

---

## IOWA CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

*An Effort to Reduce Crime Through Criminal Justice Reform - 2010*

---

### **"EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE"**

#### **DOING WHAT WORKS**

The past few years the phrase "Evidence-based practice" has come to be used by many public and private agencies that work with people. This includes those working in departments of corrections across the country. It simply means doing what has proven to work. The obvious question is, "why would anyone or any agency continue to do something that is not effective?" The answer to that question would be the topic for another article which might be entitled, "Growing and maintaining the prison industrial complex."

If you are interested in learning more about what doesn't work in corrections we would suggest that you read, "An Expensive Way to Make Bad People Worse," An essay on Prison Reform from an Insider's Perspective by Jens Soering, a lifer in the U.S. prison system. We are going to address a few of the problems in the current Iowa Corrections system and suggest some things that have been shown to work.

We certainly need to get serious about finding out what works when it comes to addressing the issue of the disparity in the number of African-Americans in the Iowa prison system as compared to the African-American population. We have the dubious honor of being number one in this area. About 25% of those incarcerated in Iowa prisons are African-Americans even though they make up only about 2% of the population. Just this week we learned that this already horrific disparity has risen another percentage point!! It doesn't stop there. Of the 617 lifers in the Iowa System 156 are African-American, 36 are Hispanic, 4 Native American, and 12/Asian-Pacific Islander. Of the 43 lifers who were under the age of 18 when they committed crimes that resulted in a sentence of life without parole, 11 are black. So this disparity is also represented in the lifer population, including the number of juveniles committing class A felonies who are turned over to adult court for trial. Barbara D. an African American professor at the University of Illinois recently stated, "The American Corrections System has an insatiable hunger for black bodies."

In a new book called, "The New Jim Crow" author Michelle Alexander explains that mass incarceration of African-Americans is no accident, but a part of a well-planned, comprehensive instrument for social control. It begins by labeling people of color as more prone to engage in criminal behavior than people of other races. Recent research shows that an African American person with no criminal record is less likely to be hired for a job than a white person with a criminal record. We know that once a person gets into the criminal justice system their chances of getting a fair sentence is much less because of the difficulty of hiring a good lawyer, but what we don't realize that many African-Americans are not eligible to serve on juries due to being felons. Chances of an African-American getting a jury of their peers is greatly reduced. Large numbers of African-Americans are also disenfranchised because they can't vote due to having a prison record.

What would work in addressing this problem? First of all, we should address the disparity in the crack-cocaine sentencing laws and the mandatory sentencing which have resulted in African-Americans receiving much longer sentences than whites. Research shows that there is just as much, if not more drug dealing in white suburban communities as in the inner cities. The difference is that the dealing in black neighborhoods is often out in the open. If we are honest we also know that the young white person who picked up for possession is going to be treated much differently than the black person who gets busted. Four out of five arrests for drugs are for possession and there is no violence involved.

We should increase the pay for public defenders so that better qualified lawyers would be attracted to serve in this capacity. This would improve the chances that blacks and others who are poor would get good representation in court.

Research shows that education works. In Iowa the major cost of basic education and GED classes is paid for from the profits from the inmate phone system and commissary profits. In 2010 the Department plans to use \$750,000 from phone profits and the legislature has mandated that \$300,000 from commissary profits be used to cover the cost of education. Where does the majority of this money come from? From the families and friends of the prisoners who send money to the telephone and commissary accounts of their loved ones. Why should the families of prisoners pay for almost all the costs of the education of prisoners in the entire system? This money should come from the general fund.

We are fortunate that several of our community colleges, as well as, Grinnell College, are providing classes in the prisons and some groups and individuals provide money for prisoners to take college courses, but they often face ridiculous barriers. Recently a Biology

101 class being offered by a Grinnell professor was cancelled because it covered basic information about DNA. It is against the law for prisoners to receive state or federal dollars or grants for college tuition, in spite of the fact that we know that getting a college education is one of the top ways of reducing recidivism.

We know that supporting family connections is another thing that works. We are pleased that one way e-mail is now available in all our prisons and soon (starting with the Iowa Correctional Facility) it will also be possible for prisoners to send e-mails to those on their approved list. There remains the ongoing problem of the high cost of phone calls and also the shortening of visiting hours. There is also a problem with the disparity of rules regarding visiting in the difference prisons. and a problem with denial of visiting if a person has any involvement as a volunteer in another Iowa prison. A prisoner also has a much better chance of making it if their family is involved with the reentry process.

