



Washington County Juvenile Department

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Fall 2023

Don't' Forget!

- Be Visible– it may be dark when you arrive and leave the office
- County provided security escort call – 503-846-8717
- Fall Back– Daylight savings time ends Sunday, November 5, 2023
- Spirit Week– 10/30-11/03!

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Washington County Juvenile Staff shine during the 2023 OJDDA Awards Ceremony!

This year's OJDDA conference recognized exceptional employees in several areas: Juvenile Justice Professional of the Year, Program and Support Staff of the Year, and Residential Staff of the Year. After a nomination process, Mateo Campos-Chavarría, Julie Carreon, and Brandon Haughton were forwarded to OJDDA for consideration from our department. We are proud to announce that both Julie and Brandon won in their categories.



Brandon and Julie with awards

lucky to work with such an amazing and talented work force. Thank you all for the work that you do every day to support our community.” —

Jennifer Cearley

Staff Feedback:

“I learned about the differences in working with Gen Z. Unlike Gen X, they like a lot of contact and attention from supervisors. They also want to be given special projects and assignments to work on and within those projects to be allowed to select others to assist them with this.” —

Jennifer Yonker

on Law Changes for Juveniles in 2023 and was surprised to learn there were over 25 changes to laws involving juveniles this year. The workshop “Rethinking Accountability and Court/ Probation Conditions” was also well done.” —

Tonya Hartman

Conference after hours:

Those in attendance were treated to the musical stylings of our very own Justin Armstrong. It is well known that Justin and family are musically inclined and compose music. However, this was the first time many people were fortunate enough to hear his music.

“The venue was lovely, and the after hours gathering at the Oaktree was a blast. Some of the best training sessions we had in years, and lovely to be there to celebrate Brandon and Julie’s awards. Great time to spend with long time friends and coworkers.” — Penny Belt



“Congratulations to you both as well as to all of our nominees! We are all incredibly

“This year’s OJDDA conference was a great experience, overall. I really appreciated the training

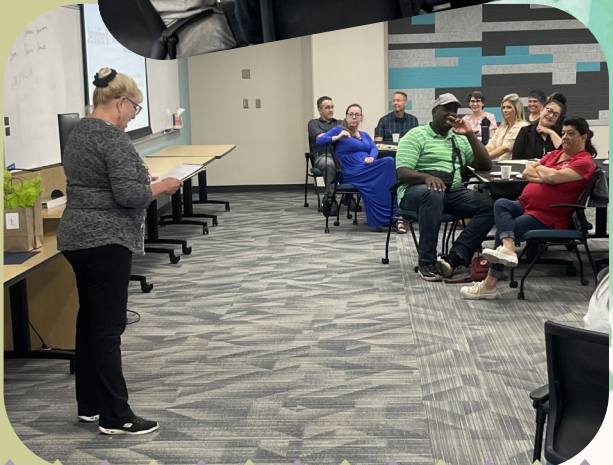


Washington County Juvenile staff at the 2023 OJDDA conference.

[Next](#)

SPOT LIGHT!

Staff Appreciation 2023 - Juvenile Department -



Hillsboro Fair



Harkins House BBQ- Lt. Leland Gilbert and Ray Cameron



Group at Hillsboro Fair



Rigo Garcia, Ray Cameron and OYA staff during a meeting.

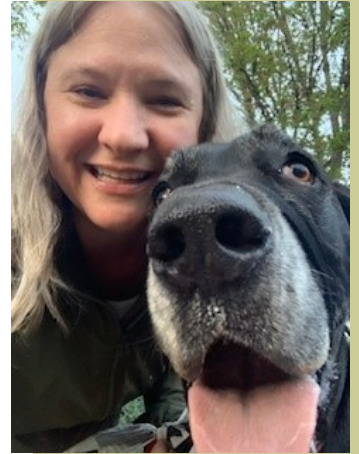
Juvenile Department Staff in the Community

Anna Markovich—Harkins House Manager

Anna Markovich was recently hired as the Residential Manager at Harkins House. Most recently, she worked as the Senior Juvenile Counselor for the Tigard/Tualatin/Sherwood Team. Her prior experience includes many years working with youth involved in the juvenile justice system including at Donald E. Long, Clackamas County Juvenile Department, Columbia County Juvenile Department and most recently, as a Senior Juvenile Counselor for the Tigard/Tualatin/Sherwood Team and Harkins House.

