



# Oregon CURE

Fall 2010  
Volume 36

*Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants*  
A Newsletter for Families and Friends of Incarcerated Individuals

1631 NE Broadway, #460 Portland, OR 97232  
(503) 977-9979 (Portland Area) 1-877-357-CURE (Outside Portland)

## Oregon CURE Mission and Goals

Our mission statement:

To reduce crime by advocating for effective criminal justice policies and practices.

Our goals are:

Provide information and education to the public

Continue to develop a positive working relationship with the Oregon Department of Corrections and other related agency partners.

Increase membership, funding base and support to incarcerated citizens, their families and friends.

Develop and maintain the administrative infrastructure necessary to achieve the above goals.

## 2010 Legislative News

This year finds us with another Mandatory Minimum Ballot Measure 73 before us on the November 2010 ballot. According to an article written by Susan Nielsen in the Oregonian, a Citizens' Initiative Review panel was created to study politically charged ballot measures and gives them thumbs up or down.

Measure 73 was one of the first measures studied and it received a resounding thumbs down. Opponents of Mannix's measure articulated their concerns to the panel and other witnesses explained the budget consequences of a new mandate. Proponents relied on emotion rather than facts. Ms Nielsen wrote that panelists were in no mood to be patronized. Their final vote reflects their irritation as much as their informed opinion.

Look for The Citizen Initiative Review recommendations and findings in this fall's Voters' Pamphlet under "Citizens' Statements". As with all ballot measures – please read them carefully, and although we agree wholeheartedly with the Citizen's Initiative Review findings on Measure 73 – you must make up your own mind on all issues!

A word of advice to people who have completed their prison sentence and have been released; you ARE eligible to vote in the state of Oregon, however, you must fill out a voter's registration form if you've changed addresses or have not voted previously.

## Oregon CURE Updates

To those of you who have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of this newsletter – we apologize for the delay! As with all small volunteer based non-profit organizations, we've been challenged with a lack of resources. We will do everything we can to put out a newsletter every 4 months! If you've donated this year, THANK YOU for your generosity! We know times are hard. If you've not yet had an opportunity to donate, we welcome any amount you can send! Our entire income is generated from your donations. All of our expenses go towards fulfilling our mission and goals:

We have twelve dedicated and fabulous volunteers who donate their time and energies to respond to people inside and outside of prison with information; by phone, letters and through our intake orientations, support groups and release orientations.

Oregon CURE  
1631 N.E. Broadway, #460  
Portland, OR 97232



*To ensure you receive your copy of the Oregon CURE Newsletter, please remember to send us your change of address so we can update our database.*

***Please Note: Effective Immediately***

Due to the high cost of printing materials Oregon CURE will now begin charging \$2 each for booklets requested. **We will continue to provide all items free of charge to incarcerated individuals.** Those booklets currently include: "Sometimes You're the Hammer, Sometimes You're the Nail," "Free-er – but Not Free," and "Keeping Love Alive." When making your request, please include a check made out to Oregon CURE. Thank you.

### **Personal Experience with HB3508: Increase in Earned Time DENIED**

Submitted by CWR, in custody at SRCI

Out of 156 months, 90 months of my sentence must be done without good time. Measure 11 affects my workout partner as much as people I refuse to sit with in the dining hall. On the last 66 months of my sentence, the judge hooked me up with credit for time served, earned time and AIP. Imagine how happy I was when HB3508 passed and proposed an increase in my earned time by 10%.

First I heard the buzz; people started to receive letters saying they were eligible. One guy was told that his additional 10% had already been applied. Months down the road, I get my notice on a piece of paper stamped "copy". The original notified the court that DOC had recognized that I was eligible for an increase in earned time from 20 to 30%.

I didn't care that the notice was dated 2 weeks prior. I didn't care that it was all done by a third party. The process was under way and all I had to do was wait for confirmation. My trial court judge had been so lenient with programs on the latter of my sentence that I could taste the 30%. The clock kept ticking.