We know that community-based corrections work. Among the reasons cited for the drop in the Iowa prison population by Director John Baldwin is the increase in the use of drug courts and in-jail treatment programs. Every judicial district now has a drug court. It would be wonderful if we could also have mental health courts and combined mental/drug courts. We know that there is a need for serious reform of the community mental health care system. In 2008 the Rev. Carlos Jayne, Legislative Advocate for the Justice Reform Consortium stated, "The state needs to fix the mental health system...the whole thing is broken." Unfortunately little has changed. In 2008 a community based corrections mental health facility in Cedar Rapids was scheduled to open with an outpatient unit and a 26 bed inpatient treatment unit. The outpatient unit was opened, but unfortunately the legislature has not approved the money to operate the inpatient unit. This is exactly the kind of facility that is so badly needed. In fact, NOT funding the operation of this inpatient unit was cited as one of the ways that the DOC is saving money in this time of budget crisis!!!

Another thing that works to reduce the prison population is jobs that provide a living wage. One of things that make it especially hard for someone coming out of prison to get a job is "THE BOX." Application forms have a question which asks if the applicant has ever committed a felony. The answer is either "yes" or "no." If you are applying by computer there is no place for a comment. Some states are considering eliminating "THE BOX" and asking about this only if there is a specific reason related to the particular job for which the applicant is applying.

Another thing that works is providing transportation for people when they first go to work release so they can get the documents they need and get to job interviews, etc. The reason given for not doing so is that it encourages people to be depend on the system. How can we expect people to go from prison where they are expected do what they are told, to a situation where they are suddenly expected to be totally self-reliant? The mentors for the Life Line program in Canada say the number one need of people coming out of prison is transportation.

Another thing that works is mental health treatment that includes, not just psychotropic drugs, but ongoing cognitive therapy, education regarding their illness, the drugs they are taking, and their side effects, and a supportive accepting environment which includes a minimum use of administrative segregation. Meaningful activities are also important. A very small number of person suffering from severe mental illness get treatment at our mental health institutions, while 40% of the 8200 prisoners in our prisons severe from mental illness. If we are going to reduce the number of mental ill persons involved in serious crime we must make sure that they get treatment for their illness in order to reduce recidivism Ideally this should not be the job of Corrections, but until we address the underlying problem of the lack of mental health treatment, this is the task we have put upon them. There are many more things that have proven to work and could be considered "evidence based practice." EBP needs to become more than the current buzz phrase.

## **SUPREME COURT RULINGS**

Following the recent release of two Iowa Supreme Court decisions, No. 0-1226 and No. 07-0863, the Department of Corrections reviewed all cases affected and determined that there were fifteen offenders currently incarcerated by the DOC that must be immediately released.

These decisions override the Department's interpretation of Iowa Code 903A.2(1)(a), to suspend "Earned Time" if an offender refuses to participate or fails Sex Offender Treatment Programming (SOTP) until such time as the offender successfully participates and completes SOTP.

The ruling applies to offenders whose offense was committed prior to the amendment to Iowa Code 903A.2 effective January 1, 2001.

**POSTPARTUM SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL** PSI is a volunteer organization devoted to providing support to women who have suffered from postpartum mental illness and their families. They offer a variety of resources. The majority of their members believe that they experienced postpartum psychosis and many are serving sentences for committing infanticide. According to the information on their website, "the PSI aims to connect women who have experienced the worst consequences of postpartum mental illness, showing them that they are not alone and not to blame. In short, it's a support group through the mail." The pen pal network includes women who live in jails, prisons, and state hospitals across the country. The Network Coordinator Corinne Reilly corresponds with the women and sends out newsletters to the entire group and shares messages and news. Some women are able to correspond

directly, if institution mail policies allow it. If not, the newsletters allow them a way to connect, and heal through their similar stories. "The Pen Pal Network is also working to gather information on legal cases involving postpartum mental illness. If you have information that would be helpful in creating a clearing house of information or would like more information about the Pen Pal Network please contact: Corrine Reilly, 237 Granby St. #25, Norfolk, VA 23510, E-mail: [Corrine781@gmail.com](mailto:Corrine781@gmail.com).

The local contact for PSI is Tricia Rivas, E-mail: [Jivas76@hotmail.com](mailto:Jivas76@hotmail.com), 515-306-9938. The group's website is: [www.postpartum.net](http://www.postpartum.net).