Anna stated, "I knew I wanted to work with adolescents since I was an undergraduate at the University of Utah and interning at program similar to Harkins House. I saw the potential of young people to make positive changes when they had the right support. I applied as Harkins House manager in order to help support these opportunities of change for youth and to be a positive leader for staff."

When not working, Anna enjoys spending time with friends and family and traveling. Anna spent two years in Louisiana while attending graduate school.



Alejandra Guzman-Chavez—Juvenile Counselor I

Alejandra Guzman-Chavez was recently promoted to full time Juvenile Counselor I in Custody Services. She has been working as a variable hour staff member for some time.

Alejandra began her work with youth at the Homeless Youth Continuum in Portland, working with nonprofits such as Janus Youth Programs and Outside In. During this time, she also finished her undergraduate degree at Pacific University with a Social Work major, and a triple minor in Sociology, Psychology of Well-Being, and Criminal Justice Law and Society. In addition, Alejandra has a passion for all things beauty and went to Portland Beauty School right after her undergrad.

When asked why she does this work, Alejandra stated, "I always knew that I wanted to work in the criminal justice field since I could remember. I just didn't know to what extent. It wasn't until I was at Pacific University that I really began to learn about all the ups and downs of the juvenile justice system and the importance of having dedicated and passionate staff to really help youth make a change in the right path. I like to think that I play a part in making a change for the better in some of the youths' lives!"

When not working, you can find Alejandra hanging out with her dog Guardian or with her family. She loves going out to new places and enjoys the outdoors. Alejandra makes it to the beach, hikes, and camping as much as she can.

Jennifer Tajon—Departure

Well, my release date has been determined! I've served my 236 months in Washington County and it's time to bust out of here!!! I leave with a full heart, knowing I've done my best to keep our community safe and support young people through the difficult adolescent years. I've been so fortunate and tremendously lucky to have been guided and mentored by some of the best in our field. As my career in Juvenile Justice comes to a close, I hope I have made all of them proud. I leave with so many great memories, oh my goodness so many laugh out loud (but quietly and professionally) moments, endless laughter and trash talking to each other! I will definitely miss all of it! My favorite memory is that year my team took the championship at the Harkins House Open...what year was that again?! In all seriousness, my all time favorite memories come from my time at Harkins House and the crew I grew up with there. Shout out to the 2004 - 2015 Cohort, we did some amazing work together, learned and taught each other tons along the way and most importantly had a lot of fun doing it!

I'll be making my way south to the sun, joining my family in California. Livin' in up on the beautiful Central Coast! When I'm not enjoying family time and the beach I'll be serving as a Program Manager for the San Luis Obispo County SAFE Program (Services Affirming Family Empowerment) a collaboration between Juvenile Justice, Schools, Behavioral Health, Child Welfare and Community Agencies working together to serve families, with the goal of keeping kids with their families. Did someone say Preventative Services, yes please!!! I am beyond excited for the new challenge and being able to serve youth and families in this capacity. Hoping the next adventure will be as exciting as this one has been!