The next notice I received was an objection to the additional earned time. Apparently, it takes 2 weeks to do anything because this notice was as late getting to me as the last. I was told that a hearing would be scheduled and something about 35 days....Notice in hand, looking beyond the cell door, anger pulsed through my heart pushing rage through my veins. Confusion fogged my brain like the smog resting over Beijing and L.A. combined. None of this stopped the wings of butterflies that flapped mightily in a stomach that suddenly felt so empty. I was lost and hadn't moved an inch.

I was served the news on Friday afternoon, and by Saturday morning the shock wore off. I got into "fight or flight" mode and started writing people. I was determined to be prepared when the 35 days were up. I wanted to prove that I'd "bettered" myself during incarceration so I wrote to obtain copies of the certificates of the programs I'd completed. I wrote to my counselor hoping for a good character reference. I wrote to my trial court attorney and asked questions that ended in "ASAP Please!!!" I wrote until I saw a noticeable decline in the ink in my pen. Monday morning I dropped the fistful of letters and kytes in the mailbox.

Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m., I attended my hearing via teleconference. Tuesday morning at 9:10 am I walked back to my cell having been refused the additional time cut. My increase in earned time was denied by a judge who was unfamiliar with my case. The judge was persuaded by the DA that prosecuted my case and knew every aspect of the crime. It felt like being at my sentencing hearing all over again. The DA relayed a few facts, stretched the truth and outright lied. The 20 year old he described on that drunk, summer day in '03 had almost nothing in common with the inmate pushing 30 on the other end of the line. The public defender assigned to represent me had a cookie-cutter spiel. He stated on record that it would be the same defense as for the other 12 defendants scheduled to appear that day. The DA, the judge, my attorney and myself all knew that he had never glanced at my case before today. No other unspoken agreement in my life has been so chilling.

A few things I wish I had known beforehand are:

- o The cards are stacked against you because you CAN NOT use your good behavior or completed programs as positive reasons why you should receive additional earned time. This is what the judge told me during my hearing.
- o Hearings are only given to offenders who received an objection (to the increase in earned time) by 1 of 3 people: 1) the trial court judge that sentenced you, 2) the DA that prosecuted you, 3) the victim(s) of your crime.
- o The 35 days allotted for your hearing on the "notice of objection" begin tolling as soon as DOC petitions the court on your behalf. If I would have known this I could have started counting from the first date on the first paper I received (which was still given to me 2 weeks late).

I have 3 years of clear conduct that doesn't matter, and about 7 years left on my sentence that does. When it comes to the time cut, some of us will prevail and others will fail. Our paths will probably differ upon release, but if you're like me, the goal is to get there sooner rather than later. Hopefully my story helps someone, even if we'd never sit in the dining hall or work out together.

### **New Background Checks Hurt Experienced Recovery Workers**

For a year now, Oregon's law for background checks on people who provide residential care treatment to vulnerable populations has included prohibitions to employing people who have had drug-related convictions within the past 10 years prior to their employment. This law, House Bill 2442 sponsored by Rep. Sara Gelsler (D-Corvallis) has swept up people hired on or after July 28, 2009, with drug and alcohol addictions who are in recovery and now work in facilities to help others recover as well. The law requires stronger background checks to be given to people applying for jobs at residential treatment centers.

Background checks for the vast majority of crimes listed under the bill make sense, but this extension does not. The other violations that disqualify a candidate include violent activity, harm toward children and similar abuses toward society. But the inclusion added last summer now equates crimes committed as a result of an addiction to those committed with intentional menace to the rest of society.

As a result, some of the people uniquely qualified to help those in the same situation are barred from their effort and good work to help others. In the larger context, the notion of excluding people for how they acted 10 years ago while in addiction, throws the whole idea of recovery on its ear. Addiction is a health crisis. Recovery is the process of getting well, physically and mentally, but this law dictates that isn't good enough.

It's on good faith that the drug and alcohol treatment component will be exempted from the law when the Legislature resumes early next year. And a temporary waiver on enforcement is in effect for now. But no deal is ever certain in Oregon's legislative process. So we urge people to lend their support to correct this legal mess.