## **IOWA CITIZENS' AIDE OMBUDSMAN**

The Office of the Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman provides Iowans a non partisan independent agency where action can be taken to resolve their complaints. They work by doing investigation, research, and analysis. They make recommendations to resolve complaints if they are found to be justified. They don't have the power of enforcement. Their services are available to all residents of the state, including those in state institutions and persons from other states and countries who may have complaints against agencies of Iowa government. By law, the Ombudsman cannot investigate the Iowa courts, legislators and their staffs. The Ombudsman may also undertake change through the proposal of legislation. Each year they issue a report which summarizes the work they have done. This can be found on their website: [www.legis.state.ia.us/ombudsman](http://www.legis.state.ia.us/ombudsman). Their address is: Ola Babcock Miller Building, 1112 East Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50319-0231, Phone 1-888-426-6283 and 515-281-3592. E-mail: [ombudsman@legis.state.ia.state](mailto:ombudsman@legis.state.ia.state).

Eleena Mitchell-Sadler is the Assistant for Corrections. In her report she notes that in 2008 the Ombudsman received 748 new complaints or questions about prison issues, compared to 604 in 2007. There has been an increase in the complaints related to medical issues, staff conduct, offender discipline and offender rights. It is also of interest to note that, of the mental health related complaints, 35% come from corrections and 21% come from jails.

The Ombudsman's office has done an extensive investigation of the use of restraint chairs in Iowa jails due to a series of complaints about the use of the chairs. As a result the office has made a series of recommendations regarding inmate screening and restraint device use for all jail facilities. Staff members of the office have met with the Association of Sheriffs and Jailers and with the Board and staff of the Department of Corrections on several occasions to try to reach an agreement concerning the recommendations; however no agreement has been reached. In the mean time 3 new complaints regarding the use of the chairs have been received.

There are several systemic issues related to Corrections that have come to the attention of the office. The first is that of the Gradual Release Codes given by the Board of Parole. The Board of Parole uses the Gradual Release Codes as a public safety measure to enable those prisoners who have committed very serious crimes and spent many years in prison to be

gradually released back into society. This gives them the opportunity to prove that they are capable of returning to society. When given a Gradual Release Code the prisoner is able to do their "outs," living and working outside the fence of the institution and then moving on to work release. About one year ago the DOC put into place a policy which appears to be in conflict with the prisoners' ability to do their gradual release and could result in their having to fully discharge their sentences.

A number of prisoners and their families who have been affected by this change in DOC policy appealed to Iowa CURE, to some members of the Board of Corrections, and to the office of the Ombudsman. All have been working together to urge the DOC to reconsider this policy. We have heard that the Director has agreed that those with Gradual Release Codes can do their "outs" wearing GPS ankle bracelets, but the DOC has been extremely slow in allowing this to happen. We understand that three women at Iowa Women's Correctional Facility have actually been able to do this, while many others are waiting at ICIW and at Rockwell City.

Another issue that the Ombudsman office is investigating is Administrative Segregation. They have received a number of complaints that offenders are remaining in this status for lengthy periods of time, even months with no explanation. They are going to look into prisoners' extended stays and the DOC's reason for restricting offenders' access to their personal property.

This is an issue which has troubled Iowa CURE for many years. We have received reports of offenders being placed in Ad Seg for "investigation" for extended periods of time and held there for weeks after they had completed their disciplinary detention, even when beds were available for them in general population. In some prisons they report having their watches, calendars, addresses books, as well as, personal hygiene items taken away from them. They report being taken for showers and exercise time at 2 a.m.. Windows in their cells are distorted and in some cases the exercise space does not permit them to see outside. We believe that this is deliberate sensory deprivation. Often the offenses they are for which they are being investigated are quite minor.

Recently the Ombudsman's office testified before the Government Oversight Committee regarding the large number of prisoners waiting for extended periods of time to be released to work release and/or parole. They also testified regarding the possible improper holding of inmates' earnings which should have been applied to victim restitution and the problems with the Gradual Release Codes.

Much of this information comes from the yearly report published by the office of the Ombudsman. If you have a problem that you feel needs to be investigated by their office, feel free to contact them. Your contact with them is confidential.

## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF CHANGES

There has been a number of staff changes and additions within the Department of Corrections in recent months. Daniel Craig, who was formerly the Deputy Director for Prisons Western Region, is now the Warden at Iowa Medical and Classification Center at Oakdale. Diane Wilder Tomlinson, former Warden at Iowa Correctional Facility for Women is now Deputy Director of Prisons Western Region. Kristine Weitzell serves as Assistant Deputy Warden for the Prisons Western Region.

Jerry Burt, who was formerly the Warden at Anamosa State Penitentiary, is now Deputy Director of Prisons Eastern Region and Sheryl Lockwood continues in her position as Assistant Deputy Director Prisons Eastern Regional. John Fayram is now the Warden at Anamosa State Penitentiary/Luster Heights. Patti Wachendorf is now Warden at Iowa Correctional Facility for Women and Ron Mullins is the new Superintendent at Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility.

Betty Brown who worked for many years coordinating the Department's restorative justice and victims services programs has retired. Mary Roche has been chosen to fill that position. Jeanette Bucklew served 27 years with the Department beginning in community based corrections. She was especially known for her concern for gender based programming and other offender services. Jerry Bartruff is serving as acting Deputy Director for Offenders Services. The position of state security director filled by Robert Garrison has been eliminated.

Dr. Harbans Deol has been hired to be the Medical Director who will oversee and coordinate medical, mental health, and dental services for the entire department. Dr. Harbans Deol holds a D.O.degree and Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology.

We have heard that the positions of a number of correctional counselors have been cut throughout the system, but there are recent reports that the Governor may make it possible for them to be reinstated. A number of long time employees have been offered early retirement.

## PRISON LEGAL NEWS

"Prison Legal News" is one of the few independent publications that exists for the purpose of getting out the truth regarding courts rulings and news with a focus on state, federal and private prison issues. It is one of the few avenues left through which prisoners have access to current legal and prison related news and information. Coverage includes medical neglect, disciplinary hearings, nutrition, living conditions, excessive force, court access, censorship, visiting, telephones, religious freedom, health sexual abuse, retaliation, control units, the death penalty, and many other issues. Subscription rates: \$12 for 6 months (prisoners only) \$24 for one year for prisoners, \$30 for individuals. The address is Prison Legal News, 2400 NW 80th St. #148, Seattle, WA 98117.

## Taking Up Space

Where else can I take up space  
and nobody cares that I have overstayed my welcome?  
Who else can take up space and make people so much  
money?

I can take up this space and do whatever I want.  
Be good or bad they won't get rid of me.  
Just put me in another space to take up.  
Always taking up space, no matter what.  
If space runs out, more space will be built.  
I will always have a space to take up.

I don't have to do anything for this space.  
It's free!  
I will take their space and enjoy doing nothing for it. If  
somebody was smart,  
they would get pissed with me for taking up space and doing  
nothing.

That won't happen because I'm money for the space mafia.  
So I will continue taking up space and be a nothing.  
Some day I'll leave and take up space in a graveyard:  
My own permanent space.  
No more moving me around from space to space.  
I will take up space there along with others.  
I will probably get more visits there than I did in prison.

By Bryan Jasa, Fort Madison ISP/CCU

"The long, slow drip of collective humiliation and abuse, along with the tiny and large indignities that go into transforming human beings into fanatics is rarely understood by those on the outside. It ticks away like a clock until it suddenly explodes in our face." **Chris Hedges**

## GRADUAL RELEASE Note:

Code of Iowa 904: Department of Corrections' primary role is to manage Institutions and contract with Community-Based Corrections.

Code of Iowa 904A: Board of Parole's primary role is to determine release from institutions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
According to the Office of the Citizens' Ombudsman's Office, the Iowa Board of Parole has been using "gradual release codes" to signal its desire to transition prison inmates back into society. Speaking at the August 28th board meeting of the Iowa Board of Corrections, Karen Muelhaupt of the IBOP stated that public safety is the number one mantra for the BOP and for a safe entry men and women who have committed serious crimes and been in prison for a number of years need a gradual release, rather than being paroled directly back to the community or discharging their sentences. The BOP feels the offenders must go to minimum security and work outside the walls, until they do so, the BOP is not willing to give them work release.

Over the years this policy has seemed to work well. When an offender received a "Gradual Release" code from the BOP, the DOC would transfer them to a facility where they could do their "outs." In recent

months members of the BOP, Iowa CURE, and members of the Iowa Board of Corrections begin receiving letters and calls from offenders and their families who had received a GR Code and were being told that the DOC had changed their policies and would not allow serious offenders to work outside the walls. Some who had already spent a number of months working outside the walls were no longer allowed to do so.

Iowa CURE contacted the Governor's legal counsel regarding this issue and several members of the Board and the Ombudsman's office staff asked that the IBOC and DOC leadership get together to work out this problem. Iowa CURE believes that the IBOP policy is a sound one and is in the best interest of the public.

