



Enhancing community safety and reducing criminal activity COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Volume 6, Issue 2

July 30, 2009

[Portland Police Bureau and Community Justice Partner to Help Train New Police Officers](#)

DCJ and the Portland Police Bureau are working together to help the probation, post-prison and the juvenile justice system partner more effectively with the police. As part of the police officer training partnership called the Community Partnership Training Program, DCJ and the Portland Police



DCJ and the Portland Police Bureau are partnering to help train new police officers on working with probation, parole and juvenile services.

Bureau have developed a training curriculum that allows allow newly hired and newly sworn officers to spend several days learning about both juvenile and adult community corrections.

As part of the police officer training partnership called the Community Partnership Training Program, DCJ and the Portland Police Bureau have developed a training curriculum that allows allow newly hired and newly sworn officers to spend several days learning about both juvenile and adult community corrections. The training provides officers with the opportunity to learn how the parole, probation and juvenile justice systems operate, and allows DCJ to develop a strong relationship with the police, and strategize ways to improve how the system works to promote public safety.

“They learn how other organizations work, and how to work effectively with them,” said Portland Police Bureau Chief Rosemary Sizer. “These young people are in a worthwhile experiment which we would like to professionalize and standardize. We want to make this a part of how we hire and train new police officers.

On the juvenile side, new police officers have an opportunity to learn, first hand, the perspectives and specific roles that juvenile court counselors, juvenile judges, the district attorney, community providers of youth services, and the police play within the juvenile justice system. The juvenile justice portion of the training focuses on the options the system has to keep the community safe and

INSIDE

- [Portland Police Bureau and Community Justice Partner to Help Train New Police Officers](#)
- [DCJ Forensic Lab Partnership: A Critical Public Safety Tool](#)
- [Even in tough times, policymakers see the value in community corrections](#)
- [Chair Wheeler: Londer Learning Center – “a legacy of hundreds of lives and families reconnected”](#)

For More On These Stories

- [The Portland Police Bureau and DCJ Community Partnership, and video](#)
- [The Northwest Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory \(NWR CFL\)](#)
- [Justice Reinvestment: A project of the Council of State Governments](#)
- [“Measure 57 on hold to prop up budget,” The Oregonian, Saturday, June 28th, 2009](#)
- [The Londer Learning Center May, 2009 Graduation, and video presentation](#)

hold young people accountable, gives new police officers the opportunity to meet with the juvenile counseling staff, and non-profit providers of services to young people, and visits particularly units, such as the Gang Response Intervention Team (GRIT).

“Working with the GRIT [DCJ’s Gang Response Intervention Team] was flat out, awesome,” said Officer Brian Pelster. “They gave me some great information about all the gang activities. They spent their whole roll call with me, and let me sit there ask questions.”

“We were in the juvenile side, and we sat through some arraignments on delinquency and dependency cases,” said Officer Nicholas Bianchini. “They were going by the police report. Word for word, that was what they were basing their decisions off of. It just shows how important the police officers discretion is.”

On the adult side, new police officers have an opportunity hear what role adult probation and parole officers play in the adult public safety system, and how police and the probation and parole system can partner together with the courts, the district attorney and the community to promote public safety. As part of the training, new police officers and their colleagues at DCJ visit key probation and parole units that manage the pretrial supervision of offenders, the specialized sex offenders units, and the transitional housing sites where adult offenders may be living while under community supervision. New police officers gain an in-depth overview of felony supervision, violation hearings, probation and parole officer arrest authority, and learn how the system sanctions adult offenders.

“The information was invaluable,” said Officer Jason Lemons. “The enthusiasm of everybody involved was impressive. And the common thread was: communication. That was the one common thread. It had me wondering, what more can be done to close those gaps.”

