



Washington County Juvenile Department

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April 2023

Don't' Forget!

- New emergency procedure manual released- is yours orange?
- New County wellness app – Virgin Pulse
- Need to Email Reception? Use email address juvenilereception@washingtonty.or.gov

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Staff Welcomes, New Juvenile Department Director Ray Cameron!

County Administrator Tanya Ange has named Ramon (Ray) Cameron as the new director of the Juvenile Department. Cameron joined the County on April 3, after serving as the associate commissioner of the New York City Department of Probation since 2019.

For more than a decade prior to that role, Cameron was the founder and executive director for Project New Hope – The New Direction, Inc., providing supportive services, case management and after-school programming for over 5,000 clients. He also worked as director of Family Support Services for the New York City Department of Education for approximately five years. Cameron earned a bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in pre-law from York College in Queens, N.Y. He also holds a master's degree in public administration from Baruch College in New York, N.Y.

"Ray's extensive experience working with justice-involved youth and their families, along with his proven ability to manage innovative and evidence-based approaches that reduce recidivism and prevent juvenile crime

made him an excellent candidate for this important leadership role," said Ange. *"His professional and lived experience with advancing equity, diversity and inclusion will also position the Department to be even more responsive to the over-representation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system. I*



am excited for him to join our amazing team at the Juvenile Department who pour their hearts and souls into serving our youth on a daily basis."

"It is with great distinct honor to have been selected as the next director of juvenile services," said Cameron. *"I'm grateful for this wonderful opportunity to be a part of the County*

leadership team. I look forward to working collectively with our staff and stakeholders to improve the lives of our clients. My family and I are really excited to join the Washington County family and be a part of the fabric of this growing community."

Cameron was chosen after a nationwide recruitment and competitive selection process conducted by SGR, a company that specializes in executive leadership recruitment for local governments. He will succeed current director Lynne Schroeder who retired after nearly 40 years of public service.

Washington County Juvenile Department protects the public by reducing delinquency and restores victims and the community by holding youth accountable. They create opportunities for

change through swift and decisive use of effective practices, building on the strengths of youth and families. The department is supported by a budget of \$20 million and is staffed by 84 full-time equivalent employees.

For information on programs and services, visit <https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/juvenile>.

SPOT LIGHT!

Lynne Schroeder Retires, Staff Gives a Fond Farewell to this Beloved Director

On April 7, 2023, Lynne Schroeder retired as director of the Washington County Juvenile Services Department. Lynne joined the department in 2012 coming from having worked for 24 years in Juvenile Justice at Lane County and 5 years before that in Hennepin County, MN.

Lynne, can you talk a little more about your decision to retire?

"I still have so much pleasure and satisfaction doing this work of developing programs, supporting our work, connecting with the community and continuing to learn and grow in our field of work. It will be hard to leave, but it is also a good time to pass the torch. I trust the County will find the right person to maintain our direction in becoming a data driven organization, in utilization of best practices, in pursuing equity, in balancing our efforts to maintain community safety, in supporting youth to grow and learn and in supporting restoration and support to victims."

What are your future plans? "I have my sights set on the next phase of my life as a gardener, creator of mosaic art, grandmother, reader of novels, hiker, camper, traveler and as someone who generally has a lot of fun and joy."



"Thank you so much for the generous send off [celebration], for the kind words and hugs you have shared... and for your steadfast commitment to our youth and families demonstrated through your work. Thank you for the gift cards, the flowers, the charcuterie spread at the party, and all the special things some of you shared with me. It has been my honor and privilege to work in Washington County for these past 11 years and in Juvenile Justice in Oregon and Minnesota for the past 40 years. I am deeply touched and my heart filled by your love and generosity. My heart remains with you as you continue this collective journey to create a more whole community through the development of our youth and live your own full lives. Please stay in touch!"

Thank you, Lynne, for all you have done for our department, enjoy retirement!

