



OREGON CURE

Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants

The mission of Oregon CURE is to support the incarcerated and their families and friends by advocating for effective criminal justice policies and procedures.

Fall 2023, Volume 74

A Newsletter for Incarcerated People and their Families and Friends
P.O. Box 80193, Portland, OR 97280 | (503) 844-9145

OREGON CURE HAS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in being on our board of directors? If so, please let us know. Your attendance at our monthly board meeting in Beaverton Oregon on the first Saturday of each month from 1PM-4PM would be required for MOST meetings. The following is a list of the things needing done by board member volunteers:

- Recap monthly board meetings (Meeting Minutes)
- Respond/forward email and respond/forward snail mail, answering requests for information through email and snail mail which often this requires investigation of some sort
- Track and report on Oregon Legislative Sessions (Bills)
- Keep website updated by posting prison newsletters and monitoring site comments/requests
- Report to Board of support group activities and needs
- Update brochures, design and maintain new board member packets with USA CURE chapter guidelines and volunteer contract, design posters for jails and defense attorneys, design signage for Release Orientations
- Work on a video, or find someone who can, for Coffee Creek newly incarcerated re: Oregon CURE work
- OARS: Evaluate and comment on changes to OARS as needed to ensure the health and safety of our loved ones. (Divided up among Board Members as we receive them. Most have been responded to. Volunteer AIC has now taken on the research of these items for us.)
- Newsletter - find or assign articles to be written; prep and recheck mailing database; contact and work with printer.
- Participate in DOC workgroups as requested
- Groups to work on: PRAS, AIC access to healthcare, segregation, aging in prison, violence against AICS- both other AICS and staff, gangs in prisons, communications with doc facilities, improve visiting, communications for families, get Oregon CURE info out to people, increase education inside, bring technology into AICS, improve access for all AIC to all programs, maybe work with Pathfinders

Our current board members do the following and some of those opportunities could be open as well:

- Treasurer banking and renews our yearly licenses
- Assistant Treasurer cosigns checks
- Postmaster picks up our mail once per month
- Secretary takes the meeting minutes down each month and answers letters received from AIC
- Newsletter Editor proofs the newsletter and formats it to look nice
- WebMaster keeps our website up to date
- Social Network Specialist keeps our Facebook page up to date and takes all of our phone calls and emails out our newsletters once the president finalizes them
- Vice President assists the President as needed and would take over in the absence of the President
- President-represents Oregon CURE in all interactions with ODOC and others, puts together what goes in the newsletter each printing, and delegates duties to others that are willing to do them.

RESOURCE PROVIDERS NEEDED! REQUESTED BY THE INSIDE OUT NETWORK

You may have read an article about the Inside Out Network (ION) in this newsletter in the Spring. We introduced ourselves and our mission as we began our work in Oregon in partnership with the Oregon DOC. This is an update on that work and a second request to any of you reading this who provide support services or know of anyone who provides support services to people leaving incarceration. ION is a non-profit focused on connecting people leaving incarceration with resource providers and ministries seeking to support and assist them. We're already active in Arizona and Illinois, and now, in partnership with ODOC, ION is bringing its unique approach to reentry to Oregon. We will go live once enough resource providers sign up for the network to go live.

As this is being written, we have 36 resource providers and ministries enrolled, representing 52 locations across the state. ODOC has agreed to roll out the ION platform for adults in custody (AICs) to begin enrolling once we reach 70 provider listings. This will afford returning citizens a good experience when they log on to search for the help they need in the area to which they're returning. If your organization or ministry (of whatever size) provides assistance to people leaving incarceration in any of the following areas, please seriously consider registering: Housing, Support Groups, Multiservice Agencies, Churches; Ministries, Substance Abuse Treatment; Recovery, Health Care (including mental health), Legal Matters, Employment; Job Training, and/or Education.

