON W	EOCI Security
ROMEY, CURTIS	SRCI Physical Plant
SALDANA, EMILY J	TRCI Food Services
SCHRIVER, NANCY S	SCCI Health Services
SEEBERGER, JOSEPH	TRCI Health Services
SUTTERFIELD, EMILY D	OSP Health Services - Medical
TOWNSEND, MELISSA A	CCCF Food Services
WILSON, RONALD L	OSP Food Services
WORLEIN, MICHAEL A	DRCI Health Services

Promotion

ANDRETTI, CHRISTINE	CCCF CTS
BERRIMAN, AMY L	OSP General Security
BURCH, ROBERT D	OSP General Security
GILBERTSON, RANDY R	SRCI Security
GIRON, DOOLY	OSP SMU
GLASSEY, SANDRA	SRCI Security
NAGY, STEVE L	SRCI Security
SHAW, ELAINE	EOCI Health Services - Medical

Reemployment

JAMIESON, GERRI R	EOCI Health Services - Medical
SCOTT, SHEILA A	EOCI Health Services - Medical

Transfer from Other Agency

YEAKEY, JON	DRCI CTS
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Retirement

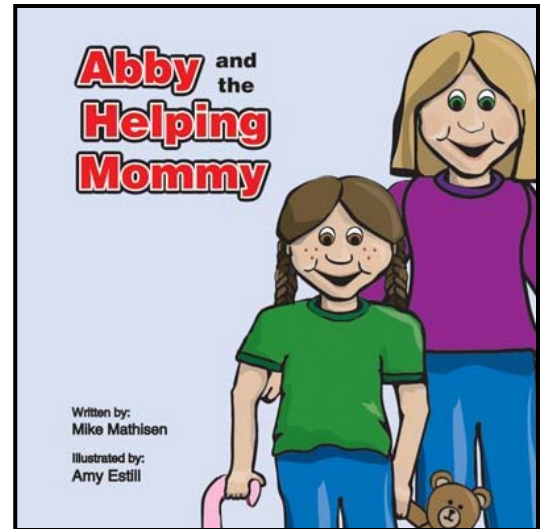
ALLRED, JUANITA	TRCI Transport
CRABILL, LINDA R	SCCI Security
KISHPAUGH, WILLIAM R	EOCI Security
LEISCHNER, ROY L	OSP Physical Plant
LINDSEY, JIM R	SCCI Security
MANELL, GUNILLA	SRCI Fiscal Services
MCQUINN, MARTHA L	EOCI (OISC) Records
MILLER, WILLIAM	Douglas Co Comm Corr P & P
ROOD, GALE D	SRCI Security
SULLIVAN, BARBARA K	CCCF OISC Administration
WALDRON, STANLEY D	OSP General Security



TRCI's Mike Mathisen writes a book for children

Mike Mathisen is a food services manager at Two Rivers Correctional Institution and he recently authored a book for children, *Abby and the Helping Mommy*. Mike and his wife, Kim, are both Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers. CASA volunteers play an important role in the court and welfare system. They are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don't get lost in the legal and social system.

In his own words, "I wrote it for the kids. I wrote this book because I wanted to find a way to simplify a very complex process and help a child understand what they are going through. I wrote this book because I wanted children in foster care to know that even though they may feel alone at times, there are other kids just like them out there and that they're not alone. I wanted kids to feel like even if they didn't call her one, they had a Helping Mommy too. So although this book is dedicated to my wife Kim, it's also dedicated to all the Helping Mommies out there and the kids they help. Because every kid deserves to be a kid."



Book cover: *Abby and the Helping Mommy*

Mike also volunteers for many community projects, as well as bringing ideas to the table to help keep TRCI involved in Blood Drives, Wellness Projects and many more activities.



Connections to Corrections

Oregon Department of Corrections

Max Williams, Director

Mitch Morrow, Deputy Director

For more information, to submit story ideas or to write an article, please contact Kelli Ketchum at (503) 945-9837 or e-mail: kelli.l.ketchum@doc.state.or.us.

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