



Carole Smith

# Portland School Superintendent Hired; Introduced

## District insider ran community alternative school

The Portland School Board introduced Carole Smith Monday as its next superintendent replacing Vicki Phillips, who quit the top post to take a job with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Board members praised Smith for her passion and commitment to public education.

"Carole is the right leader at the right time. She's a decisive leader and this is a natural next step for her," said board co-chair Dan Ryan. Board co-chair Dilafruz Williams added, "I attended almost every community meeting and nearly all stakeholders said they want a superintendent who values community process, understands Portland, and can move student achievement forward." The announcement marks the end of a four-month search for a

new superintendent that included more than two months of community meetings to gather input to design the hiring criteria. Smith brings 30 years of experience in education. From 1982-2005, she worked as executive director of Open Meadow Schools in Portland, an accredited, nonprofit education program for middle and high-school students. Under her leadership, the organization grew to become a national model for alternative edu-

cation serving both struggling and gifted students who haven't thrived in traditional settings. Smith was recruited to work for Portland Public Schools in 2005, initially heading the Office of Educational Options then assuming interim leadership of the Office of Student, Family and School Support. She was promoted as Phillips' chief of staff last year. A northeast Portland resident, Smith moved to Portland with her family when she was six and graduated from Sunset High

School in Beaverton. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in urban studies from Oberlin College in Ohio and completed her graduate work in education at Harvard University, working in teaching and administrative programs serving Boston area schools. In her first 100 days as superintendent, Smith said she will reach out to district employees, the schools and the community so that people have an opportunity to share their ideas about what's important at this time.

# Health Coalition Funds Dry Up

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community norm," according to Corliss McKeever, the coalition's president and chief executive officer, who said that they "really engaged people who would not have been engaged."

Now the coalition is scrambling to find other sources of revenue to build on its success in getting thousands of people to participate in its programs.

One great hope for alternate grants lies in the Meyer Memorial Trust funding to help hire a development director, according to John Barnett, coalition operations manager.

Although exercise-class funding has disappeared, other offerings will remain. They include a diabetes-support class, "Lookin' Tight, Livin' Right," in which beauticians and barbers train to pass on health information to their clients,

and the "Spice It Up" classes, where African Americans learn to cook healthful foods on a budget.

Such programs have helped more than halve the disparity between whites' and blacks' death rate from heart disease between 1990-94 and 2000-04, according to Lillian Shirley, director of the Multnomah County Health Department.

The coalition also hopes to restore funding for its exercise programs by adding to the financial success of this summer's Wellness Within Reach walk with a Health Disparities Conference on Friday, Oct. 19.

The following day, some of the same experts gathered in the conference will offer their services to the community during the AAHC Wellness Village, a free event with more than 40 health screeners and exhibitors at the Blazers Boys & Girls Club.



Corliss McKeever

# Free Health Care at Wellness Village

The 12th-annual Wellness Village will take place Saturday, Oct. 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Blazers Boys & Girls Club, 5250 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

More than 40 health screeners and exhibitors will provide services to the community, free of charge. The event is sponsored by the lo-

cal African American Health Coalition.

Services and activities will include cooking demonstrations and tastings, massage therapy, children's activities, flu shots, dental, vision, hearing, and diabetes screenings; and much more.

For more information, visit [aahe-portland.org](http://aahe-portland.org).

# Taser Guns Going to Oregon Prisons

## Critics call them torture devices

(AP) - High-tech Tasers equipped with digital cameras are being distributed to Oregon prison guards to help control an inmate population that has reached about 13,500.

But inmates and civil-rights activists say they are concerned the Tasers could be used to punish inmates, including those prisoners that are mentally ill.

Nearly 100 corrections officers across the state are being trained on how and when to use the shock-inducing weapons, intended to help prevent injuries to both guards and inmates.

"The officers are able to quickly subdue the (inmate) versus wrestling with him for some time," said Paula Allen, Department of Corrections chief of security.

Under proposed department rules, approval for Taser use would

have to come from a supervising officer in charge, along with the prison superintendent. Trained officers and commanders will make judgment calls on when to employ the weapons, Allen said.

"I can't give you a number for how often were going to use it," she said. "In our world, there are a lot of different variables. There are probably 1,000 different scenarios you could run through."

But more than 70 people, including inmates, civil-rights activists and other concerned citizens, recently filed written objections in response to the proposed rule changes that govern prison use of Tasers and other shock devices.

