

Oregon Department of Corrections



2016 Annual Government to Government Report on Tribal Relations

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Executive Summary and Overview

Executive Summary

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) continued to work with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes and tribal members to identify partnership opportunities in 2016. Gary Sims, Diversity and Inclusion Administrator, has been selected to serve as DOC's tribal contact, as well as chair of the Public Safety Cluster Meetings. In 2016, all of the department's 14 institutions maintained contact with tribal representatives and volunteers to develop and present special cultural ceremonies, promote inmate participation in cultural events and affiliations, and recruit volunteers.

This report highlights the activities, ceremonies, and events that took place in 2016 in DOC prisons throughout the State of Oregon. These activities are broken down by institution to give a clear and comprehensive understanding of all that is currently offered to Native American adults in custody. In addition, information is presented showing both ongoing activities, as well as newly added Native American religious programming. DOC is expanding services and exploring new and traditionally-honored ways to serve this population. For example, DOC is involved in a new and growing emphasis on outside family involvement and participation in Native American events.

Overview

DOC has been a long-standing member of the Government-to-Government Public Safety Cluster. The agency actively participated in the cluster meeting again this year, with DOC Diversity and Inclusion Administrator Gary Sims chairing the tri-annual meetings. As DOC's tribal liaison, Mr. Sims works closely with DOC's Religious Services Administrator and Assistant Administrator on religious and cultural activities for Native American adults in custody.

DOC's participation in the Public Safety Cluster provides the agency with current information on public safety activities and concerns among the various tribes, as well as those of other state agencies. Participation also provides an avenue for building ongoing relationships with tribal and state representatives. These relationships have been critical as DOC implements strategies and develops statewide procedures that may affect tribal members.

2016 State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster Tri-Annual Meeting Report

February 9, 2016

- 1. Legislative Concepts discussed in the cluster that our agency may be pursuing this legislative session?**
 - a. Training on tribal laws

- 2. Major themes or issues discussed at recent meetings or anticipated for the year ahead?**
 - a. Washington and Arizona State outcomes of marijuana issues on tribal lands
 - b. Future DPSST training on tribal laws, unification, and certification
 - c. HB 2002 – Directs law enforcement agencies to adopt written policies and procedures prohibiting profiling by January 1, 2016

- 3. Anticipated for the year ahead and consideration of more relevant topics for the cluster group:**
 - a. Have the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the table to discuss their procedures of monthly statistics, reporting processes, funding consideration, and questions regarding the grant process. Richard Melville, Special Agent in Charge and Dale Macktima, Correctional Program Specialist were our point of contact
 - b. Understanding of tribal laws
 - c. Have requirement of having four chiefs of police and tribal representatives present or the meeting will be canceled
 - d. Have meetings at different locations
 - e. Final meeting minutes attached (see Appendix B)

June 7, 2016

- 1. Major themes or issues discussed at recent meetings or anticipated for the year ahead?**
 - a. LCIS 2016 Spring Gathering and Training for State Agencies, Sovereignty, and Consultation Review
 - b. Joint clusters
 - c. Discussed what one goal the cluster group would be interested in to carry out within the next five years (i.e. training for all cluster groups and state agencies); Gary asked group to think about it and bring back goals to next meeting

- d. Address what tribal police is and what they do; have each department go out to the community and have that piece of orientation with the public
- e. Meeting three times a year or two?
- f. There needs to be communication with tribal leaders
- g. Government needs to deal with government agencies connecting with tribes
- h. Are the right issues being addressed?
- i. Are the right people at the table?
- j. Once a year focus on Chief of Police issues
- k. No summer cluster meetings due to summer being a high demand for Police Chiefs
- l. Final meeting minutes attached (see Appendix C)

October 4, 2016

1. United States Attorney's Office District of Oregon, Tim Simmons, presented on Tribal Law updates
2. Oregon Knowledge Bank, Captain Ryan Keck Introduced a general overview of this website
3. All Tribal Police Chiefs present gave updates from their tribes to the group
4. Forensics Division Director, Captain Alexander Gardner, presented about the Forensics Division
5. State Agencies presented:
 - a. Oregon Department of Justice- Stephanie Striffler
 - b. Youth Development Council- Ryan Shands
 - c. Oregon Youth Authority- Katie Staton
 - d. Oregon Liquor Control Commission- Kelly Routt
6. Other Organizations presented:
 - a. Office of State Fire Marshal
 - i. Krista Fischer: Drug Endangered Children
 - ii. Claire McGrew: Smoke Alarm Checklist
7. State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster Chair Gary Sims concluded the meeting by providing a report out, discussing plans for sending cluster members the Public Safety Cluster Charter, and asking members to think about goals and meeting dates for 2017
8. Final meeting minutes attached (see Appendix D)

Religious Services Administration

Dennis Holmes, Administrator

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A wide range of Native American services and events are provided each year at all 14 of Oregon's prisons. DOC's Religious Services Unit continues to develop and deliver Native American spirituality programs. Hundreds of male and female adults in custody attended Native American ceremonies and services.