“This means that when we are out in the field, and we call the police for backup, or we ask for some help, the police now know what we do, and know how important the police are to us,” said Scott Taylor, Director of the Department of Community Justice (DCJ). “We all know an effective public safety system is one where all the partners, including the police, post-prison and probation officers, treatment providers and the nonprofits that serve our community understand all our roles in holding young people accountable, changing peoples behavior, and ultimately, in reducing crime.”

The trainings have included members of the Portland Police Bureau’s Training Division, the District Attorney’s Office, the staff of the juvenile and adult services division of DCJ, and community providers that together sanction, serve and support young people and adults in the probation, parole and juvenile services system.

On August 6th, Multnomah County Judge Nan Waller, District Attorney Tom Cleary, and Sergeant David Virtue with the Portland Police Bureau Training Division will serve on a workshop moderated by Tina Edge, JDAI project consultant to DCJ on the new training program at the Juvenile Detention Alternative's Initiative conference, in Washington, D.C.

For more information, contact Jason Ziedenberg at:
jason.h.ziedenberg@co.multnomah.or.us
[top](#)

DCJ Forensic Lab Partnership: A Critical Public Safety Tool



DCJ is the only parole and probation department in the nation to have a full-time examiner assigned to an FBI computer forensics lab.

Nearly a year after being the only parole and probation department in the nation to have a full-time examiner assigned with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) forensic laboratory, Department of Community Justice (DCJ) staff are using these cutting edge approaches to help break the cycle human trafficking, identity theft, drug and gang activity and fraud cases. As noted by the Attorney General of the United States in a recent speech to The Vera Institute of Justice, these labs are part of a national initiative to improve the use of forensic science to promote public safety.

"The Department of Justice will use the available data to improve our handling of the forensics sciences," said Eric Holder, the Attorney General for the United States. "Our goal is to ensure that forensic science is practiced at the highest level possible, and always in the pursuit of truth."

Since June, 2008, the Department of Community Justice has been the sole probation and parole partner with the Northwest Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory (NWRFCFL) and assigned one full-time staff person to become an expert on their approach to using these kinds of technology to investigate crimes involving the offenders under parole or probation supervision. Jeff Snyder, a Community Justice Manger assigned to NWRFCFL, has worked with DCJ's probation and parole officers that supervise

sex offenders, psychopaths (including individuals involved in human sexual trafficking), and offenders believed to be involved in identity theft, gangs and drugs. This technology is used to not only enforce the law, but to provide our officers with information critical to making best practice decisions on supervision.

“The NWR CFL process is geared toward the investigation of new criminal activity, and providing detailed scientific evidence for prosecution,” said Jeff Synder, a Community Justice Manager assigned to the NWR CFL. “Our participation opens up a whole new concept area, which is the ability to monitor offender behavior, not just to find evidence of violations, but to provide information critical to making decisions about supervision. Computers provide a means of great anonymity, and our officers need to know what offenders are doing, to make informed decisions.”

For DCJ, computer forensic technologies can be used to do everything from, combing through computer hard drives for child pornography, to extracting text messages and photos from suspects' cell phones, to tracking offenders use of “Craigslist” and other community websites for activity that relates to prostitution or human sex trafficking. Several recent cases and supervision challenges that were helped by the laboratory show the potential this new technology can have on crime fighting, and effective case management.

- A sex offender under DCJ's supervision was periodically showing inconclusive results during polygraph examinations. The DCJ parole officer was rightfully concerned the offender may be using computers to engage in prohibited behavior that would lead to re-offending, and put the public at risk. A forensic analysis of the offender's computer was able to show that the offender had actually not been involved in prohibited internet activity, allowing the officer to tailor the appropriate kind of supervision.
- An alert parole officer with suspicions about the offender's possible involvement in identity theft seized a laptop computer which, after forensics examination, revealed extensive stolen credit card information that had been deleted by the offender.
- An offender under DCJ supervision was found to have over 10,000 child pornographic images that were recovered from a computer and associated media seized by a parole officer, which has led to presentation of the case to the United States Attorney for federal prosecution.

“The computer forensics lab is a great tool for this community to shed light on public safety challenges facing this county,” said Commissioner Diane McKeel. Noting the role that the lab is playing to help foil human trafficking, the Commissioner said,

"DCJ's role in this lab is helping our community to take every action possible to ensure that all human beings have the right and opportunity to thrive."

For more information, contact Jason Ziedenberg at:

jason.h.ziedenberg@co.multnomah.or.us.

[top](#)

Even in Tough Times, Policymakers see the Value in Community Corrections

As nearly every state in the country has slashed funding for government services, Oregon joins a growing number of states that continue to see the value in community corrections, and are focused in on improving the public safety impact of probation and parole practices, and treatment services for offenders.



Oregon enacted changes to sentencing, parole and probation policies that will result in some offenders being under community supervision who were once in prison.

As the Oregon legislature ended its 2009 session and set the state budget for next two years, it enacted changes to sentencing, parole and probation policies that will result in some offenders being under community supervision who were once in prison, and appropriates more money for treatment, and more effective local supervision.

The state has postponed some of the mandatory minimum sentences associated with Measure 57, and provided a funding formula for treatment and community supervision pilot projects. Under HB 2290, the state increased earned good-time credits for prisoners, which will increase the number of people under community supervision state-wide, and reduce the time that local control offenders can be jailed.

"In many ways, this deal is historic because it's very rare that the Legislature chooses to be smart on crime rather than just tough on crime," said Rep. Chip Shields, a Portland-area legislator, in *The Oregonian*. "Public safety is about more than just prisons. It's about putting troopers on the road and funding forensic labs, and drug and alcohol treatment."

As of July, 2009, the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors was still working to understand how the changes would affect county budgets, over the long-term.

“Like everyone else in the public safety system, community corrections will continue to be impacted by budget cuts,” said Scott Taylor, Director of the Department of Community Justice. “But elected officials and our partners are also recognizing the value that our system can play in our overall public safety strategy.

As recent reports from the Justice Policy Institute and the Pew Charitable Trust have shown, Oregon is one among a number of states that have taken steps to enhance their probation and parole practices with an eye towards improving public safety practices.

In **Texas**, a May 2007 law established 3,800 combined beds for residential and out-patient drug treatment for people on probation, set maximum sentence lengths for people on probation, set maximum case limits for parole officers, and created incentives for counties that establish effective sanctioning models for parole and probation systems.

Under 2007 legislation, **Kansas** prisoners are now granted a 60-day credit for participation in certain programs designed to improve the reintegration into the community. The projected savings is approximately \$80 million in the next five years. “It used to be that it [parole] was more about waiting for them to mess up and send them back to prison,” said Corrections Officer Michelle Stephenson, speaking about the change in practices to The USA Today. “In this time and this economy, you can't afford to keep doing that. There is a better way to do business.”

Under the Proactive Community Supervision (PCS) initiative, **Maryland's** probation and parole practices are shifting to a customer service model that enhances the availability of services and resources. Research has shown that people enrolled in PCS are less likely to enter prison either on a new sentence or on a revocation than people that did not participate in the program in the program.

In **Nevada**, in 2007, the state legislature passed a bill allowing people on probation to earn credits toward the reduction of their sentence. The legislation also establishes a series of graduated sanctions for violations of the terms of parole to prevent their immediate return to prison.

New Jersey's Halfway Back Program is a community corrections program that works with people on parole that are at risk of returning to prison on technical violations. The program assists people with job placement, family, vocational and educational training, anger management, and substance abuse treatment to

keep them from returning to prison. Investments in this program, in combination with the addition of risk assessment centers, are estimated to save New Jersey \$2.2 million in FY2009 and \$14 million in FY2010.