But the larger message is equally important. People with felonies on their records, regardless of circumstances or distance in time, are routinely, by law, denied employment, housing and opportunity, yet the message of being tough on crime always overshadows the message of recovery. We have to work toward a future where recovery retains the larger promise that people can, and do, radically improve their lives. And that includes having a place where recovery can take hold.

Street Roots, August 6, 2010

## Oregon DOC Updates

### Phone Services

The following information was provided by Garry Russell from Oregon DOC. Qwest sold their payphone division to FSH Telecommunications several years ago. Last year VAC bought FSH. Throughout the whole process Qwest provided the telephone lines (the actual copper line leaving the building and going to Qwest's switching equipment).

Originally Qwest owned the lines AND provided the "front-end" services, which includes servicing the phones and doing all the billing etc. The front-end part was what was sold to FSH then VAC. Qwest continued to be the "Carrier" or line provider and if you were a Qwest customer there were consequentially fewer problems getting collect calls on Qwest lines.

This year VAC was informed that starting July 1, 2010 Qwest would no longer provide lines for them. VAC has contracted with Verizon to be the new line provider (Carrier). This means that inmate phones are no longer under Qwest's billing rules. Qwest customers don't have the same "association" that they had when Qwest was the line provider. In addition Verizon's debt limit is lower than Qwest's. Verizon will only carry \$35 worth of collect calls at any time before payment is required. This is not a VAC requirement nor is it a DOC requirement.

VAC's V-Connect program is available to allow "Prepaid" collect calls. In addition the Oregon Debit program also avoids the collect call limitations and offers a discount on the rates.

### Educational Opportunities

Earlier this year, Oregon CURE met with the DOC and presented information on an Off-Line Use of an On-Line Education System researched and compiled by Betty and Rudy Cypser of New York CURE. College level courses would be available through MIT, University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, and Duke University. Several levels of classes are offered from High School to college. If you have access to a computer, visit [www.bestweb.net/~cureny/courses.PDF](http://www.bestweb.net/~cureny/courses.PDF) for a sampling of courses in Math, English, Social Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Information Technology, Political Science, History, Technology / Engineering and Finance / Business. Betty Cypser states that effective education requires active participation and free exchange of dialog. Some of the courses may be as short as 4 sessions; others as long as 30. Taking the course would not ensure college credit; this would have to be confirmed by either the College Level Education Program or the American Council on Education.

### All Day Visiting Sessions

At this time, the all day visiting sessions are limited to SRCI. Although we understand that Superintendent Mark Nooth did present information at one of the Superintendent's meetings, minimum facilities would be challenged to offer all day visiting as the visiting room doubles as the dining area. We are hopeful that DRCI, WCCF, EOCI and TRCI will be able to offer all day visiting sessions in the near future.

### Mail Processing

Oregon CURE requested that no changes be made to the current mail rules. Earlier this year, the Oregon Sheriff's Association made the decision to allow postcards only for inbound and outbound mail for people in custody at the county level. This decision was based on the fact that an average length of stay in a county facility is 18 days. (Oregon CURE is aware that people have been in custody for 12-24 months while awaiting trial.) The DOC is cognizant of the fact that letters are incredibly valuable to people inside and their families outside to maintain contact and to rebuild relationships.

### Food Services

The DOC has recently analyzed their menus and determined that foods provided were high in fat, sodium and calories. In recent years, there was an over-reliance on packaged foods with minimal nutritional value. With the assistance of nutritional software, they have made concerted efforts to provide healthier meals with lower sodium, calories and fat content. They are emulating a military menu that should offer minimum daily nutritional requirements for people in Oregon's prisons. There are facilities that do not have full kitchens available: South Fork is one where preparing certain foods on site is challenging due to the logistics and constraints imposed due to not having a traditional kitchen.

Most prisons have gardens, or will start gardens within the next year. A few prisons will not be able to maintain a garden because of location; TRCI being one, however, EOCI was able to start a small garden. It is estimated that thousands of pounds of vegetables are grown on site at the prisons with gardens and the fresh produce is included in meals. Unfortunately, removing sodium, calories and fat content can sometimes make nutritional foods tasteless. There are options for those of you who have funds to purchase items from the canteen.

## Department of Parole and Post Prison Supervision

Jeremiah Stromberg, the recently appointed Executive Director of Oregon's Department of Parole and Post Prison Supervision attended the February Oregon CURE support group in Salem. Currently the Board is composed of 15 full time employees, 3 board members, the executive director and 11 support staff. The boards' priorities include:

- Making release decisions for specified offenders
- Improving the success and safety of incarceration to community transition
- Setting conditions of community supervision
- Issuing orders related to an offender's transition to – and supervision in – the community
- Providing leadership and training in the public safety sector
- Planning and policy development

The Board has statutory responsibilities for all people released from prison, regardless of whether the Board exercised its release authority. For all offenders, the Board is legally required to:

- Impose conditions of parole or post-prison supervision
- Issue arrest warrants when offenders abscond supervision
- Review and impose sanctions – including revocation – for violations
- Determine whether discharge from parole supervision is compatible with public safety or required by law

The Board issues orders related to an offender's transition to and supervision in the community including notifications to registered victims, district attorneys and other criminal justice partners. The board sets conditions of supervision for all inmates released from prison, regardless of crime date; and also designates offenders who meet the legal requirements as "predatory sex offenders"

The board works with DOC release counselors and local community corrections agencies to set appropriate conditions of supervision. Release plans take into account individual factors including: Necessary prohibited behaviors and actions; treatment and programs available in the community, appropriate housing and family relationships.

The Board's release authority under ORS 144 and OAR 255 includes imposing prison terms and making parole decisions for specified offenders:

Matrix offenders (crime committed prior to November 1, 1989 (currently 1200 people in Oregon's prisons)

Those sentenced by trial courts as "dangerous offenders" regardless of when the crime occurred

Those convicted of murder and aggravated murder that are eligible to be considered for release

For these three categories of offenders, the Board has the legal responsibility and authority to determine when the inmate is to be released from prison.

Due to sentencing policy changes, the Board's focus has shifted from release hearings, due to the declining number of inmates under the Board's release authority to a growing workload in other areas – to include (numbers of people per month)

450+ orders of supervision

400+ warrants issued

700+ sanctions / revocations reviewed and imposed

8,394 Sanctions / Revocations in 2009

300+ discharge orders

14+ Board Hearings

60+ Morrissey Hearings

382 Pending Administrative Reviews (25+ rec'd each

month)

### By Kris Vala, Oregon CURE

Mr. Stromberg encouraged and accepted questions throughout his presentation. He continued to stress that the most important factor for a person on parole to have success was to have a support network. This network could include family, housing and employment. He stated that the parole board was not there to retry the case, but to look at how the person in prison served their time. For example, what were their expenses on their spending account? Did the prisoner take classes; complete schooling/ or take part in work programs? The board would also look at disciplinary reports; however for people who have been in the system for over 20 years, the prior 3-5 years would have the greatest value in determining behavior. This behavior is examined as an indication of how post prison supervision would be effected, so that not only the crime of conviction is considered, but also all offenses in order to determine the community's best interests and the parolee's success.

Concerned family members in the audience asked Mr. Stromberg how their incarcerated loved ones could better prepare for the Parole Board review. They brought up the point that the longer someone is in prison, the more institutionalized they become, so how can they acquire the social skills necessary to pass the review!

Mr. Stromberg also mentioned that everyone comes under investigation at some point and the board would be looking at the social life style of the prisoner. This is where the family support system comes in, if you've maintained regular visits, phone calls and letters with your loved one in prison – then that will certainly be a benefit to them when appearing before the Board of Parole.

*Would you like to contribute to Oregon CURE?* Please write to the address below and sent the amount for the contribution type: Inmate (\$3), Individual (\$15), Family (\$25), Organization (\$50), Other (\$\$\$).

Oregon CURE, 1631 NE Broadway, #460, Portland, OR 97232  
Telephone: (503) 977-9979 (Portland area), 1-877-357-CURE (2873) (Outside Portland)

# Maintaining Good Nutrition In Prison, Part I by Judy Farrell, Oregon CURE

Many men and women entering prison in Oregon are not in good health for a number of obvious reasons: smoking, drugs, alcohol, high fat, high sugar fast food consumption, and lack of exercise. Well, the good news is that cigarettes, drugs and alcohol are no longer options, but what about food during the period of incarceration? There are very few choices at meals, and many unhealthy choices in the commissary. However, with intent and motivation, it is possible to walk out that gate a much healthier person than when you arrived. Intent and motivation are not always easy to come by because changing one's eating habits in prison means making a major lifestyle shift; it is difficult enough to accomplish this outside. However, think about this: your sentence is what it is, why not make the best of it, come out with a healthier body and clearer mind which will enable you to better make it in this world. Think about giving it a try.

There are basically two important things you need to know about the relationship between diet and health, two facts that are not in dispute:

1. Populations that eat so-called Western diet--lots of processed foods and meat, lots of added fat and sugar, lots of refined grains, lots of everything except vegetables, fruits and whole grains--suffer from obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer.
2. Populations eating a wide range of traditional diets generally don't suffer from the above chronic diseases. What this suggests is that there is no single ideal human diet, some healthy, and some, like the Western diet, very unhealthy. Michael Pollan, contemporary author of some very thoughtful and interesting books about how to eat and be healthy, boils it down to seven words: "Eat food. Not too much. Mostly plants."

The specific foods to select at meals and in the commissary will be discussed in a future article. We're going to start slowly with some of Michael Pollan's general rules to help you make the shift from Top Ramen and candy bars to oatmeal and nuts.

1. Eat food. Much of the challenge of eating well comes down to choosing real food and avoiding industrial novelties which are highly processed concoctions designed by food scientists.
2. Don't eat anything your great-grandmother wouldn't recognize as food. There are now thousands of mock food products in the supermarkets that are packaged in toxic plastic and contain chemical additives.
3. Avoid food products containing ingredients that no ordinary human would keep in the pantry, such as ethoxylated diglycerides, cellulose, xanthan gum.
4. Avoid food products that contain high-fructose corn syrup--always check out the ingredients label. This is a concentrated form of sugar, which not only is contained in sweets, but in many other foods including most snack foods.
5. Avoid foods that have some form of sugar (or sweetener) listed among the top three ingredients. Labels list ingredients by weight. There are now some 40 forms of sweetener additives, such as barley malt, beet sugar, brown rice syrup, and dextrin just to name a few.
6. Avoid food products containing ingredients that a third-grader cannot pronounce--keep it simple.
7. Avoid food products that make a health claim. For a product to carry a health claim on its package, it must first have a package, so right off the bat it's more likely to be a processed rather than a whole food. Don't take the silence of the yams as a sign they have nothing valuable to say about your health.
8. Avoid food products with the word "lite" or the terms "low-fat" or "nonfat" in their names. We can become just as chubby on low fat foods as any other food.
9. Avoid foods that are pretending to be something they are not. Imitation butter--aka margarine--is the classic example. To make something like nonfat cream cheese that contains neither cream nor cheese requires an extreme degree of processing: such products should be labeled as imitations and avoided.
10. Eat only foods that will eventually rot. The more processed a food is, the longer the shelf life. Real food is alive, and therefore, it should eventually die (rot).

Stay tuned. More Food Rules and specific food selections in prison to follow in next newsletter.

Resources: Following books by Michael Pollan:  
Food Rules: An Eaters Manual  
The Omnivores Dilemma  
In Defense of Food  
Bring It to the Table, On Farming and Food

## Oregon DOC on Social Media

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is now on Facebook and Twitter. DOC will be using the two social media tools to specifically target inmate families and friends.

