

**SUBJECT: JULY 1, 2009 ELIMINATION OF JUVENILE
REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION
ENHANCED PAROLE**

During the 2009 Legislative Session, lawmakers were faced with an unprecedented \$9.3 billion revenue shortfall. Balancing the 2009-2011 budget required severe reductions in state services.

The most immediate service reduction challenge for the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) is elimination of Enhanced Parole, effective July 1, 2009. JRA will, however, continue to provide Intensive Parole, Sex Offender Parole, and Auto Theft Parole services.

With the elimination of Enhanced Parole, approximately 500 JRA youth will be directly discharged to the community annually from JRA institutions and group homes.

These youth have immediate and ongoing service and support needs in the areas of mental health, chemical dependency/abuse, education, and employment. Their discharge without parole means they will not receive transitional supervision and ongoing linkages to services.

All of these youth are convicted of felonies and at high risk for re-offending. Statewide, offenses committed by youth who will be discharged from JRA residential facilities without parole supervision or services include Manslaughter, Robbery, Assault, Weapons Offenses, Child

Youth currently on Enhanced Parole were discharged from parole supervision by June 30, 2009.

I am available at any time to discuss public safety and other implications of discharging youth committed to JRA from residential facilities directly to your community and also future efforts to ensure JRA youth receive the post release supervision and services they need.

I can be reached at (425) 783-3453 or by e-mail at omdalpa@dshs.wa.gov

Sincerely,
Patti Omdal, Regional Administrator Region 3
Department of Social and Health Services
Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration