DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
Year Ending December 2010

ACTIVITIES AND INTERACTIONS DURING 2010

Overview

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) continues to work with Oregon's tribes and tribal members toward identifying opportunities for partnership. Bobbi Burton and Jennifer Black are the agency's key tribal contacts. A number of the Department's institutions continued to maintain direct contact with tribal representatives and tribal volunteers to develop and present special cultural ceremonies, promote inmate participation in cultural events and affiliations, and to recruit volunteers.

Deputy Director Mitch Morrow and Bobbi Burton attended the 2010 Tribal Information Day at the Capitol. The DOC has been a long-standing member of the Government-to-Government Public Safety Cluster. The agency actively participated in that cluster again this year. Our participation provides the DOC with current information on public safety activities and concerns among the various tribes, as well as those of other state agencies. Our participation also provides an avenue for building on-going relationships with tribal and state representatives. These relationships have been critical as we implement strategies and develop statewide procedures that may affect tribal members. We also believe that DOC participation has helped tribes and other state agencies better understand our agency mission and operations, and that our advice and participation in the cluster has been helpful and beneficial to Oregon's tribes.

The DOC has continued to collect data on all inmates during the intake process. Disclosure of ethnicity or tribal affiliation continues to be voluntary for incarcerated adults, which makes it difficult to collect data on all inmates. Inmates may also request a change to their ethnic designation at any time during their incarceration. The agency will continue to collect this voluntary data.

Update on DOC's Native American Procedures

The DOC originally began working on Native American spiritual and ceremonial procedures in 2007, following discussions and correspondence with the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. The purpose of the internal procedure is to bring greater consistency and clarity to the various Native American programs offered in Oregon prisons. The procedural guide will describe many of the procedures and protocols for delivering Native American programs and ceremonies to inmates. We continued to develop these procedures during 2010, with an understanding that our agency budget may influence the delivery of all programs and services.

Our new procedures have continued to evolve during the past year based on on-going review and comments from internal and external stakeholders. In most cases an internal procedure would be

developed and implemented without external review. In the spirit of collaboration, and DOC's commitment to working with Oregon's nine Native American tribes, the DOC requested and received input on these procedures from the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, representatives from all nine Native American Tribes in Oregon, individual tribal members, and Native American scholars throughout Oregon. Internally, the procedure has been reviewed by DOC Chaplains and other Religious Services staff, Institution Security Managers from all institutions, several of our Native American volunteers who work in a variety of the institutions, and inmates who are members of the Lakota Native American club at the Oregon State Penitentiary. Additional discussion on the procedure is expected in January 2011, and the procedure is expected to be adopted in 2011. The department has a long track record of providing Native American services and ceremonies, dependant mostly on budget constraints and availability of Native American volunteers. Many of the components in the procedure are already standard practice, or are already being implemented. As a result, our Native American programs and services have become more consistent throughout the DOC.

Native American Events and Religious Services

A wide range of Native American services and events were provided during the year at all 14 of Oregon's prisons. DOC's Religious Services Unit continued to develop and deliver Native American spirituality and healing programs for incarcerated men and women in DOC custody who choose these practices. Once again this year hundreds of incarcerated men and women attended Native American ceremonies and services; many attending multiple ceremonies. Inmates in DOC custody that practice Native American spirituality have access to sweat lodges and other ceremonies. Non-practicing inmates may participate in special events, diversity events, and other cultural programs.

Oregon State Penitentiary holds annual event with help from many volunteers and facility staff in 2010

Spiritual events and ceremonies that were provided in DOC facilities during the past year included sweat lodges, drumming circles, pow-wows, talking circles, spirit runs, smudging, pipe ceremonies, language development, other cultural and spiritual development, and counseling. An extensive series of educational videos and seminars are given during the year to help people understand and heal from historical trauma and current crisis, and to further develop healthy self and tribal identities. Religious Services has been developing and implementing healing ceremonies at multiple facilities for three years, and plans to continue to expand the offering of these ceremonies during the coming year. DOC Religious Services staff also work with the Eagle Repository in Colorado to facilitate acquisition of eagle feathers for Native

American inmates. They also regularly provide wood, herbs, medicines, beads, and other materials for use in ceremonies. Each prison provides regular care and maintenance of its Native American Sweat Lodge and outdoor worship areas.

