



# Oregon

Governor Kate Brown

## Department of Corrections Douglas County Community Corrections

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I became a certified parole and probation officer (PO) in 2001. During the following 12 years, I earned my Intermediate, Advanced and Supervisory Certifications. I also facilitated multiple DPSST Basic Parole and Probation Academy classes between 2010 and 2013, as a PO. In July 2013, I was hired by the Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision as the executive director. During that time, I was the Community Corrections liaison to the Board and continued to facilitate classes at DPSST, including new material specific to the Board and the role out of the Sex Offender Notification Level system. I was also part of a workgroup that began updating the Basic Parole and Probation curriculum.

In June 2017, I left the Board and returned to community corrections as a supervisor for Douglas County Community Corrections. In May 2018, my director was contacted by DPSST, advising him that my certification had lapsed because I had not been in a certified position for more than 90 days. This was a surprise to us both, as we had the understanding it was a five-year absence – not 90 days. I had been at the Board for four (4) years. I was told that, after 17 years of working with community corrections, my only option was to go through the basic academy classes again, as DPSST did not offer the Career Officer Development (COD) courses that were afforded to police and corrections.

After more than two and a half years of my director and executive management of the Department of Corrections working with DPSST, I am now the sole participant of a newly created COD course pilot for parole and probation officers, and I must prove – after 20 years of continued service – that I should qualify for my certification to be returned to active status.

The Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision works closely with Community Corrections and is, in my opinion, not only a partner but an extension of the branch. We all base our work on making victims whole, as well as reducing recidivism and promoting public safety. When certified officers leave their parole and probation positions to work for the Board, they continue to work with the same clientele – albeit, in different circumstances.

Board membership has consistently relied on qualified and certified officers as part of the team. The last four incumbents of the executive director position have all come from community corrections as certified POs, and several hearings officers have also come from community corrections. The experience and knowledge that certified officers bring to the Board – in any position – is valued and, to some degree, expected.

It is long overdue to move this change forward.

Thank you.

*“The mission of the Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.”*