

OREGON CURE

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

Winter 2017

Volume 51

Written by Trevor Walraven

For the first time, on October 5th I had the privilege of speaking at a monthly CURE meeting. Having been incarcerated at the age of 14 and serving 17-1/2 years with release coming just last year on February 3rd, 2016, organizations like CURE are near and dear to my heart.

When I stepped out of prison at 31 years old, transition was on the forefront of my mind! Having spent my time in nine different facilities across Oregon (though mostly in MacLaren for three years and OSP for 12) I was certainly familiar with getting used to new environments.

I've long counted myself fortunate to have supportive family and friends, that makes all of the difference in the world. Generally I viewed my incarceration as a time and place to work on myself, figure out why I made the choices that I did growing up, and make amends whenever possible, even if it is just living life as I know it is right to do.

I found that taking on responsibility would teach me to grow rather than stagnate at the age of incarceration. I took a job working for Oregon Corrections Enterprises (OCE) which allowed me to learn new skills, save, pay off my restitution, and ultimately created a career that has served me well upon release!

I also educated myself by taking Inside-Out classes through the University of Oregon, Oregon State University and Chemeketa Community College. These experiences humanized me, and really humanized the college students and professors that came in each week of class.

I became involved in my community with varying activities, clubs and events. I came to understand early on that for each person it takes a different set of circumstances, different amount of time, and that whether serving five years or a life sentence, for each person doing *their* time, it was as real for *them* as mine was for me.

I found a three-step process to help me navigate my time in the system and it has proven to be of value every day. One: Deal with whatever has occurred. That could be incarceration, transfer, loss of a loved one, etc. Two: Set your short and long term goals so that the move forward is as smart and reasonable as possible. Three: Find the ways that allow you to contribute and to give back. These are each of great value and require the right amount of time for each step...and those steps can most certainly run concurrent.

Thank you for the time, for reading, and I hope you each make the most of every day, no matter where you're at!

Regards, TW.

Please find update on next page

Update: Trevor wrote this on January 2 and on January 19th he was taken back into custody at the request of Josephine County DA, Ryan Mulkins. DA Mulkins had moved to have the judge who had granted Trevor his release at the "Second Look Hearing" disqualified from the case. Mulkins stated that the judge could not be impartial because he had expressed in an email to Trevor's attorney that, "The periodic reports (that the judge was receiving on Trevor's progress) regarding your client have been impressive". The judge stated, "I vehemently dispute the State's viewpoint that I can no longer be impartial in this case".

Once the judge who had found Trevor to be remarkably rehabilitated was removed from the case, DA Mulkins filed a motion for a warrant for Trevor's arrest. The DA has taken a very retaliatory step in having Trevor incarcerated again as Trevor is currently being unlawfully held in the county jail on no bail. Trevor's attorneys are working diligently for his release having filed a Petition For Writ of Habeas Corpus to the Supreme Court of Oregon, asking them to remove Trevor from the jail.

It is hard to understand why vengeful action would be taken against Trevor when he has met every eligibility requirement for a second look hearing, proved by clear and convincing evidence that he is rehabilitated and then since release he has had his performance characterized as "Impressive" by the supervising judge. As the Habeas Corpus Memo states: This "should shock the moral sense of all reasonable people, including the members of this court".

Editor's message

It has come to my attention that Josephine County Jail has not allowed people living in their jail, visiting privileges.

Who knows of another county in Oregon that does NOT allow visits?

If you have stories about not being able to have visits or not being able to visit, please send your stories to Oregon CURE and we will forward them to folks who might be able to make a difference.

"Just a single visit from a family member or a friend can make a big difference in whether or not a prisoner ends up back behind bars after their release, a new study finds.

The study, by researchers with the [Minnesota Department of Corrections](#), determined that prisoners who received at least one personal visit at any time during their incarceration were 13 percent less likely to commit another felony and 25 percent less likely to end up back in prison on a technical parole violation. Data showed that the more visits prisoners received, the lower their chance of re-offending after release."

Quarterly

Release Orientations

Release Orientations are co-facilitated by Community Corrections and Oregon CURE. Find out how you can help your recently or soon to be released loved one successfully re-enter our communities. Before attending, please phone one of the numbers below to the county coordinators / department listed below to confirm the date, time and location.

Washington County

Contact: Marcus Ford (503) 846-3494

Held Quarterly: 1st Thursday of February, May, August, November

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Varies, please call to confirm

Multnomah County

Contact: (503) 988-3081 press "0" for TSU

Held Monthly: 3rd Thursday

Time: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: Mead Building
421 S.W. 5th Avenue, Portland

Clackamas County

Contact: Gayle Terjeson (503) 655-8790

Not being held at this time

Marion County

Contact: Kayla Thompson (503) 540-8017

Call to confirm date and time

Intake Orientations

Intake Orientations are co-facilitated by Oregon Department of Corrections and Oregon CURE. Find out about Oregon's prison system, the intake process, phones, mail and visiting requirements. You will receive a packet of informational brochures. There will be opportunities for you to ask questions. Our goal is to help you learn how you can get through your loved one's incarceration. Maintaining family contact is vital to your loved one's time in prison and upon release.