As shown in the institutional breakdowns included in this report, spiritual events and ceremonies that DOC provides include sweat lodges, drumming circles, powwows, talking circles, spirit runs, smudging, pipe ceremonies, and other cultural and spiritual activities.

Religious Services has developed healing ceremonies at multiple facilities. DOC staff work with the Eagle Repository in Colorado to facilitate acquisition of eagle feathers for adults in custody. In addition, each prison provides regular care and maintenance of its Native American Sweat Lodge and outdoor worship areas.

Native American Volunteers

DOC relies on Native American volunteers around the state to coordinate and facilitate Native American events, ceremonies, and activities inside DOC prisons, and to provide spiritual guidance to hundreds of adults in custody. The agency, as well as the adults in custody who participate in these programs, are very grateful to have such dedicated volunteers. Many of the services and programs might not be available without their service. DOC cannot thank these volunteers enough for giving their time and energy.

Individual Institution Programs and Activities

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Wilsonville

Chaplain (Medium): Emily Brault (503) 570-6785

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Chaplain (Minimum): Claudia Al-Amin (503) 570-6604

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Chaplain (Intake): Susan Matranga-Watson (503) 570-2211

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Multicultural Group

The Multicultural group is co-facilitated by the Chaplain and a volunteer from Multnomah County Community Corrections. The women come from Caucasian, Native American, Hispanic, Asian and African American ethnic groups. They come together to both celebrate and explore spirituality as it is reflected across cultures. It is a group that celebrates both diversity and common ground.

2015 Religious Services Special Activities (Minimum Facility)

- Native American Spring Celebration, Re-entry Law project, Re-entry clothing project, and back packs.
- A beading project for the Native Spring Celebration was started with donations from the Lummi Tribe in Washington State. Women in custody made a variety of beaded items for the very important “give away” ritual, which is part of the celebration.

Spiritual Direction Program

There are now four trained Spiritual Directors who are volunteering their time to provide spiritual direction to the women in custody. Spiritual direction explores a deeper, personal relationship with the spiritual aspect of being human and fosters experiences with the Divine in everyday life. Twelve women are currently meeting with a spiritual director.

Native American Spring Celebration

The Native American community held a successful Roots Ceremony and Spring Celebration in May. Fifteen tribal leaders and volunteers from the community came in to share the Food Blessing with 45 women in custody. This is a time when specific prayers, songs, and rituals are performed to honor the sacredness of the food that nourishes both our bodies and spirits.

Religious Services Orientation

This class is offered for women who have recently entered DOC custody are who are on intake status. Information about Religious Services – programs and services offered, how to sign up for religious services, why one might attend a religious service, the support Chaplains offer, religious items allowed in prison, and the Home for Good in Oregon program (HGO) – is provided. Also included is information regarding education, jobs, activities, and programs outside Religious Services. The class is provided to offer opportunities to enhance positive behavior and help reduce the risk of future criminal behavior. This orientation is interactive and questions are encouraged.

Columbia River Correctional Institution/South Fork Forest Camp, Portland

Phil Holbrook (503) 280-6646 ex. 248 Phillip.E.Holbrook@doc.state.or.us

The city of Portland has been the top destination for people who have moved out of other states for three years in a row. The population of the metro Portland area is now estimated to have grown to over 2.35 million residents. In the midst of all of this incredible growth sits Columbia River Correctional Institution, a minimum-custody facility that functions as a transition/release/treatment center for adults in custody who will be releasing to the community within four years.

Through Home for Good in Oregon, this past year 36 new HGO mentors were added to the current team of 182 trained mentors. These dedicated mentors work in a variety of strategic, faith-based organizations that are committed to sharing comprehensive resources. They have learned not to see people simply as conversion projects, but as unique human beings who often benefit most from having someone who can be a “sincere listener” for them as they transition back into their communities.

Some of the HGO partners put together a mentoring video this past year. This excellent video provides a glimpse into the difference that mentors can make in the lives of those releasing from prison, and the diverse scope of people and faith traditions that have formed strategic partnerships to network together and provide comprehensive resources to help releasing individuals transition back into their communities. The video can be found at <https://vimeo.com/152624965>.