The Juvenile Department held a celebration on March 29th starting at 5:30 pm at the Washington Street Conference Center. In attendance were Juvenile Department staff, community partners, Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee members, contracted providers, and others in the field of Juvenile Justice.

Lynne was overwhelmed by the level of participation at the celebration,



LaRoy LaBonte is Retiring! All are invited to attend an informal gathering on May 4th!

LaRoy LaBonte has been an employee with Washington County since September, 1992.

He will be joining his wife and daughters for the next stage of life in Colorado.

Please stop by and bid him a fond farewell.



Noble Hop
May 4th, 2023 at 5pm
370 E Main St. Hillsboro, OR



David Castleton moves on to new horizons!

After more than 20 years total with the Juvenile Department in Washington County, David Castleton accepted a position with the Oregon Judicial Department. While the department is sad to see him go; David will be remembered as an amazing advocate for the work and the team members he has supervised.



Before his leaving, we asked a few questions about his time with us and his new position.

When did you start with the county?

"November 1999 at Harkins House as a relief counselor working about 10 hours per week."

What will you miss most?

"Learning from such dedicated, passionate staff, many of whom I have built relationships with over many years. I'll miss working with such incredibly bright individuals whose own abilities have pushed and stretched me to keep up."

What is your favorite memory?

"Over twenty years...hmmm...it's too long a time to have any one memory stand out as a favorite. I can say there's been a lot of laughter though over the years, despite the emotional work. I once got blasted by a rogue sprinkler point blank in front of the main court house, right before having to present in a hearing. Standing in the courtroom with soaking shirt and pants while explaining the case...and everyone acting like nothing was unusual...that's some good humor right there."

What will your new position be?

"The Oregon Judicial Department hired me to help implement a brief screening tool for adult drug courts throughout the state. Part of the work will be to evaluate the impact, if any. The idea for the tool is to identify the target population (high criminal risk, high need/addiction) as early as possible and get participants started with the intervention model. Simple in theory but with so many system pieces in play on the front end, finding the target population reliably and efficiently can be difficult in practice."

Anything else you would like to say?

"Working in the juvenile justice system is honorable and meaningful work. People who have never worked in this system

don't truly appreciate how challenging the balanced approach can be to achieve. I feel fortunate to have worked with so many in the pursuit of this goal."



The department, in usual celebration style, sent David off with a farewell potluck, Italian-themed gift basket, and digital card signed by people from all over the county who have worked and gotten to know David over the years.



Thank you, David! May you continue to enhance the world for all those you encounter.



Jose Mendez Zepeda

Jose Mendez Zepeda transferred to the Breaking the Cycle (BTC) team in late January 2023. For a few months, he worked at Harkins House and BTC while hiring was completed for his position at Harkins House. When asked why he transferred, Jose stated, "I decided to transfer because when I first entered the juvenile department, my goal had always been to work as a court counselor. When the opportunity presented itself, I knew I had to go for it."

Jose received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Portland State University. Prior to working at the department, he worked for Centro Cultural as their Youth Career Coordinator connecting impacted youth with short term trainings, GED opportunities, and career exploration. Jose also volunteered as one of the first mentors in for the department. When asked why he does this work, Jose said, "Growing up, I saw family and friends be affected by the Juvenile system. This exposure made me want to work with impacted youth and families to provide them with resources and support."

When not working, Jose enjoys playing soccer, watching movies and spending time with his wife and baby.

New Wellness Platform-Virgin Pulse

The county recently introduced a new wellness platform - Virgin Pulse. The platform includes an app designed to help you track your wellness activities to earn points toward your insurance incentive. When you reach 20,000 points you earn a discounted rate on your insurance. Employees who register for online accounts with Virgin Pulse on or after March 1, 2023 will earn 10,000 bonus points toward the first points earning year with another 2,500 bonus points awarded to employees who download the Virgin Pulse mobile app.