When you enroll, your organization or ministry will benefit from more and easier connections with returning citizens. You'll also help us reach our resource provider enrollment goal so that we can begin to make this resource available as soon as possible. Registration for resource providers is free for the first year (beginning when we begin enrolling AICs) and only \$100 per year per organization in subsequent years. Multisite organizations pay only the \$100 fee. ION is always free to returning citizens.

You can register your organization on the ION platform here: www.insideoutnetwork.net/sp-register. For assistance with the process, you can watch our "how to register" video here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GKQeN0JaLYs or simply contact us. To learn more about ION and how your organization can benefit from participating, please visit www.insideoutnetwork.net/overview or we would be more than happy to do a personalized demo of the ION platform for you via Zoom. Simply click on this link to schedule a Zoom demonstration. Any questions? Please call, text, or email Maddi Briguglio, ION program manager, at maddi@insideoutnetwork.net or 480-580-6081. We hope to hear from you soon!

We often get asked how ION differs from Unite Us. Unite Us is a valuable tool for providers (non-profits, government agencies, health care organizations, etc.) to coordinate assistance for an individual. The hands-on users are the people working in those non-profits, agencies, etc. ION's hands-on users are returning citizens themselves and the family and friends who are working on their behalf while they're in custody. ION allows returning citizens direct agency in their own reentry planning. The other hands-on users are resource providers and ministries who can see and communicate directly with people returning to their service area. The central focus of the work of the Inside Out Network is a revolutionary online platform, InsideOutNetwork.net, that makes it easy for returning citizens and resource providers to search for, be matched with, connect with, and even reach out proactively and message each other—even starting pre-release. Enrollment in ION allows adults in custody to work on their own reentry, searching for assistance in any or all of the above listed categories. Search results are filtered according to the zip code to which an individual will be returning. On the other side of the process, resource providers and ministries enrolled in ION receive notification when someone is going to be returning to their service area so that they can reach out with a word of welcome and make a preliminary connection. Larger and smaller resource providers show up in searches on an equal footing, all based on geography. ION is always free-of-charge for AICs and returning citizens and available for as long as someone wants to make use of it. Resource providers will pay only \$100 per year, and the first year is free. There is no fee for resource providers to sign up and no fee until after the platform has been live for one full year. We're aiming to go live toward the end of this year, but the sooner providers sign up, the sooner that will happen. A key goal of the Inside Out Network is that no returning citizen goes without the help they need, and also that no shelter, treatment center, or other resource provider has empty beds, underutilized capacity or untapped resources that could be helping those in need of them.

NEWSLETTER REQUEST & ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the increasing cost of printing and mailing our newsletters we have the following request and information to share with you.

THE REQUEST

If you are able to receive our newsletter via email please let us know. By accepting our newsletter via email vs print:

- You will save us money on printing and mailing
- You will help us become more environmentally friendly
- You will receive our newsletter approximately 2 weeks sooner than the printed version

THE ANNOUNCEMENT

We have been mailing out 8-page newsletters every 3 month, and we will be transitioning to 12 page newsletters every 4 months. By making this change:

- We will spend per year closer to what we spent 3 years ago per year
- You will find more information packed into each newsletter
- We will be able to print full submissions instead of edited submissions
- We will be able to print complete submissions instead of parts of submissions broken up between newsletters

We will have our first 12-page newsletter completed in January, and subsequent newsletters will be completed in May and September. Please help us by letting us know before the end of this year, if you can receive our newsletter via email by [contacting us at oregoncure@gmail.com](mailto:oregoncure@gmail.com).