"Prisons already have plenty of means to control inmates, and this is an unnecessary, deadly and expensive weapon," wrote Lauren Regan, executive director of the Civil Liberties Defense Center in Eugene.

Taser shocks, if administered to mentally ill convicts, would amount

to cruel and unusual punishment, Regan added.

"There are greater percentages of mentally ill people in Oregon prisons than ever before," she wrote. "The use of the Taser will not only be ineffective, but clearly results in cruel and unusual punishment for those with diminished capacities to respond appropriately."

The Rev. Sarah-Andrea Morrihan of the Church of Divine Heart in Portland said Tasers are considered torture devices by some countries, which have banned them.

"In spite of Taser being billed in this proposed rule change as a security or control device, it is clear to anyone that it is used as a means of corporal punishment, in a manner similar to how the Republic of Singapore makes use of rattan canes as a way of judicial punishment for crimes," she wrote.

Corrections Director Max Williams, however, defended the new Tasers in a recent letter responding to a critic.

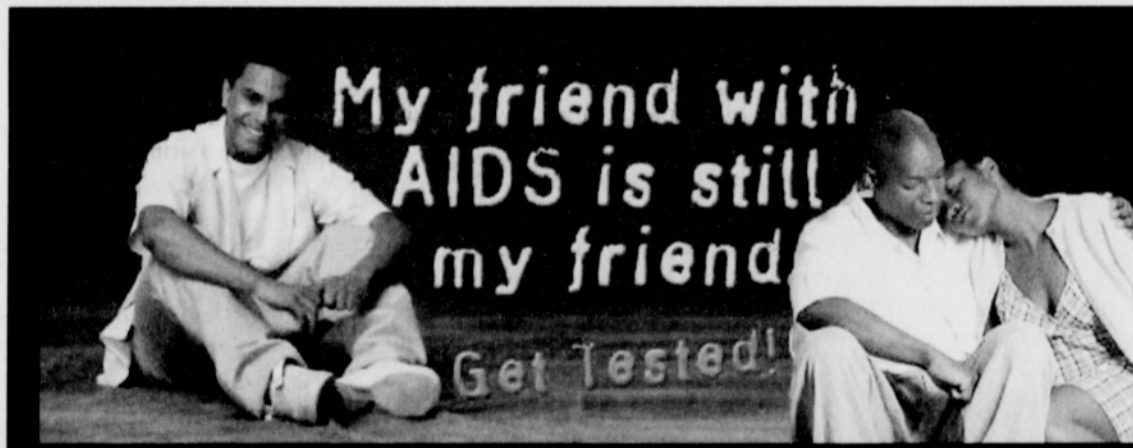
"When used properly, medical experts have concluded that Taser technology is among the most effective and safest use-of-force interventions available to law enforcement and corrections officers to halt violent situations that pose a safety risk to an inmate and the officer," the prison chief wrote.

The new Taser replaces an obsolete model that collected dust in recent years. In all, the prison system will purchase 20 to 30 Tasers at a cost of \$814.95 each, plus \$399.95 for the camera system, for a total price tag of \$1,214.90.

Tasers won't be carried by corrections officers who work with the general prison population, where inmates vastly outnumber officers, officials said.

"It's not something that will be deployed on a correctional officer at work in a housing unit or a recreation yard," Allen said. "It's going to be locked and secured in an arsenal until the need arises for one."

# Alliance Sponsors AIDS Awareness Message



Sponsored by: African American Alliance, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Brother To Brother, Cascade AIDS Project, Coalition of Black Men, Lamar Advertising, Maranatha Church, Multnomah County Health Department, Portland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., The Portland Chapter of The Links, Inc., Tri-Met and The Urban League of Portland, Inc.

A marketing campaign about HIV/AIDS was plastered on five bus stop benches last week, sponsored by a local coalition of African-American groups with the help of TriMet and Lamar Bench advertising. The goals of the campaign are to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS, reduce the stigma surrounding the disease and encourage testing so people know their HIV status.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

# Creative Job Search

Longtime community volunteer and Radio Cab driver David Yendell (right) gets some help in an unusual job search by launching helium balloons Saturday from the Jefferson High School annex field. The balloons were attached with Yendell's resume that said, "Frustrated PSU Graduate Needs Job; has three degrees, is talented, creative, innovative and passionate." For information, call Yendell at 503-380-8027.

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