



## **Marion County**

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### OREGON

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**Contact:** Nelsa Brodie, Marion County Board of Commissioners Office, (503) 566-3916

Sheila Lorange, Marion County Sheriff's Office, (503) 588-7935

*Editors note: Following the presentation, the speakers, along with Marion County Sheriff Jason Myers, will be available to the media.*

### **Community Event To Focus on Success after Incarceration**

The public is invited to "People Can Change," a community event that will focus on helping people make successful transitions from prison or jail back into the community. It will take place on Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 a.m. at the Red Lion Inn Jefferson Room, 3301 Market Street NE, Salem. There is no cost to attend. Doors open at 7:00 a.m. and the program will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 8:30 a.m.

Speakers include District Attorney Walt Beglau, SEDCOR President Ray Burstedt, State Representative Kevin Cameron, Marion County Commissioner Janet Carlson, Chemeketa Community College President Cheryl Roberts, and businessman Dick Withnell.

At the event, members of the business, faith, and general community will be asked to consider supporting the Marion County Reentry Initiative by agreeing to mentor, hire or give time to support a person leaving prison and entering society.

"We know that this issue impacts families, public safety, social services, and the community at large. This event will begin a broader community conversation with business and faith leaders about working together to find solutions," Marion County Commissioner Janet Carlson said.

"One of the Sheriff's Office's core values is, 'We will promote positive behavior in the belief that people have the ability to change.' Our communities can help offenders successfully reenter society by connecting opportunities with those who are ready to change. It takes an investment of hard work from the offender and an element of trust from the community, but the payoff is a positive effect on generations," said Marion County Sheriff Jason Myers.

The Marion County Reentry Initiative helps those "reentering" society by giving them access to opportunities--a job, housing, and education--to help them with a successful transition. But more help is needed to prevent people from returning to the criminal justice system.

Marion County hosts more state prisoners and local inmates than most other Oregon counties. While Marion County is Oregon's fifth largest county, four of Oregon's fourteen state correctional institutions are located here. More than 600 prisoners are released to Marion County each year, and the county's Community Corrections Division provides supervision for roughly 4,200 people reentering the community.

For more information about the event, call Sara McDonald at (503) 584-4740.

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