BIG CHANGES COME TO CONCILIATION SERVICES

Beginning in July 2023, Washington County parents involved in Domestic Relations court cases have been able to access the services that are required of them with more efficiency. In most cases requirements include mediation orientation, mediation, and family law education. All services are designed to aid families through the process and educate parents on how to best help children adjust to changes in their families. In the past, mediation orientation and the mediation service have been provided by the Conciliation team while family law education has been provided by Youth Contact. In July, Conciliation began providing family law education in conjunction with mediation orientation. This allows litigants to meet both requirements by registering for and attending a single session, requiring less time away from work and their families. Further, the overall cost to parents to access these services has been reduced by approximately 33%. As expected, these changes have resulted in some confusion in the family law community. The Conciliation team has been answering questions and providing consultation as needed. Although change is often challenging, we believe Washington County will be better served by the new service delivery system.



Hillsboro School District and Washington County Juvenile Partnership



On August 24, 2023 Juvenile Department Director Ray Cameron and Assistant Juvenile Department Director Jennifer Cearley met with Hillsboro School District Superintendent Travis Reiman.

Department staff, DDAs, and Judges.

He was really excited to learn what we do and to meet some of the stakeholders in person.

The group had a very healthy conversation on partnership, resources, and better relationships. In addition, Mr. Reiman was introduced to some of the Juvenile

He now has a completely different perception of what we do because of this experience at our department.

EPICs training going strong!

Juvenile Staff continues training of EPICs (Effective Practices in Community Supervision) seen here during the September refresher course.

EPICs focuses on community supervision. The goal is to decrease criminal behavior, ensure public safety, provide accountability, monitor compliance to court orders and broker services based on the needs of the client.

Our department currently has two in house EPICs trainers. This has helped increase learning and fidelity because the previous training was done by an outside source.

Juvenile staff, EPICs training, with trainers Mateo and Amanda.



Juvenile Department Lobby Remodel Nearly Complete!

Lobby Wall 2022



Pink came down!



Finished!

As most of you have likely noticed, the lobby has been undergoing a significant facelift. Thanks to the generosity of the facilities department, we were able to remove the deteriorating pink fabric wall panels, remove and cap the pony walls, repair the sheetrock, and get a fresh coat of paint.

We were granted approval to select a non-county color for the walls to ensure the lobby felt more welcoming for our guests and clients. New sound buffering wall panels with scenic views of the mountains and the ocean have been hung on the walls, lights have been upgraded to LED, and we received replacement chairs in a more soothing color.

Still to come- a chair rail, a chalk wall for kids, new signage, and hopefully some youth produced artwork to fill the nook and other spaces. In addition, the glass panels outside Maria's desk will get a coating of tinting to reduce the external glare. Thank you all for your patience as this process has occurred and thank you in particular to facilities for squeezing this into their budget and their schedules!



New chalk wall for kids to draw!



Clean walls, great artwork!

Teal Pumpkins and Blue Buckets Explained

Halloween is a joyful time for many kids and a stressful time for others (and their families.) Children with disabilities face additional challenges when out and about trick-or-treating and there are two initiatives aimed at helping, so don't be confused.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and may be non-verbal or have difficulty communicating. Now that we've sorted that out, here's hoping your family enjoys a happy and stress-free (or at least stress-reduced) Halloween!

Remember the important part is that whoever comes to your door that night wants to enjoy the holiday, just like you. Why should their age, appearance, or language matter?

— Article written by Dave Bloom 10/24/2019 Snacksafely.com

There are plenty of other things they could be doing that night, especially teens, but they're going door-to-door to appreciate the day in the way that works for them.

The first is the Teal Pumpkin Project originated in 2012 by Becky Basalone — the director of FACET, a Tennessee-based food allergy group — and now embraced by the food allergy community and beyond. The initiative recognizes that children with food allergies cannot partake in traditional Halloween treats and encourages participants to place a teal-colored pumpkin on their property to indicate they offer non-food treats.



Just share their joy and let everyone be included, regardless of bucket color.

Have a safe and Happy Halloween All!

For more information on the Teal Pumpkin Project go to Foodallergy.org

Peer Support has arrived at Juvenile!

What is Peer Support? The Peer Support program is a part of the department’s larger trauma-informed efforts. It is designed to provide support to staff, from staff. After all, who knows better than your co-workers how stressful this work can be?