FAST FOOD JUSTICE - The following submission is from DS who is an AIC housed at OSP

These are truly problematic times for our nation, our state and our communities. The Covid 19 pandemic, natural disasters and the changing of laws and rights as in Roe vs Wade are hurdles we must accept or overcome. We can overcome these issues by using our intellect, integrity and force of will. Our society has become addicted to speed and convenience. Unfortunately, our Justice system has jumped on this iconic fast food philosophical train. Every year Oregon Revised Statutes are added to or changed by the Oregon Legislative Assembly. Do you know what statutes or laws were changed last year or the year before that? Do you know how these laws can affect you as a taxpayer? I have been a Vanguard for the last x amount of years in researching some of these changed and added statutes. This is my plea to you, a tax paying citizen of the State of Oregon to take a stand against Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) that are unjust, unconstitutional, wanton and a violation of your God-given rights. Please take a moment to read one of the examples of one ORS and how it could have tremendous legal power over you, your loved ones and every taxpayer in the near future. Know that each of you can make sure that this power is not manipulated or abusive in Oregon against her citizens. Oregon's record retention statute: ORS 8.125, a law in Oregon that currently allows its court to destroy records after a prescribed time without notification or the process to the vested parties. This destruction includes registers, dockets, indexes, files, citations, notes, audio and video records, stenographs records, exhibits, jury records and fiscal administrative documents. Any and all evidence that could possibly prove your innocence. This for a lack of a better term is a travesty of Justice. I have seen and you have probably watched many movies or documentaries, where an incarcerated person was allowed to reappear in court because new evidence was found. Well in the case of ORS 8.125 and the destruction of all the court's evidence; how can Justice be served if said defendants 4th and 14th amendment constitutional rights of due process are violated?

How can Article 1, Section 20 of the Oregon Constitution - "Equality of privileges and immunities of citizens. No law shall be passed granting any citizen or class of citizens privileges and immunities which upon the same term, shall not equally belong to all citizens." be served if this article is violated and it clearly is. By placing a time limitation on my case, I am no longer privileged to the same equality as other Oregon citizens.

As you can see this one ORS has clearly violated our federal and state constitutional rights, and this is only one statute. I greatly appreciate you connecting with my story of how easily we can allow ourselves to be unaware of what those in power are truly doing. I hope this gives you a wake up call and you share what you have read. Knowledge truly is power. Thank you.

PRISON TRANSPARENCY, THE OMBUDSMAN & EQUAL FOOTING

by Scott Spencer-Wolff, Ph.D.

PART II, "Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely" (First coined by Lord Acton, in 1857)

In addition to the stigma attached to the inmate's status, the staff challenge of having what is often perceived as absolute power over the inmates creates psychological and emotional problems for the staff resulting in statistically increased levels of divorce, substance abuse, and burnout. Recent research confirms the emotional challenges of being a corrections person. Serious problems working so closely together with those perceived as one's mirror opposites are inevitable.

Another challenge to the effectiveness and clarity of the system is the political importance of fear. While professionals and academics discuss the relative merits of competing treatment modalities, uniform styles, and prison architecture, and while prison officials try to change the marketing of prisons with concerns over whether calling the incarcerated an Adult in Custody or inmate is "better," the public's fear of crime and criminals dominates the landscape of political decision-making. It is commonly understood that this affects correctional budgets and facility site selection. It also involves the day-to-day operation of our twelve institutions where the long-term motto, "out of sight, out of mind," operates with dangerous consequences and often minimal oversight.

The public's fear finds its way into prisons through labeling, cultural/racial differences between staff and inmates, and the news media's constant maintenance of the 1920s convict image lurking behind every streetlight. The recent accusations against a former Adult in Custody firefighter, who was granted early release – and is subsequently a person of interest in three murders is a great example. The media has lumped his early release (of about a year) with the clemency given to a number of lifers without bothering with the distinction that an early release for a year for heroic action is really different from the other situations where clemency was a real thing.

As a structural feature of the prison, this fear clouds every social interaction with the darkest overtones and symbolism. Correctional professionals are too often terrified of being corrections professionals and challenging these stereotypes - because of blowback from legislators and others whose livelihood and power base are contingent on the continued public perception of the horrors of crime and the collective belief that more riot gear and restraint chairs are a better investment than substantial educational, social and adulting programming.