Currently Available Services and Activities:

- Native American Sweat Lodge and Smudge Ceremonies

Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, Madras

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One of the opportunities (yet challenges) of managing a correctional religious program is finding balance between consistent, ongoing religious expressions and special or unique opportunities for people to explore, expand, and potentially deepen their beliefs. DRCI’s religious schedule for 2015 struck a great balance in these two areas. The facility started new religious activities and services and will provide ongoing opportunity for consistent spiritual and personal growth and development. In addition, there were a great number of special events that took place to provide new avenues for spiritual and religious growth.

Native American Cultural Studies

This class developed as a result of a volunteer from Warm Springs stepping back into active work with adults in custody. Each week a new opportunity is given for Native American adults in custody to grow in their knowledge of their religion and culture. Guest speakers have come in to provide discussion on topics from sobriety to language to Native American craft work.

2015 Religious Services Special Activities

Numerous special events took place throughout the year, including Project Angel Tree, the Native American powwow in August, Ramadan in July, and seasonal events such as Christmas concerts, a Native American Spirit Run, and the Wiccan Ceremonial Meal.

Eastern Oregon Correctional Facility, Pendleton

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2015 Religious Services Special Activities

- EOCI put in place a sweat leader so that sweats are continuing for Native American faith participants at least every other month. This volunteer also coordinates movies and talking circles.
- EOCI recruited a second Native American faith volunteer to conduct drum circles.
- The facility hosted another successful powwow in 2015. There was a great response from families and the community in supporting and attending this event; local Native people came in to emcee the event.

Oregon State Correctional Institution, Salem

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The OSCI Religious Services Unit currently supports 32 religious activities and 19 religious services, most of which meet weekly. In addition to these regular events, Religious Services supports special events, concerts, religious meals, an expanding chapel library, and one-on-one mentoring.

Family First

Family First continues to be an innovative and dynamic program that works to build healthy relationships between children and their incarcerated fathers. Family dynamics are constantly enhanced as children interact with their families and other families within Family First during several special events throughout the year.



Families participating in the 3-legged race during the Family First Outreach event.

Insight Development Restorative Justice Group

The Insight Development Group's Restorative Justice Program is a 33-week curriculum that offers participants the opportunity to explore the effects of their crime and develop victim empathy through a restorative justice-based dialogue group.

IDG volunteers also offer several other programs such as Grief Recovery and Youth Offender Group. IDG Grief Recovery promotes emotional healing through a restorative lens for those who have undergone traumatic events. The youth offender group is similar to the regular IDG group with added emphasis on the development of a youth's personal identity.



IDG Restorative Justice Graduation.

Mill Creek Correctional Facility, Salem

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Native American Program

Native American programs remain strong at MCCF. The facility has had the great fortune of having regular volunteers and being able to sweat weekly throughout 2015. The community also meets weekly in the chapel for the Indigenous Circle. In the circle, participants have begun working on sewing traditional star quilts that will be gifted to elders. The facility also hosted a healing seminar on domestic violence; all of the presentations during the daylong event were offered by indigenous people for indigenous people. The seminar was very well received, and the facility is beginning to plan for the next event of Bird Singers from California.

Oregon State Penitentiary, Salem

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Native American Powwow

Tribal voices, songs, and stories were shared at the Lakota Oyate Ki Club's 31st Annual All Day Big Yard Powwow on August 1, 2015. To start the day's events, Native American veterans were honored and recognized as they began the Grand Entry. Native American elders, powwow royalty, community leaders, and club supporters followed them closely. As one, they moved together as a community of family in time with the drum and song. Working together, 106 adults in custody, seven volunteers, six tribal representatives, 58 community guests, and 15 staff members made sure the powwow was a successful event. A secular and sacred ceremony, the powwow is a way to come together as a community. It is considered a continuous prayer from beginning to end.



OSP's annual powwow event.

The Lakota Club is a multi-faceted organization that has been in existence at OSP since 1968. Founded originally with the intent of establishing and protecting Native American rights and traditions in the state's prison system, the members of Lakota Oyate Ki have worked diligently to create and maintain a network of groups and individuals that spans throughout the correctional system, surrounding tribes,

and local community. The club includes registered members of every federally recognized tribe in the state, as well as many others from across North America. The club ensures that incarcerated Native Americans maintain a strong sense of cultural identity through a deeper and more meaningful connection with the Native American community beyond the walls of the Penitentiary. The funding that allows the Lakota Club to sponsor the annual powwow comes from educational and cultural grants from the nine Oregon Indian Tribes and the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation.

Powder River Correctional Facility, Baker City

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Native American Powwow

PRCI held its 5th Annual Powwow in August, with attendance of 78 people (an increase from last year). Over 170 pounds of buffalo, beef, chicken, and salmon were donated, as well as other food items. Even without dancers, this year's powwow was very successful and enjoyable. The Native drummers sang many ceremonial prayer songs. Guests came from over 400 miles away.