Who is Peer Support? Following a vote, staff selected members (pictured on right) including Anna Markovich, Chris Barriere, Sydney Friedman, Israel Echevarria, Brandon Haughton, and Mateo Campos-Chavarria with Jennifer Yonker (bottom center) as the coordinator.

Team members are here to listen whether you are having a bad day, a bad month, or a bad year. Conversations are confidential as long as you don’t state you plan to kill yourself or someone else, you harmed a child or elder, that you committed a crime, or if the information you share is related to an internal county investigation.

How do I access Peer Support help? All you need to do is let any member know you want to talk. Peer support members will clarify that it is a peer support conversation, and then be available to support you.

Peer Support. When you need us, we’ll be there.



Adapting to change in the workplace

We all know that change can be hard. We also know it is a part of the natural evolution and growth of an agency. The juvenile department is no exception to this. As we prepare to hire new supervisors and adjust to the transitions that occur as a result, according to the web site indeed.com, there are some tips you can use to make this change a little easier.

Tip #1 –Accept change. View change as a natural part of an organization and a time of potential and of additional opportunities. What good things could happen as a result of the changes?



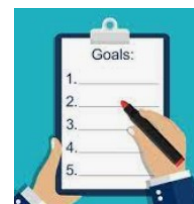
Tip #2 -Stay positive. Having a positive attitude will make it easier to adjust to change and is essential for a healthy workplace. Your positive attitude will also affect those around you. Try to think about what could be made possible with this change.



Tip #3 –Get a fresh perspective. Talk to friends and family about the changes to get their perspective.



Tip #4 -Focus on what you can control. Focus on the tasks and responsibilities you have total control over. Focus on what you can achieve today and break large tasks down into smaller, manageable pieces. Use this time to think about what you want from your career. Do you want to learn new skills? Take on new responsibilities?



Tip #5 –Set new goals. Setting a new goal can give you clarity and a new sense of purpose. Goals can also help you prioritize more effectively and stay positive.

Tip #6 –Stay connected to co-workers. Maintain good communication, stay aware of what is happening around you, and become good at asking questions. This can help with your confidence and help keep you positive. Giving support to co-workers can also improve your own attitude and help you adjust to change better.



As these transitions occur, please reach out to people around you for support and encouragement. And don’t forget- Peer Support is here for you!



UPCOMING TRAININGS

- ⇒ Secondary Traumatic Stress Training—Nov. 2, 2023—8:30am—12:30pm Virtual
- ⇒ Secondary Traumatic Stress Training for Supervisors—Nov. 16, 2023—9:00am—12:00pm Virtual

[Trainings are listed in the Outlook Juvenile Dept Meetings-Training Calendar](#)

Most of this newsletter was written by people like you. People with a story to tell. We are curious about what other stories there are in the Juvenile department. Please write yours! [Click Here](#) to send your submission

Fun to be had!

5 fun facts about Halloween*

The holiday dates back more than 2,000 years

Some Halloween rituals used to be geared toward finding a husband

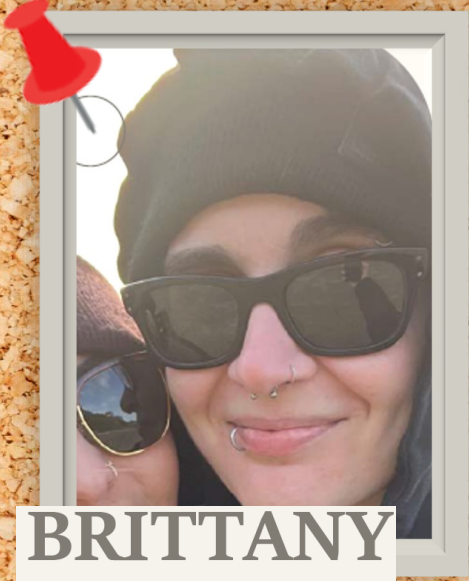
Sugar rationing during World War II paused trick-or-treating

Now Halloween is the second-largest commercial holiday in the country

Jack o' lanterns used to be carved out of turnips, potatoes and beets.