The app helps you track your healthy daily habits and earn points- show appreciation to someone? Get a good night's sleep? Get a workout in? Earn 10 points. Want to get strong at home? Find a 10-day challenge to join. Challenge a co-worker to a step contest or give them a shout out to earn points while connecting to friends. You can also track your physical exams, dental visits, eye exams, etc. like you did with Vitality. The goal of this platform is to create a more rounded wellness program that you utilize regularly rather than attempting to earn all your points in one month. You can also register to get a free fitness tracker, a Max Buzz, that you can easily connect to the app to track steps. Find more information on the county wellness home page: <https://horizons.co.washington.or.us/HR-Corner/Virgin-Pulse.cfm>

Harkins House Basketball Team

Recently, Harkins House youth formed a basketball team. Abino Vazquez and Brandon Haughton have been scheduling the games and coaching the youth as they play against other schools. So far, the youths competed against Cascade Academy in February and St Mary's Academy in March.

As youths move out of Harkins House, new youth join the team. The kids have great sportsmanship, play hard and make some amazing shots.



Personal Emergency Preparedness

Recently, county offices were closed and people were stuck on the roads when a snow storm came. In the past few years, we have experienced severe heat, wildfire smoke and the COVID pandemic. Here are some easy steps you can take to prepare for emergencies.

- Keep canned or shelf stable food for storage
- Don't let favorite foods run out and keep some in the freezer for times you can't leave for a few days due to illness or poor weather.
- When doing your weekly shopping, buy a few gallons of bottled water or cans of your favorite foods for storage.
- Keep some cash in case the power is out.
- When bad weather is expected, make sure you have enough gas in case traffic is stopped.
- Keep a few blankets, water and snacks in your car.
- Consider having your children help you prepare. Perhaps, they can make a list of contacts or supplies in your pantry.
- Keep a stocked first aid kit at home and in the car.
- For more tips, check out www.take5tosurvive.com (This website has several 5 minute projects you can do to prepare. It is maintained by Washington County Emergency Management.)



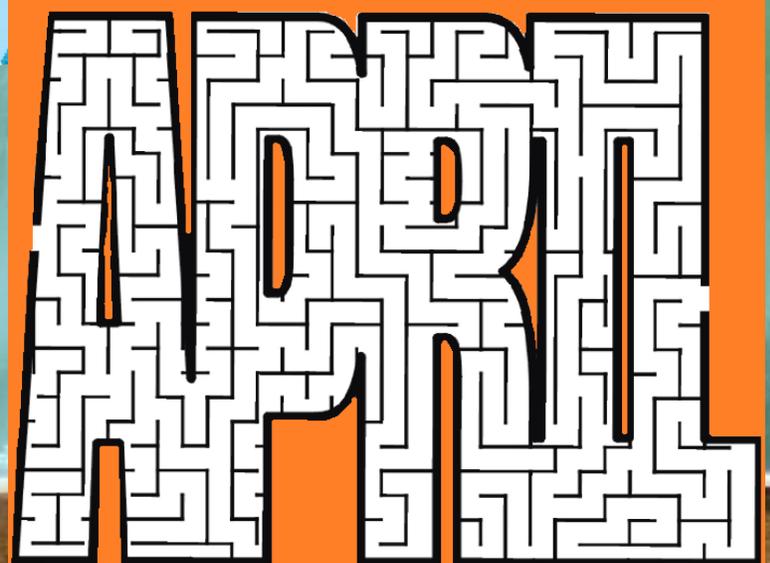
Most of this newsletter was written by people like you. People with a story to tell. We are curious about what other stories there are in the Juvenile department. Please write yours! [Click Here](#) to send your submission today!

Fun to be had!

When do monkeys fall from the Sky?
During Ape-ri! Showers!

Is it the Easter Bunny?

No it's our new therapy pup Honey!



Volunteer Appreciation Event, April 13, 2023



Ray's First Month!