Every new person, staff member, or inmate must prove him or herself at some point, and every request or question is analyzed for possible ulterior motives and plots. The fear grows readily into suspicion, which feeds on itself and provokes a never-ending spiral of tension. This tense environment, frequently exacerbated by personality conflicts, role conflicts, and other aspects of correctional institution living, is regarded as beyond the ability of anyone to eliminate. We are left only with a concern about the degree of tension. And the long term residual effects on mental

Another cause of conflict in prisons that cannot be attributed to vicious, sadistic staff (and there certainly are some) or animal-like violent inmates (and there certainly are some) is the nature of deprivation. In his book *A Society of Captives*, Gresham Sykes lists five kinds of deprivation that he calls the pains of imprisonment. These include deprivation of autonomy, security, liberty, sexual relationships, and goods and services. He explains each deprivation in detail, describing it as necessary yet also a direct source of enormous conflict, conniving, and manipulation by staff and inmates. Much administrative time and attention are necessarily devoted to anticipating and responding to the problems created by this sense of deprivation. However, Sykes's observations on the reasons for these deprivations are even more significant.

"In part, the deprivations and frustrations of prison life today might be viewed as punishments that the free community deliberately inflicts on the offender for violating the law; in part, they might be seen as the unplanned (or, as some would argue, the unavoidable) concomitants of confining large groups of criminals for prolonged periods. In either case, the modern pains of imprisonment are often defined by society as a humane alternative to the physical brutality and neglect which constituted the primary meaning of imprisonment in the past. Still, we must recognize that they can be just as painful as the physical maltreatment they have replaced." Maslow's hierarchy of needs points out our human needs (food, clothing and shelter, belonging, security, recognition, and finally, self-actualization) - and we will conspire to meet those needs by hook or crook. (a term was first used by John Wyclif in 1380.)

PRISON TRANSPARENCY, THE OMBUDSMAN & EQUAL FOOTING (continued)

Prison does an exceptional job, all things considered, of meeting basic needs (food, clothing, and shelter) but starts to fall apart at the intermediate needs (belonging, security, and recognition) - and it is in the range of the intermediate needs that we see the most interpersonal challenges, whether inmate/inmate, staff/inmate or staff/staff. Our human adaptability and internal resilience allow us all to compensate in various creative ways. At Coffee Creek, the Woman's prison, women make families. The men tend to be less family-oriented amongst themselves but meet their clan requirements in cliques or 'gangs' and sometimes some amazingly close friendships.

The movie Shawshank Redemption is an excellent example of both this and actual institutionalization. Sadly, as important as this dynamic is, prison officials have long ignored the value and positives of it – to the detriment of both the Adults in Custody and the reformation process itself.

There are many factors in the operation of a prison that lead to disharmony and interpersonal conflict. The hierarchical and militaristic structure of authority, the well-studied problem of goal displacement (defined as the substitution by an organization of the goal or goals for which it was established to service other goals, which frequently serve the interests of employees rather than the rehabilitation or reformation of those in custody) Competing and often times conflicting issues stemming from the prison's serving as host for many diverse professions with opposing agendas (social work, psychology, medicine, education, and clergy), and the introduction of new directions and mandates from external sources such as the courts, legislatures, and citizen groups—all are examples of conflicting pressures on staff and inmates alike. Distance, both physical and psychological, from family and friends, forced intimacy with other inmates, the problem of living by multiple and often inconsistent sets of rules (inmates', line staff and management), and the nature of indeterminacy in many sentences — are commonly seen things that negatively affect both the incarcerated and their keepers.

It was an important realization for me to see that conflict, grievances, and complaints occur in prisons for reasons that have nothing to do with the quality of staff or the adults in custody. It's people being people. The lower the standards (educational and life experience) for hiring officers, the lower the expected emotional intelligence may be. This may show itself in a lack of awareness about mental health issues, or the psychological dynamics that often land people in prison, or just in the quest for power over other people, arbitrariness, and a sense that "I can do what I want." Even management often spend more time focusing on their next career move, than a really genuine understanding of the role and its consequences they currently play. Robert Kegan, in *The Everyone Culture*, writes. "In an ordinary organization, most people are doing a second job no one is paying them for. In businesses large and small; in government agencies, schools, and hospitals; in for-profits and nonprofits and in any country in the world, most people are spending time and energy covering up their weaknesses, manipulating other people's impressions of them, showing themselves to their best advantage, playing politics, hiding their inadequacies, hiding their uncertainties, hiding their limitations – hiding. We regard this as the biggest loss of resources that organizations suffer daily. (For reference, you can see the article I wrote a couple of newsletters back about becoming a DDO, or Deliberately Developmental Organization.)