Portland Metro Area

Held Quarterly: 1st Thursday of April, June, September and December

Time: 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Varies, please call Oregon CURE to confirm: (503) 977-9979

Salem Metro Area

Held Quarterly: 3rd Thursdays of February, May, August and November

Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: First Christian Church / Parlor Room
685 Marion Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Corner of Marion and Church streets on the north side of downtown. There is parking on the street or in the Department of Energy parking lot next door. The entrance is on the west side of the building in the parking lot.

Support Groups

Oregon CURE support groups are intended for adult family members and friends only. Some topics of discussion may not be suitable for small children or pre-teens. Attend a support group and network with family members who have "been there" and who can help you gain perspective.

Beaverton Support Group

1st Thursday: 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Please call to confirm the location.

(541) 301-2205 Sharon

Salem Support Group

1st Saturday, 10:00 - 11:30am

The Keizer Senior Center

930 Plymouth Dr NE

Keizer, OR 97303

(503) 269-7141 Vickie -(503) 409-3329 Wayne

Portland East Side Support Group

Abundant Life Church

17241 S.E. Hemrich Rd.

Damascus, OR 97089

(503) 757-7762 Will and Corinne

Eugene Support Groups

1st Thursday: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

3rd Tuesday: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Please call to confirm the location.

(541) 344-7612 Dave-(541) 342-6817 Don



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections
Office of the Director
2575 Center Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-4667



Date: December 15, 2016
To: All DOC Adults in Custody
From: Colette S. Peters, Director
Subject: Inmate Financial Accountability Workgroup

As you may know, I am a firm believer in accountability, opportunities for positive change, and efforts to improve transition and re-entry. This comes in many forms. One part is financial accountability. For example, satisfying your victim restitution and other financial obligations (like child support and civil judgments) is part of accountability. It provides a sense of accomplishment. It will also help you when you return home because it will be one less thing to worry about.

I also know that satisfying debt while incarcerated can be difficult. Keeping this in mind, I want to let you know of a proposed solution that will help you pay off your debt and not break the bank.

You may recall that legislation was introduced in 2015 that would have resulted in DOC collecting funds from inmate trust accounts for certain restitution (HB 2761 and HB 2322A). While both bills did not pass, DOC committed to discussing the issue with stakeholders.

So, we established the Inmate Financial Accountability Workgroup. The group included representatives from DOC, labor organizations, crime victims groups, community corrections, the Oregon District Attorneys Association, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, Oregon Judicial Department, and the Oregon Department of Justice. The group also included representatives from Oregon CURE, who presented a voice for you and your families.

The workgroup met several times to discuss issues related to the collection of inmate funds. The workgroup developed recommendations for how DOC could collect from inmate funds to help you pay off your debt.

The workgroup's recommendation is for DOC to collect the following from each deposit into your trust accounts:

- * 10 percent for court-ordered obligations or financial obligations imposed in a criminal action that are collected by the court (such as restitution, criminal fines and fees, and civil judgments). If you don't owe any of these, DOC would not collect 10 percent.
- * 5 percent for re-entry savings (up to \$500). Once re-entry savings reaches \$500, DOC would collect:
 - 15 percent for court-ordered obligations (if you still owe).
- * If no other debt is owed, you could choose to continue making 5 percent deposits into your re-entry savings account.

This concept would:

Apply to all adults in DOC custody;

Include discretionary monetary awards made by DOC to inmates under the Performance Recognition and Awards System (PRAS) and funds sent in from individuals or entities; and

Exclude Tribal funds, veteran disability funds, Prison Industries Enhancement Certification Program funds, funds dedicated for medical, dental, and optical expenses, and funds dedicated for emergency trips.

The workgroup's recommendations will require legislative action in 2017 in order to take effect. Even with legislation, DOC will need some time to put systems in place to support the collection of funds. So, any changes would not take place for more than a year. Again, this will require legislative approval.

I encourage you to talk with your families about these proposed changes. We will keep you updated as the workgroup's recommendations move forward.

Oregon CURE Annual Meeting with Department of Corrections

Oregon CURE board members met with Colette Peters, the Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections in November of 2016. For all of the issues that we face, having a loved one in the prison system, we are fortunate to have an opportunity to meet with the director and have an open conversation about our concerns and the challenges our loved ones experience while incarcerated.