The Facebook page will primarily showcase successes that inmates are having while in prison, along with events and activities that are taking place at institutions. We will also provide some general information that is of interest to the public.

The Twitter account is intended to target families who travel to visit their incarcerated loved-ones. We will "tweet" information about visiting closures only. We believe this will be a service to families who are traveling across the state, giving them valued information sooner, so they can make a decision to continue traveling or return home.

### Instructions on how to sign-up for Facebook

1. Start at the homepage. When you go to [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com), you see a screen that asks you to login or sign up for a free account. Click on "Sign Up," which takes you to a Web form.

2. Fill out the form that asks for your full name, your current status, email address, a password and your birthday. You'll also have to type in a series of letters and numbers for a

security check as well as check a box saying that you understand and agree to the terms of use and privacy policy. Click the "Sign up now!" button when you have completed the form.

3. Wait for your confirmation email. Facebook sends this email to confirm your registration. When you get the email, click on the link to confirm that you did in fact register for a Facebook account. You will then be logged into Facebook.

4. Search for the Oregon Department of Corrections and click on the button "Like" to follow DOC on Facebook. *Please note, there will be two options that appear when you search for Oregon DOC. Make sure that you have the correct page by looking for a box under the DOC seal that says "We appreciate your comments and ask that you keep them clean, civil, truthful and on topic. We reserve the right to delete comments that contain violent, obscene, profane, threatening or hateful language. Specific questions? Please call us."*

### Instructions on how to sign-up for Twitter

1. Go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) Open up a Twitter account by registering. Click the button that reads "Sign Up."

2. On the registration screen, fill out the information and click the button labeled "Create my account." You'll

also have to type in a series of letters and numbers for a security check as well as check a box saying that you understand and agree to the terms of use and privacy policy. You are now a twitter member.

3. Twitter will then send you a confirmation email. Click on the link within the email.

4. To follow DOC, click on search and type in OR Corrections. Then click on the follow button.

5. To receive Twitter updates on your cell phone click on Settings button and then the Mobile button.

6. Type in your cell phone number and preference options. Twitter will then email you a number and message to text back. This confirms your phone updates from Twitter and DOC.

7. If you ever want to discontinue the use of Twitter, follow the steps below.

1. **Log in** to Twitter
2. Click **Settings**
3. Click **'deactivate my account'** at the bottom of the page
4. Enter your **password** when prompted. (Without the correct account password, you will not be able to deactivate an account.)
5. Verify that you really want to do it and it's done.

## OSCI Transition Fair

Oregon CURE was invited to attend the Spring Transition Fair held at OSCI in April. We met with several people releasing to one of the counties we have partnered with to provide release orientations for family members so that they can better understand the terms and conditions of post prison supervision. Although we will not be present at all of the transition fairs, we have asked Community Corrections to provide information to people getting out and hope that our work and volunteer schedules will allow us to attend again.

**Support Group Meeting Information** Please visit our website [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org) for additional information!

*The Beaverton Support Group meeting sites have been changed for September through December of 2010. We will continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month at either the Beaverton Public Library (12375 SW 5th Street) or the Beaverton Resource Center (located at 12500 SW Allen Blvd.) in Beaverton at the corner of Hall and Allen. Continue to check our website for 2011 locations.*

**Our Support Groups and Facilitators are:** Call for Times and Locations. **Additional information is available on our website!!!!**  
[www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org)

**Beaverton:** Gretchen (503) 350-0236

**Eugene:** Ken (541) 935-1183

Dave (541) 344-7612

**North Portland:** Wanda Boehm (503) 289-8120

**John Day:** Julie (541) 932-4446

**Salem:** Alicia (503) 930-0330

**Medford:** Sam (541) 944-3304

Adelia (541) 772-9680

**Publication Notice**

This newsletter is a publication of Oregon CURE. Oregon CURE is a 501 (c) (3) organization whose goal is to reduce crime through criminal justice reform.

The opinions and statements contained in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Oregon CURE.

