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Mary Ellen Glynn to lead new Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

Oregon Department of Human Services Director Dr. Bruce Goldberg, M.D., has selected Mary Ellen Glynn as the executive director of Oregon's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission.

Glynn brings nearly 20 years of government relations experience to DHS. Most recently, she served as a senior project manager for a public relations firm dedicated to socially responsible causes, including public health. She also worked as Governor Ted Kulongoski's communications director and higher education advisor. Before moving to Oregon, Glynn worked for the United Nations and the U.S. State Department as a spokesperson, strategist and policy advisor. Upon earning a masters degree, Glynn worked as the Deputy Press Secretary at the White House.

"Mary Ellen has the experience and talent to lead this team and produce a plan that will ultimately create a blueprint for a more effective and efficient alcohol and drug treatment system in Oregon," said Goldberg.

House Bill 3353 created the commission that is charged with the unprecedented effort of reducing crime through the development of a statewide plan to improve and deliver substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

“Reforming the delivery of alcohol and drug treatment is crucial for both public health and public safety,” said Oregon Attorney General John Kroger, chairman of the commission. “If we do this correctly, it will reduce crime and save taxpayer dollars. Mary Ellen is a fantastic addition to our team.”

The commission is made up of 22 members and includes representatives from the drug and alcohol recovery community, business, law enforcement, health care and education.

“Every day, drug and alcohol abuse rob thousands of Oregon children of their most valuable educational resource: an engaged parent or family member,” said Commission Board member and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo. “By elevating our work to provide effective treatment options, we are not only giving thousands the opportunity to make a better life for themselves but also providing a better foundation for the support and education of future generations of Oregonians.”

The commission’s next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on November 2, 2009 at the Red Lion Hotel at 3301 Market St. NE in Salem. The meeting will be held in the Mt. Hood and Washington rooms.

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