Director Peters opened the meeting by advising that she would like to establish a culture between corrections officers and the people in prison that would bring humanization systemically to the entire organization. The department is currently looking at wellness programs and training opportunities for staff and adults in custody. Several state corrections departments visited Norway to evaluate their prison system and although Director Peters was unable to make that trip, she is fully cognizant of the fact that American prisons CAN change their culture.

We discussed the aging population of adults in custody which includes the demographics of people convicted at an older age but is largely made up of people who age while in prison which is directly related to the long sentences determined by Measure 11 mandatory minimum sentencing and the fact that people convicted under this ballot measure are not able to earn time off of their sentence. It may be difficult to comprehend, but we have been assured that the medical coverage that adults in custody receive is actually greater than those on the outside who have insurance through the Oregon Health Plan.

There has been quite a bit of media coverage over the number of prisoner deaths in Oregon DOC. All suspicious deaths are investigated by the Oregon State Police. Oregon CURE has requested that DOC evaluate carefully the findings of each investigation. Craig Prins, the current Inspector General for DOC, will review all cases where foul play is suspected and if needed will initiate an administrative investigation. DOC will look at policies, practices and procedures to ensure the safety and health of our incarcerated loved ones.

Limiting the use of segregation has been a consistent topic of conversation. DOC is looking at a breakthrough initiative that will limit the use of segregation and is in the process of reviewing the most progressive systems to avoid long term use of segregation. Vera Institute is recommending no more than 30 days in seg and at this time Oregon DOC is up to 180 days. The 30 days would include additional programming and time out of cell. This will not happen overnight - but it is encouraging that the department is reviewing alternatives. Along with this review will be a consideration to shut down death row and move people to general population.

Updates:

Changes have been made in the behavioral health unit with recommendations from Disability Rights Oregon.

Adults in custody appearing before the board of parole are required to have a release plan; however, no one can see a release counselor until they have a release date - which is one of the reasons why people appear before the board..... WE are hopeful that Director Peters will have an opportunity to discuss this requirement with the Parole Board and also the DOC counseling staff to coordinate this process. We also pointed out that the parole board may look for domestic violence and sex offender treatment program completion for "lifers" or those people appearing before the board, however, these programs are not available at all facilities and funding for this type of programming is not readily available.

In 1988, Michael Francke was the director of Oregon's Department of Corrections, at that time, intake averaged about 350 adults per month and the total prison population was about 4000 people. At this time, intake averages about 400 adults per month and the total prison population is about 14,500. The difference? Measure 11, mandatory minimums and longer sentences have caused our prison population to explode.

One important thing we all need to remember is that DOC did not make the laws that have incarcerated our loved ones. WE DID - with the passage of ballot measure 11 in 1994. WE know that change takes time, but, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to bring our concerns to the table and know that there will be further discussions within the department.

Stories

Some years ago the Oregon CURE Board members had the idea to publish a collection of individual stories by people who have successfully made the transition from prison into the community. We were limited (or prevented) by not having contacts with enough people able and willing to contribute. The purpose was—and is—to provide inspiration, hope and (somewhat incidentally) advice to people who are incarcerated and to their families. One of the most powerful ways of doing that is through people's true stories of their experiences.

What seems most relevant is what people did while in prison that they felt helped them once they were out, what obstacles they faced upon release, and specifically what kinds of things helped them overcome the obstacles and 'make it'. If they had 'relapses', but overcame those too, that would also be good information. Contributors will have the option of having their name or initials published or not. They also have the option of including or not including information about their crimes. That doesn't seem as important as how long the person was incarcerated. It will be helpful to have input from people who were in for a long time and from people who were in for shorter terms. It's important to have stories of people from Oregon— it may make them more personal or impactful if they're from 'home'. One caveat: although spiritual or religious faith is important to many, this is not going to be a series of stories to promote any particular religion or spiritual beliefs: we are looking for stories from people who have found many different ways to make it through this process.

Several years before this idea surfaced, at the first round of testimony in favor of keeping prison programs, a number of formerly incarcerated testified to the importance to them of such groups as the High Wallers. Many who testified had been out of prison for years, and were living normal lives as responsible citizens. The father of a young man who had been recently convicted and sentenced to 12 years stood up and thanked those men for speaking, saying, with tears in his eyes, that they had given him hope that one day his son would be able to have a life: something he had given up on ever happening.

This project is for prisoners and their loved ones, and we hope also an educational tool for the public. If you choose to contribute, please send your story to Oregon CURE- P.O. Box #460 - 1631 NE Broadway Portland, OR 97232.