Contributions of articles, letters to the editor, notices, etc., are welcome, but may be edited or rejected for space considerations.

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Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Nusser  
Contributions and Inquiries can be directed to:

Oregon CURE  
1631 NE Broadway, #460  
Portland, OR 97232  
Telephone: (503) 977-9979 (Portland area)  
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Website: [www.oregoncure.org](http://www.oregoncure.org)

Oregon CURE is an all-volunteer organization. Oregon CURE volunteers typically work at other jobs. Volunteers answer letters.

We appreciate the letters you send and do read them. We try, but are not always able to answer every letter individually.

Oregon CURE is not a service organization. Do not send us any legal documents. We do not offer legal services or provide legal advice.

**Reentry Transition Center**

Oregon CURE recently visited the new offices of the Reentry Transition Center (RTC) in Northeast Portland. The RTC is a pilot project of a consortium of seven organizations led by Mercy Corps Northwest that provides support services to those returning to Multnomah County from Oregon prisons. A number of services and referrals are provided to meet returnees' immediate and long-term needs. There is a welcoming lobby where coffee is available, comfortable chairs and information pamphlets describing services of collaborating agencies. Once an applicant's needs are expressed along with a firm intention to strive for successful reentry into the community, the following services and referrals are provided:

**Immediate survival care:**

Obtaining copies of a birth certificate, Social Security card, Oregon ID card and Oregon driver's license, Trimet passes, Food Stamps, Clothing, Housing, Medical and Dental Care. Advocacy with Parole Officers, Computer Skills, Mentors, and Mailboxes. Assistance with Work Search, Employment Skills Training, Education, Parenting, Family Reconciliation, Disability System Navigation, Alcohol and Drug Treatment, and a variety of workshops and classes open to the public. Both of RTC's full-time staff members have formerly been incarcerated, so they totally understand the difficulties and pitfalls of reentry. Since assistance and support during reentry have clearly demonstrated a decrease in the recidivism rate and an increase in public safety, Alverda and Felton and their collaborators are committed to providing a positive reentry experience for those who are ready to give it their best effort.

**CONTACTS:**

Alverda McCoy [amccoy@mercycorpsnw.org](mailto:amccoy@mercycorpsnw.org)  
Felton Howard [fhoward@mercycorpsnw.org](mailto:fhoward@mercycorpsnw.org)  
Reentry Transition Center  
1818 NE Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97212  
Phone: 971-255-0547  
Fax: 971-255-0569

Please note, if you are returning to Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas or Marion Counties; inform your family members that they can attend a release orientation. For specific dates and locations; your family can phone:

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Washington County:       | Marion County:                 |
| Eli Lopez (503) 846-3739 | Lacey Carter (503) 540-8029    |
| Multnomah County:        | Clackamas County:              |
| TSU Unit (503) 988-3081  | Jennifer Welton (503) 655-8743 |

Oregon CURE was invited to speak at the May Washington County Re-entry Council Meeting to talk about our partnership with Washington County Community Corrections in reaching out to family members to explain the terms and conditions of post prison supervision. We came to the conclusion that the anguish, concern and grief that is present when our loved ones are first sentenced, is duplicated and sometimes increased when the sentence is finally over and we prepare for the return to our homes and communities of the person who has been in prison. Particularly in light of the economic struggles we all find ourselves in, it can be difficult to look into the future and see employment – but there are jobs available

The other guest speakers at the May Washington County Re-entry Council were the owner of Beaverton Bakery, Carrie Ann Schubert and Jeri Pate, the General Manager of Beaverton Bakery. They discussed their Second Chance employment program for reentry people in recovery and their plans to share their success with other small business owners.

There are resources for people leaving prison to assist in finding employment and housing. Better People, located in NE Portland charges a nominal fee for their services and can be an excellent option for people interested in working. Community Corrections in Marion, Washington and Clackamas Counties all report successful job searches for people recently released. The job may not be where you'd like to be; but it's all about getting your foot in the door and building the job history that can lead to other opportunities.