Take a Tic-Tac-Toe break with a coworker!

*<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/>



BRITTANY

REGIONS/ASSESSMENT
GRADUATE INTERN



EMMA

HARKINS HOUSE



ELIZABETH

HARKINS HOUSE



LILLY

HARKINS HOUSE



EMILIE

HARKINS HOUSE



MOLLY

CLINICAL INTERN



ISAIAH

CLINICAL INTERN



CHARLEE

VICTIM SERVICES / STEP



MEGAN

SUB-ABUSE INTERN

Hoop Shoot 2023



The Annual Hoop Shoot fundraiser was held on Sep. 27, 2023. Eight teams competed and we raised \$855. This fundraiser supports positive, prosocial activities for youth in Harkins House. Many thanks to Brandon Haughton who organizes this event each year and serves as coach to the Harkins House team.

Winners

- 1st place—Risk Management
- 2nd place—Oregon Youth Authority
- 3rd place—Harkins House Youth
- Team Spirit Award—ACS
- MVP – Mark Jennings, Risk Management team

Thank you to the following for playing and donating:

- Risk Management (Casey Adair, Bryan Aalberg, Dustin Karstetter, Mark Jennings)
- ACS (Penny Belt/Jennifer Cearley, Rebecca Matz, Lisa Gerdes, Jennifer Yonker)
- Substance Abuse (Amanda Godinez, Armando Ramirez, Chandra Bettis, Megan Huynh)
- WRAP/Mental Health (Michael Garcia, Ben Hoerster, Richard Arnold, Austin Martin)
- Oregon Youth Authority (Rigo Garcia, Juan Chavez, Guy Hamilton)
- County Administration – Sponsored by Erin Calvert and Tanya Ange (Kevin Moss, Brenda Bartlett, Cristian Salgado, Umi Fulgencio)
- Team Benchwarmers – Sponsored by Judge Rini (Judge Goldman, Judge Buchér, Judge Thompson, Judge Colburn)
- Harkins House Youth Team – Sponsored by Jennifer Tajon

Additional Donors:

- Miriam Meneses-Rios
- Philip Bransford
- David Vandervort



1st Place
Risk
Management



2nd Place
Oregon
Youth
Authority



by Darcy Lang



Halloween in Downtown Hillsboro is an annual trick-or-treating event and in 2023, it will be on Saturday, October 28th, 2023.

There will be two parts to this event.

- 3:00-6:00 pm Trick or Treat on Main St. is the family friendly portion of the event.
- 7:00pm—10:00pm is the "Halloween in Downtown Hillsboro" Block Party

Hillsboro Downtown Partnership has partnered with Downtown businesses, local schools, and more to provide spooky music, performances, special appearances, and a haunted house or two along a very festive route.

There will also be a flash mob on 3rd and Main at 6pm. Look closely perhaps your local favorite newsletter editor and department administrative assistant will be present.

Please visit <https://www.downtownhillsboro.org/halloween/> for more details.

Juvenile Staff Volunteer with Project Never Again

It was a delightful Saturday morning in early August when Juvenile staff members Julie Carreon and Ann Tracewell showed up at Sonrise Church in Hillsboro. The weather was ideal with fabulous music playing from a talented DJ. The mission was to help prepare 5,000 duffel bags through [Project Never Again](#) that were to be given to foster children throughout Oregon.

In an exciting turn of events this year, Seema's mission is complete as a new law went into effect declaring the "Department of Human Services is to maintain inventory of luggage carriers for use when transporting personal effects of foster children."