Volunteers present the flags for the OSCI annual Pow-Wow in 2010

Native American Volunteers

DOC relies upon many Native American volunteers in facilities around the state. Volunteers conduct Native American ceremonies in the prisons and provide spiritual guidance for hundreds of inmates. The agency, as well as the inmates that benefit and 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. We cannot thank these volunteers enough for giving their time and energy.

Individual Institution Programs and Activities

Coffee Creek Correctional Facility, Women's facility and Intake Center, Wilsonville: This facility holds a Sweat Lodge once a month. Smudge ceremonies are held two times a month in the medium security facility. A Talking Circle is held once a month in the medium facility, and two times a month in the minimum security facility. A Spring Ceremony was held again this year for both the medium and minimum facilities.

Columbia River Correctional Institution, Portland; and, South Fork Forest Camp, Tillamook forest: CRCI hosted a Native American Pow-Wow again this past summer. The facility generally has a Sweat Lodge once a month. At the forest camp, there are typically a Drum Circle and Sweat Lodge once every two months. The Pow-Wow for the forest camp was held in conjunction with CRCI.

Deer Ridge Correctional Institution, Madras: DRCI holds a Sweat Lodge once a month. A Drum Circle is held every week. Talking Circles and Smudge Ceremonies are held on occasion.

OSCI 2010 Ceremony

Volunteers and family can help change the lives of inmates and reconnect them to their spirituality and community

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Pendleton: EOCI holds Sweat Lodges on a scheduled basis. Volunteers came to EOCI over the past year to assist with special spiritual care for inmates during family crisis. EOCI Chaplains also assisted with phone calls for Native men during family crisis. EOCI Religious services are establishing a spiritual seminar that has been requested by inmates. The facility Enrichment Committee established a Native American cultural seminar. EOCI Chaplains & volunteers supply medicines for medicine bags on an ongoing basis upon inmate request. EOCI conducted a Native pipe ceremony and a Memorial Ceremony over the past year.

OSCI 2010 Pow-Wow featured tribal dancers

Mill Creek Correctional Institution and Santiam Correctional Institution, Salem: Native American religious activities at these facilities included Sweat Lodge ceremonies once per month every month this year. Song and Drum practices were held once a week virtually every week this year. SCI held a three day Spirit Run in August, and a Change of Seasons Celebration/Feast was held in September. Native American music CDs, DVDs and Literature are available. A Native American beading program was offered in preparation for Change of Seasons Celebration. New drums and drumsticks provided this year.

Oregon State Correctional Institution, Salem: Over the last year, OSCI has hosted regular Native American services and activities, including 18 Sweat Lodge and Pipe ceremonies with an average attendance of 31.5 inmates and 66 volunteer hours. A Sundance Sweat was also held once a month. This year there were 38 Native American Drum Circle activities, with an average attendance of 17.7 inmates and 6 volunteer hours. During this last year 30 Talking Circles were held, with an average atten-

dance of 10 inmates and 36 volunteer hours. An annual Pow-Wow, sponsored by the Inipi Oyate-Ki Native Culture Club, was held in August. There was also a Spirit Run this year.

Annual Pow-Wow held at OSP with help from Native American volunteers, DOC staff, and Lakota Club

Oregon State Penitentiary and OSP minimum security facilities, Salem: OSP has long had a Lakota Oyate-Ki Native American club for inmates. Currently there are 51inmates in the Lakota Club. This club meets every fourth Thursday of the month and helps support the weekly Sweat Lodge, Pipe Ceremony and Drumming. They also help plan an annual Sundance Sweat and a Spirit Run. OSP also hosted an annual Pow-Wow. Over 100 people participated in the Pow-Wow this year. The work to produce such an event within the penitentiary is extensive. Bringing in so many guests and volunteers through security at one time is a challenge for staff and security. Our volunteers and guests helped make it a some process and a wonderful event.

This year a Spirit Run was held over four days. There are also two cultural television channels in the institution that rotate between Native American, Hispanic and Asian programming. For the most part, the programming rotation results in each group being represented every day, either morning or afternoon.