As part of the National Institute of Correction's Transition from Prison to the Community Initiative (TPCI), **Georgia** began implementing a data-driven, outcome-based approach to parole, with the goal of improving completion rates for people on parole. The model includes computer-based reporting systems that support this new approach to supervision and the reports are readily available across districts. The TPCI also includes improved risk assessment instruments designed to improve the accuracy of predicting whether a person is at high risk of being reconvicted of a new crime.

"We won't get true public safety and protection for crime victims until we invest in community corrections – because most offenders are not behind bars, but living as our neighbors," said Anne Seymour, a National Crime Victim Advocate, in a report published by the Pew Charitable Trust.

Sources: The Justice Policy Institute (May, 2009); The USA Today (2009); The Pew Charitable Trust (2009); The Oregonian (2009).

For more information, contact Jason Ziedenisberg at:
jason.h.ziedenisberg@co.multnomah.or.us
[top](#)

Chair Wheeler: Londer Learning Center – “a legacy of hundreds of lives and families reconnected”



Chair Ted Wheeler congratulated Londer Learning Center (LLC) Graduates and staff on their accomplishments.

Chair Ted Wheeler, Commissioners Diane McKeel and Judith Shiprack, and environmental justice advocate Jeri Williams of the City of Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement congratulated dozens of probationers and parolees as they received their GEDs

from the Londer Learning Center (LLC); a project of the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ).

The center promotes public safety through education, where offenders receive skill assessments, instruction in reading, math and writing, GED preparation and testing, English as a Second Language and life skill workshops. They also received assistance with employment searches, and participate in cognitive skill development groups.

Data show that the Londer Learning Center contributes to lower recidivism among offenders. In a recent outcome study, 56% of Londer Learning Center students had no arrests two years after attending. Overall, the number of arrests for students was 59% less in the two years after they attended Londer Learning Center classes than it was in the two years before they began receiving instruction.

The real stories behind these outcomes were underscored as the graduates received certificates, were toasted by special guests, and heard the keynote address from Jeri Williams, an environmental justice activist who works for the City of Portland after overcoming the barriers created of her own criminal history.

“Sixteen years ago, I was a convicted felon, a prostitute and a gang banger,” said Jeri Williams. “I now work for the city of Portland, and distribute a half-million dollars worth of grants for the city.”

County officials thanked the adult division staff and the systems partners for their critical public safety work they provide in by helping ex-offenders transition back to work.

“The founders of LLC had a vision,” said Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler. “It was a just vision based on redemption, that people should get a second chance, and with the right tools and training, people could get a second chance. That legacy is that hundreds and hundreds of lives and families are reunited, reconnected and reestablished, with graduates moving on to bigger, better and greater things.”

“I was privileged to visit your classroom several weeks ago,” said Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel. “I was so impressed with the commitment and dedication of your teachers and all the people working there. It was very evident that they were very passionate about their jobs and their students. While they helped guide you along the way, you [the students] did all the hard work.”

“As a young person, I never received my high school diploma,” said Jamie Bergen, a Londer Learning Center Graduate. “In the last year, I received my GED from the Londer Learning Center. This is an event that, I believe, has changed my life. Just going to

the LLC raised my self-esteem, and opened the door to college: I am thinking of becoming a medical assistant, or a dental assistant.”

“There was a point a few years ago when I couldn’t see this day,” said Kevin Cool, a GED graduate. “I couldn’t see tomorrow. I just want to say thank you to my family, and all the staff at LLC. Everyone is talking about their dreams here today, and I have been very fortunate to be able to start living my life again. I see this as a small success in a small chain of successes. All of you still doing your classes—you need to keep forging ahead.”

“You deserve all of our congratulations for coming as far as you have come against odds that make those accomplishments who have had an easier road dim by comparison.” said Commissioner Judith Shiprack.

For more information, contact Jason Ziedenberg at:
jason.h.ziedenberg@co.multnomah.or.us.

Department of Community Justice

501 SE Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 250 Portland, Oregon 97214
MAIN: 503.988.3701 ** FAX: 503.988.3990 ** TTY Relay Service: 711