

# METROPOLITAN

## Carroll prepares for jail move

by Larry Baker

Rocky Butte Jail is not in Cook County, Illinois. Multnomah County Correctional Facility is not the Tucker Farm in Alabama and Claire Argow Women's Center is not near Sylana Brand in Los Angeles. But all have something very much in common. They hold federal, state and county pre-sentence prisoners who have been accused of committing crimes. All are bulging at the seams with human beings, and operating on budgets too small to function properly.

The treatment behind any set of bars is only as humane as the "keeper of the keys" or superintendent wants it to be.

A year ago, Multnomah County went in search of its new "keeper of the keys" and found a black man named Joe Carroll, Jr., age 50.

Today Carroll is in the process of upgrading and modernizing the training of his 133 correctional officers who will operate the new Multnomah County Justice Center.

"Being a professional correctional officer is my number one priority in training my staff," said Carroll, "because that's what the taxpayers expect us to be in our treatment of prisoners."

Carroll has a long history in upgrading the management of jails in Arizona and Ohio. After retiring with 21 years in the Armed Forces, Carroll obtained a graduate degree in Sociology specializing in criminology, ethnic and minority groups and criminal justice.

"At the present time the classification system in our Multnomah County Jails is inadequate to separate the dangerous offender from the non-violent," said Carroll. "I have just returned from Contra Costa and San Diego, California, after which we will be modeling our new justice center."

Carroll continued, "I am a strong believer in the counseling concept and this will be utilized with full strength in the new Justice Center Housing Facility. There will be one officer placed in each unit with 32 inmates. Their main job will be observing the prisoners' activities."

"If inmates do not adopt to the unit, they will be reclassified and reassigned to a living unit which is more compatible with their behavior," said Carroll. "Also I will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse between inmate and staff and I believe this type of setting will eliminate those acts."

Carroll would like to see the inmates and staff become more familiar with the newly adopted grievance procedures, because these rules are established to eliminate problems.

"My first duty is to maintain strict security, but in doing so I believe in fair treatment all the way around," said Carroll.

Carroll, married 31 years with two grown children, wants family counseling to become an intimate part of treatment in the center.

"More than anything, we need jail space in Multnomah County, but I am not just for locking up people and throwing away the key. I



JOE CARROLL

want to see vocational training and education go to helping a person not to commit any more crimes. I am proud of our county correctional people; they have come a long way from the image of the guards that we have seen on television."

It is a practice of Carroll to go to the homes of his correctional officers when they have a problem or stress.

Robert Skipper, chief of Multnomah County Corrections, and Sheriff Fred Pearce are relying heavily on Carroll to guide the new concept that will be implemented in the new justice center.

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## Community workshop aids legislative action

More than 25 area organizations are co-sponsoring a North-Northeast Portland workshop on citizen advocacy at the state legislature. The one-day workshop is set for Saturday, April 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Portland Community College, Cascade Campus, 705 N. Killingsworth.

Workshop leaders will include private and public interest lobbyists, legislative administrators, and legislative aides. The one-day program will conclude with a forum by North-Northeast Portland legislators who are invited to describe their legislative assignments and one issue of special interest to them.

The featured morning speaker is Kathleen Beaufait, Chief Counsel for the State of Oregon Legislative Council, the office which guides the drafting of most state legislation. The principal afternoon speaker is Merris Summerall.

Ms. Beaufait will present an overview of the state legislature and how a bill becomes law. Ms. Summerall will describe the organization and planning of a public interest legislative agenda, including letter writing, testimony at legislative hearings, and mobilization of constituents.

Merris Summerall is a program manager for Portland Action Committees Together in the areas of food, health care, housing and legislative advocacy. She is also a lobbyist for the Oregon Human Rights Coalition and has lobbied for the Women's Rights Coalition. She has worked on the development of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and is a board member of the NARAL.

At the workshop Ms. Summerall will describe how a public interest group plans and organizes its legis-



MERRIS SUMMERALL

lative agenda. Her presentation will explain how to write letters, give testimony and mobilize constituents to support or oppose legislation.

A unique opportunity to learn from key people in the legislative process will be provided by morning and afternoon workshops that will be led by professional lobbyists and legislative aides. The morning small groups will discuss the roles of lobbyists and aides and how citizens can use them; the theme of afternoon workshops will be "How can my concerns become legislative issues?"

Admission is free to the community. Lunch may be separately purchased. For childcare or information, call 284-1816.

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