Over 100 people attended the OSP annual Pow-Wow

Powder River Correctional Institution, Baker City: PRCF has two Native American volunteers, Bob Forsyth and Gary Baker. With their help, PRCI offers a Sweat Ceremony every month. Sweat Ceremony preparation involving five to eight inmates, depending on snow to be shoveled from area or weeding. Sweat Prayer Ties are made prior to the sweat. Native Circles are held every Friday night and include Smudging, Talking Circle, Drumming, Songs, Prayer,

and a Pipe Ceremony. Native American Video Viewing is available every Wednesday. The facility has 42 Native American DVDs or Videos in its Chapel Library. A Native American Spirit Run occurs once a year. This year it was held in the evening over five weekdays, and was followed by a Saturday Sweat, at which fry bread was provided. The Spirit Run only takes place in the evenings due to programs and education classes that occur during the day.

Shutter Creek Correctional Institution, North Bend: The Native American volunteers offer Sweat Lodge ceremonies on a monthly basis. There is one Sweat Lodge held for inmates in the SUMMIT program, and one is held for inmates in the general population. General population inmates have a Drum Line on weeks without a Sweat Lodge, and the volunteers have been available almost every other week during the past year.

Snake River Correctional Institution, Ontario: Sweat Lodges are provided four times a month, with one sweat for each housing unit a month. This year there was a Sundance Sweat, a New Years Sweat, and a Pow-Wow held at the institution.

Two Rivers Correctional Institution, Umatilla: TRCI conducts Sweat Lodges two-three times a month with Pipe and Smudge ceremonies. Instructional/cultural videos and discussion are held three-four times a year, provided by volunteers. Change of Seasons celebrations were held quarterly this year, and fry bread was provided on second day of the Sweat. A four-day Spirit Run was also held this year. Beading and braiding of medicine bags, prayer feathers, and Spirit Run staff (stick) were made in preparation of the annual Spirit Run (four weeks prior to the event). Native American volunteers provide individual counseling and mentorship to inmates when they are available. Special Guests from various Native American tribal communities visit the institution based on when they are available.

Warner Creek's well tended greenhouse is a source for growing more than just vegetables

Warner Creek Correctional Facility, Lakeview: This facility has weekly Native American Talking Circle on Fridays. The circles include discussion of current concerns, prayer, singing accompanied by a drum, and of course, smudging for purification and prayers for the individual. Volunteers led a monthly Sweat on the fourth Friday of each month. Native American work crews work to maintain the outdoor worship grounds.

Native American inmates have beading and craft sessions weekly. They are also offered in preparation for events such as Pow Wows, banquets, and other special events where their craft items will be given to guests. This year the facility held an "Honoring Our Women" banquet. The facility is currently planning a banquet for Spring or early Summer 2011.

There are occasional drumming circles that are held both indoors and outdoors. These circles are for the purpose of teaching new songs to all the participants, particularly in anticipation of an event where songs will be performed for others. The facility has Native American books, CDs, and DVDs in its Chapel Library. These materials are used by individuals for personal encouragement, and they are used by the All Nations Circle for occasional group showings of movies.

Inmates at this facility are growing and occasionally harvesting white sage and sweetgrass in the facility's large greenhouse. The white sage and sweetgrass is used for on-site smudges and Sweats, and will also eventually be dispersed to other institutions.

Inmate tends to growing crop of sweetgrass and white sage for Native American ceremonies

Conclusion

The Department has continued to work with tribal representatives throughout the state to maintain the cooperative relationships that have been built. We will work toward continuing and enhancing those relationships in 2011.

We look forward to more opportunities to involve the Native American community in our rehabilitative programs and the transition of inmates to communities. We also appreciate our Native American volunteers and look forward to working with them again in the coming year.

It is with deep appreciation that we wish to honor the life of Jay Minthorn of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. Mr. Minthorn was a dedicated leader of his people, but he was also an enthusiastic volunteer for the department for many years. He provided spiritual guidance to inmates at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution in Pendleton, and he was instrumental in bringing drumming traditions to the facility. He taught many inmates the art of drumming and spirituality. His caring for others and his wisdom will be missed.

KEY CONTACTS

Oregon Department of Corrections
Bobbi Burton -- Agency Tribal Liaison
Public Services Division
Community Development Manager
1793 13th Street SE
Salem, OR 97302-2595
(503) 934-1014
Bobbi.Burton@doc.state.or.us

Oregon Department of Corrections
Jennifer Black -- Agency Tribal Liaison
Public Services Division
Public Affairs Administrator
2575 Center St NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: (503) 945-9225
Jennifer.Black@doc.state.or.us