Other Native American Activities

- Native American movie viewing
- Native American powwow beading
- Native American drumming practice
- Annual Native Spirit Run (May)

Santiam Correctional Institution, Salem

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Native American Powwow

In September, SCI held its Annual Powwow. The facility hosted a great celebration featuring speakers, dancers, and giveaways of many uniquely crafted gifts – the kind that remind you of the vast depths of creativity and passion that resides in the men in custody.

Threshold Program

The Threshold Program started in December at SCI, providing a space for men to address major life issues from the perspective of their own religious traditions. Threshold is a comprehensive program developed in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The program encourages men to explore and evaluate nine areas that relate to successful lives: daily living, decision-making, emotional health, wellness, personal relationships, educational growth, leisure time, accepting personal responsibility, and personal spiritual growth. Weekly journaling is also a part of the nine-month program.



Volunteer Jim Cupples showed his faithful and always jovial dedication all year, regularly facilitating sweat and pipe ceremonies .

Prayer Group

A small prayer group started in November meeting once a week. The group prays over anonymous prayer requests, and for the staff and everyone who plays a role at the institution.

Other Activities

- SCI re-organized its Native American area and upgraded the storage area for firewood and medicines.
- The facility plans to install an outside shower for use in sweat ceremonies.

Shutter Creek Correctional Institution, North Bend

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Native American Sweat Lodge Ceremonies

Native American programming at SCCI has been expanded with a crafts program and additional events. The institution offered a four-day spirit run with an eagle staff. The staff is then brought to Sundance. In the fall, SCCI held a Change of Seasons event at the time of the equinox. Elders came from across the state to bring a message of healing and restoration through reconnecting with traditional ways of prayer. The institution rebuilt its sweat lodge and dedicated it to service with a sweat and pipe ceremony. The monthly Native American sweat lodge is central to SCCI's regular services. The institution also offers pipe ceremonies and a prayer circle hosted by elders. SCCI also has a Home for Good volunteer that offers sweats in the community on a monthly basis.

Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario

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Other Non-Christian Services/Events

- Native American Sweat – monthly
- Native American Powwow

Two Rivers Correctional Facility, Umatilla

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Native American Programs

- Change of Seasons provides quarterly two-day gatherings for pipe, drum, and sweat ceremonies for Native Americans to celebrate the four seasons.
- Native American pipe/smudge/sweat ceremonies are among the religious programs made available to inmates in TRCI's Administrative Housing Unit.

- The Annual Spirit Run is a favorite program that takes place in the summer. During the months of April, May, and June, men in custody bead and braid feathers and medicine bags in preparation for the sprit run.
- In 2015, TRCI held its first Native American powwow (the physical structure of TRCI has made it difficult to host large religious gatherings).

Warner Creek Correctional Facility, Lakeview

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Everyday Life

In order to serve the diverse religious needs of the nearly 500 men at Warner Creek, the chapel and its faithful volunteers hold more than 20 different weekly or monthly services and over 30 weekly activities. Without the willing support, cooperation, and assistance of all staff members, the chapel would not be able to accomplish any of these services. WCCF is a blessed institution filled with caring staff members who see the value of religious services in corrections.

Special Events

In 2015, the held a Native American powwow with three visiting drum groups, dancers, and many mothers, fathers, wives, and children of the adults in custody.



The Native American powwow with three visiting drum groups, dancers, and many guests.

Conclusion

Message from Diversity and Inclusion Administrator Gary Sims

As the State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster Coordinator, I've experienced some invaluable insights and lessons learned from the cluster and look forward to next year's activities. In essence, this year's State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster has been educational and positively impacted by participation from Tribal Police Chiefs, various state agencies, and a host of specialty guests. It is our hope and mission to maintain and strengthen our relationship with the state tribes and police chiefs, in conjunction with other state agencies, particularly as we continue our goal of collaborating and working together to build a stronger government-to-government relationship.

Conclusion

The department has continued to work with tribal representatives throughout the state to maintain cooperative relationships. DOC will work to maintain and enhance those relationships in 2017. DOC looks forward to more opportunities to involve the Native American community in its rehabilitative programs and the transition of adults in custody to their communities. The agency also appreciates its Native American volunteers and looks forward to working with them again in the coming year.

Agency Contact

Gary Sims, Tribal Liaison

DOC Diversity and Inclusion Administrator

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APPENDIX A

February 9, 2016, State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster Meeting Minutes





APPENDIX B

June 7, 2016, State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster Meeting Minutes





APPENDIX C

October 4, 2016, State-Tribal Public Safety Cluster Meeting Minutes





APPENDIX D

Oregon Department of Corrections Tribal Liaison Policy