Volunteers

In this final year of the program, volunteers helped prepare the bags alongside Oregon Senator Janeen Sollman and US Senator Ron Wyden. With about 100 people working the duffel bags were quickly unpacked, tags removed, personal notes inserted, and then repacked to be shipped out. Ann and Julie reported it was a great time and they know they'll be looking to help with another project like this.



Seema Steffany



<https://www.neveragainpo.org/>

This project began as a labor of love by Seema Steffany who had been through the foster system as a child. She remembers the shame of only having a small box to put her few precious belongings in. The majority of foster children are only given a garbage bag to transport their prized possessions. Seema shared how it makes children feel like they are nothing but trash to be thrown away. When she began Project Never Again her goal was to see that no child be made to use a garbage bag again.



Over 6 years, the program has taken over 17,000 donated duffel bags and prepared them by adding a personal note to each one. The bags are then given to foster children as they are shuffled through the system.

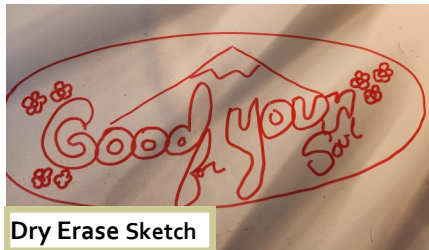


Julie and Ann

Juvenile Feeling Good with the “Good for Your Soul” Newsletter Artwork Challenge!

For this edition the Juvenile Newsletter team has added a new recurring section entitled “Good for Your Soul”. The hope for this section is to report information on community events, volunteer projects, or even fun recipes! Anything that will add a little joy to the readers day.

The Newsletter team wanted a large amount of staff participation for the new section. We started with the heading. In September, an email art challenge went to all staff asking all budding Vincent Van Goghs to submit their best version of a header for this section.



Dry Erase Sketch

We provided a basic dry-erase sketch and let staff roll with it!

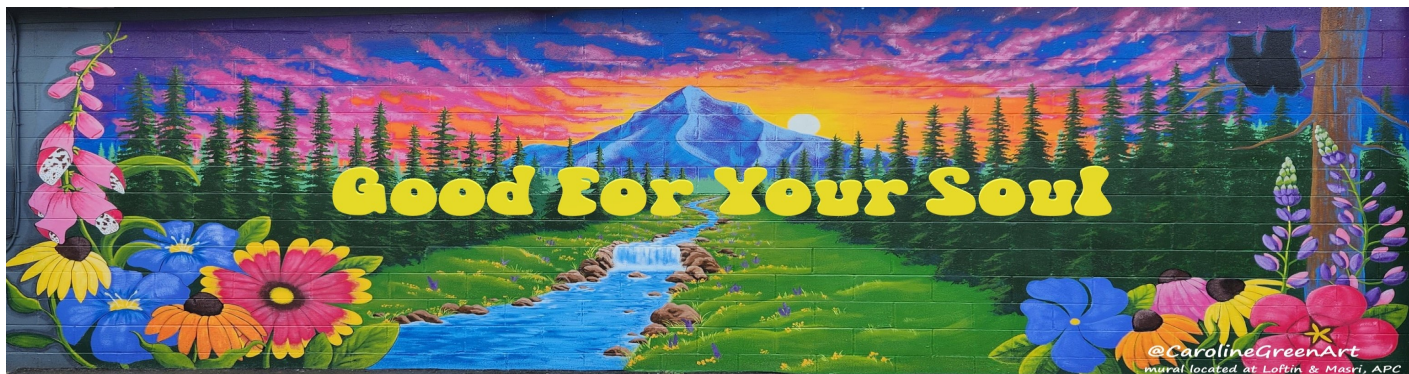
What we received back was magical. Here are all the submissions.

We plan to rotate the images in

upcoming newsletters. So be sure to check next quarter to see which one is used!



Created and Submitted by Sean Stutzman



Artwork found while walking in Hillsboro. Permission given by artist to add the title.

Hand drawn and submitted by Darcy Lang



Artwork created by A.I.