While efforts must continue to upgrade staff training, AIC programs, services, and institutional budgets, and ultimately weave these all into some consistent gestalt, it is essential to realize that these and many other necessary changes will never be able to alter specific institutional facts of life. These unavoidable facts of prison life affect "inalienable" rights and create the need for some balancing mechanism.

The inalienable rights —decency, respect, hope for the future, and a sense of personal worth—are the elusive, fragile qualities of life that make us more than mere animals; they make us human. These are human rights. Fifty years ago, an argument for the human rights of prisoners would have been naive and foolish because there were no processes through which these rights could be attained. It wasn't until the aftermath of September 9th, 1971, and the riot at Attica State Prison that prisons became a national topic. People, long functioning under the "out of sight, out of mind" model, were horrified at the conditions people were kept under. Perhaps since the post-Civil War exposé of Andersonville, prisons had not become a hot topic any faster.

The concepts of "civil death" - and "slave of the state" still dominate attitudes, if not laws. Prisons, as we know them, were a marriage of puritanical concepts of repentance (from the French, "re-thinking," and the word penitentiary – still widely used today. More importantly, they also bolstered a judicial "hands-off doctrine" regarding prisoner litigation. In a

PRISON TRANSPARENCY, THE OMBUDSMAN & EQUAL FOOTING (continued)

seemingly contradictory sequence, prison inmates could not be recognized as human beings until they were first acknowledged as citizens of society and, thus, possessors of legal rights. This had to be the first step in humanizing our prisons. Historically, many prisons, especially in the South, were simply vehicles for providing cheap slave labor to landowners and farmers.

The second half of Part II , “Power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely” along with part III will be continued next month. To read the entire series, visit our Facebook page, or email oregoncure@gmail.com. If you are incarcerated and want a full copy of this three-part article, please drop us a note at the address on the newsletter, and we will get one to you.

ODOC TRANSITIONING FROM VINE TO VISOR AT THE END OF OCTOBER

Vine or Visor is a useful tool for being alerted when an incarcerated individual is moved from one institution to another. The below information is mostly provided by ODOC. The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) is changing the way automated notifications are made about adults in custody. DOC will transition from VINELink to a new and improved system, VISOR. VISOR will provide a substantially more modern, user-friendly, timely, and efficient solutions at a significantly reduced cost. From August 1, 2023, through October 31, 2023, the VINE and VISOR systems will run simultaneously to ensure the new system is functioning properly and notifications are made. Current VINE registrants will automatically be transferred to VISOR. Registrants do not need to take any action at this time. For more information on the transition, [click here](#) or email VISOR@doc.oregon.gov

Here is the information to sign up if you have not previously signed up with Vinelink: Victim Information System in Oregon (VISOR). VISOR is Oregon's state-wide information and automated notification system to assist victims and survivors in receiving notification updates on status changes of individuals in custody. The VISOR portal is used to submit a request for automated notifications through phone call, email, text message, or teletypewriter. Personal profiles can be created and managed through the portal. Please note, you are NOT required to create a profile, it is optional. The VISOR portal is accessible 24/7/365. Victims may use the portal to search an individual's custody status, location, and other helpful information. Loved ones of the incarcerated individual can also use VISOR in order to be informed if there loved one is moved. The VISOR portal also provides local and national resources, confidential registration, and the ability to search an individual in custody will not know you are registered. · You can register multiple phone numbers and email addresses for notifications. · VISOR is a free service that is available 24/7/365 Visor Portal Access VISOR LOCAL & NATIONAL RESOURCES

REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATIONS

VISOR is an opt-in, voluntary service. It is not automatic. If you want to be notified of status changes, you will need to register with one or more contact methods. Options to register for notifications: · Scan the QR code · Visit www.VISOR.oregon.gov · Call 888-749-8080 for assistance When you register, you will have the option to build your personal portal page. This allows you to control which notifications you receive, when you receive them, and how you receive them. You will have the option to enter black-out dates for times you don't want to receive notifications (anniversaries, birthdays, holidays, etc.). NOTIFICATIONS Some of the status changes you will be notified of include, but are not limited to: 30 days prior to release, release, death, transfer, escape, hearings, and emergency notices.

USING THE QR CODE



Scan the code above with your smartphone camera app. The website link will appear at the bottom. When you click the link, it will take you to the VISOR portal where you can register. FREE SERVICE VISOR is a program administered through the Oregon Department of Corrections Victim Services Unit partnering with Oregon Law Enforcement Agencies. VISOR is a FREE service that provides Oregonians with information and resources.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your membership renewal date is on the address label of this newsletter. If your renewal date is expired, we ask that you please renew today to continue to receive this newsletter and to continue to support our organization.

You can also make a donation for someone you know to become a member. Your support is important to our mission and your donation is tax-deductible.

Send your membership tax-deductible donation to Oregon CURE, PO Box 80193, Portland, OR 97280.

Please fill out the member donation form below to receive our newsletter. Adult in custody subscription donation is \$3 and Individual Non-Incarcerated subscription donation is \$15. **All tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and can be made in any amount. Visit our website at oregoncure.com.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____
(optional)

City/State/Zip: _____

Name of incarcerated loved one / SID & facility: _____

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 opinion 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. Articles may be copied in their entirety with credit to the author or to the publication. Oregon CURE is an all-volunteer organization that is not a service organization. Do not send us any legal documents, we are not a legal service. We are not qualified to assist you with legal matters.

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 county coordinators' departments listed below to confirm the date, time, and location.

Washington County

Contact: Michelle Scholl (503) 846-3455

Marion County

Contact: Austin Herman (503) 540-8043

INTAKE ORIENTATIONS

Intake Orientations are co-facilitated by the Oregon Department of Corrections and Oregon CURE. Find out about Oregon's prison system, the intake process, phones, mail, and visiting requirements. There will be opportunities to ask questions and learn how you can get through your loved one's incarceration. Please email for Zoom link prior to meeting:
oregoncure@gmail.com or admin@oregoncure.com

7PM-7:30PM First Wednesdays via Zoom

Portland Metro

Location: Varies - please call Oregon CURE to confirm: (503) 844-9145 or email oregoncure@gmail.com

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ATTENTION:

Your address label has printed your renewal-date, below your name. This will be your last newsletter if your renewal date has passed. Renew today to remain informed!



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”.

Some of these support groups meet via zoom and some meet in person. Please reach out with the contact information given below as you are planning to attend, or if you have any questions. There is no limit to which of or how often you attend a support group, nor is there a location requirement, if you are interested in attending a support group, we welcome you to do so.

Each meeting offers different insights and valuable information, and you are not required to share anything it all, if you do not wish to, simply listen and learn from other attendees.

Portland East Side Support Group

Varies & flexible – please call if interested.
Please call Ray at (503) 421-0269.
RayAllenFox@gmail.com

Eugene Support Groups

1st Thursdays: 6:30-8:30pm
Please call to confirm location.
Dave (541) 344-7612 or Don (541) 521-2231

Zoom Support Group

1st Wednesdays: 7:00-8:30pm
Please email for Zoom link prior to meeting.
oregoncure@gmail.com or admin@oregoncure.com

Salem Support Group

1st Saturdays: 9:30-11:30am
The Keizer Senior Center
930 Plymouth Drive NE, Keizer, OR 97303
Wayne (971) 432-0148