Support Group Updates:

Salem

Just a reminder that we will have a scheduled speaker, Jeremiah Stromberg at one of our upcoming meetings; Jeremiah is the Assistant Director of the Community Corrections Division for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), and supported HB 3503. **HB 3503** directs DOC to establish a Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program in partnership with counties the Department of Human Services. The pilot would have two separate components: one would be a diversion program whereby eligible primary parents would be diverted from prison and serve a term of probation in order to continue their primary parenting role. The second component is an expansion of transitional leave, whereby eligible primary parents who serve their sentences in prison would receive up to six months of a transitional leave period prior to their projected release date from prison.

Eugene

Due to our inclement weather, the January 2017 meeting was not held. The Eugene group is vibrant and active. Two meetings a month - with one serving tasty food—include meaningful sharing and discussions. We try to have guest speakers from time to time.

If you are inside and your family and friends live near or in Lane County, encourage them to attend. The new networking opportunities are vast and the people who they will meet are welcoming and compassionate. We love Newcomers!

East Portland

We are pleased to announce that the first meeting of the East Portland Support Group was held in early January. We had eleven people in attendance and that number included a staff pastor from Abundant Life Church who is the group's host. It actually helped the conversation to have a smaller group although I anticipate some growth at our next meeting. A brief reminder to check with the facilities before making long trips to visit your loved ones and to make sure that visiting times have not been altered. I just looked on the DOC website and see no changes right now but it can change.

I DO WANT TO HELP OREGON CURE CONTINUE ITS WORK IN 2017

Suggested tax-deductible Contributions:

\$3 / Prisoner \$15/yr Individual \$25/yr Family \$50/yr Organizations \$ / Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

(Optional)

Name of Incarcerated Loved One: _____

SID # and Facility: _____

I would like to volunteer my services!!! My skills are: _____

If you or your family member would be willing to keep our literature racks updated in the prison they visit- please contact us at
1631 NE Broadway, #460- Portland, OR 97232 (503) 977-9979

The board of directors of Oregon CURE understands that financially contributing to our cause is not always an easy thing and that most members would like to give more than their budgets allow. It is with this thought in mind that we have enrolled in:

Fred Meyer's Community Rewards program:

This way, you can give to Oregon CURE while you are doing what you have to do - buying your everyday items like Milk, Bread, Socks etc.

To become a contributor, simply link your Fred Meyer rewards card to Oregon CURE and quarterly, Fred Meyer makes a donation to CURE based upon our enrolled members' spending. You will still accumulate your own Fred Meyer rewards and benefits already afforded to you by Fred Meyer as an individual. This simply expands your rewards to help us out too! And what could be better than that?

To enroll, go to the Fred Meyer Community Rewards website: www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards Under "Are you a Fred Meyer Customer?" click the big purple button to **Link Your Rewards Card Now. Login** to your Account. (If you haven't registered your account, you will need **Sign Up** to do this step). Search for Oregon CURE or enter our non-profit number **91917**. (or number **93-1085488**)

Thanks in advance! Funds are used to print handouts, print and mail newsletters, maintain a phone line and web site. We are an all volunteer organization with no member receiving financial compensation.

Beaverton (support groups update continued)

Larry Bennett, DOC Administrator in Community Corrections and Tracy Coffman, Transition Coordinator spoke to the Beaverton group in early January. Larry Bennett has been with the department for over a decade and served as the Intake Administrator at Coffee Creek for several years. One of the volunteer roles he took on was to come in to a CURE meeting once a quarter and explain the intake process to family members and friends of the newly incarcerated. Having a loved one in the system is a life changer and is traumatic for those on the outside who have no knowledge of how the Oregon prison system works. We know this is true for us, but it is also an important time for our loved ones as the intake process will determine placement within DOC and what programs the newly incarcerated adult will be eligible for.

Larry has a firm belief that everyone can change and he finds it rewarding to work with family members. As Larry informed us, he was fully aware of the front door to corrections for our loved ones and when it came time for a change, he joined Jeremiah Stromberg in the DOC's Community Corrections department to find out how the exit door worked for adults in custody. They discussed Short Term Transitional Leave and there is legislation that will be introduced this session to increase STTL from 90 days to 180 days. Statistics show that 25% of people in Oregon's prisons are eligible for STTL, however, only 50% of those people fall within the guidelines for early release. We are all fully aware that anyone convicted of a M11 crime is not eligible, but, early release must be allowed on the final judgment.

Oregon CURE
1631 N.E. Broadway #460
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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. Articles may be copied in its entirety with credit going to the author or to the publication.

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Send your Member donation to: ***Oregon CURE 1631 NE Broadway #460, Portland, OR 97232***

Website: www.oregoncure.org / Email: oregoncure@gmail.com

Be sure to include: Your Name, Address, City, State and Zip, Phone/Email, Name of Adult in Custody with SID# and Facility

Type of Donation: Adult in Custody: \$3 Individual: \$15 Family: \$25 Sustaining: \$50 - \$100
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