According to a report given by Jerry Bartruff, Acting Director of Offenders' Services, the DOC decided to use GPS technology to monitor serious offenders who have received future releases from the Board of Parole and will be working outside the walls of the secured perimeters at ICIW, NCCF, and CRC. They are to be monitored at the facility Control Center and the Command Center in Des Moines. The BOC was assured that this plan does meet the satisfaction of the BOP.

It is our understanding that, in spite of this reported agreement between the BOP and DOC, this program has not been moving forward. There are conflicting reports as to why. Christine Weitzell and Sheryl Lockwood, Assistant Deputy Directors of the Eastern and Western Region prisons have told offenders that the "Gradual Release" program is "on hold/has been temporarily suspended and that the BOP is aware of this. In contrast the BOP is saying that the BOP has not been informed that the C12 release program has been canceled. It's a matter of fact that it just recently went into effect. The BOP is advising offenders to communicate their concerns to the DOC, but the tone of Ms Lockwood's letter suggests that might be risky for offenders and their families. Currently Director Baldwin has said that the qualifying men at Rockwell City will be allowed to start working their "outs" when the snow melts. Who knows when that will be!

## **COMMUNICATION NEWS**

### **1. O MAIL**

The new O mail which makes it possible for people on the outside to send e-mails to people in Iowa's prisons has proved to be very successful. We are told that it is now available at all prisons. There are plans to make the sending of e-mails both ways possible in the near future beginning with Iowa Women's Correctional Facility. The person on the outside receiving the e-mail will be charged for the e-mails sent to them by the prisoner. The e-mails are delivered to your prisoner in a timely fashion, even on weekends so it is faster than regular mail and cheaper too.

Here's how it works:

1. Go to the internet site <https://www.corrlinks.com>
2. corrlinks.com
3. Sign up for a new account

3. Fund the account with as little as \$5 using a Mastercard or VISA
- Create and send a message
- Follow the instructions very carefully.

Messages can be sent from any city or any country for the same fee.

### **2. PHONE CHARGES:**

The news regarding the cost of phone calls is not good. The prices remain high. The following expenditures from the telephone profits (rebates) have been proposed by the Department of Corrections for Fiscal Year 2010.

1. Education funding: \$750,000,
2. Inmate Legal Services: \$150,000,
3. Victims Coordinator, \$166,000,
4. Stepp Program: Mental Health: \$45,000,
5. Religious Coordinator: \$75,000,
6. ISP- Telephone Administration: \$44,000 and
7. Translation Services: \$1000.

Some members of the current Board of Corrections have expressed an interest in working to lower the cost of inmate phone calls. At two recent meetings Director Baldwin told the Board that the last time there was a change in the phone rates the cost of calls went down. I contacted Kay Perry of National CURE who heads up our Campaign for lower rates for inmate phone calls regarding the Iowa Inmate Phone System. This was her reply: "the only set of rates I have for Iowa are dated August 2001, with implementation dates of September 2001. The rates are prepaid only. That is the year that the Director announced the change to a prepaid system. The "new" prepaid rates were higher than collect rates-a MOST unusual development.

There have been several changes in providers since then (one which failed), but no apparent rate changes. So according to records I have, you are correct. I will also tell you that most systems have seen rate changes since 2001 and there have been some pretty dramatic reductions. NO other system has ONLY prepaid calls.

### **3. CABLE TV**

Due to the switch from analog to digital T.V. all institutions now have some cable stations. These include two ESPN stations, the History and Discovery Channels, Home and Garden and one Spanish language station. At Mount Pleasant and IMCC the cable stations are available only in the day rooms. It is very important that the public understands that the cost of cable comes out of inmate funds and there is NO expense to the taxpayers!!

## **CONSTRUCTION BEGINS**

Plans for the new prison at Fort Madison scheduled to be opened in 2014, are well under way with ground breaking scheduled for late Spring with construction to begin in the Fall. The plans for the prison are confusing. The new prison will have about 800 beds. There are currently about 1000 maximum security offenders in the system. Six hundred and fourteen are lifers and Director John Baldwin has said that 95% of

lifers will be housed at the new prison. The prison will be built on 42 acres of ground with 3 guard towers. At the very least, the John Bennett Correctional Center and the Critical Care Center will remain open on the old 11 acre campus. The new prison will include a new mental health and medical care unit duplicating what is available on the old campus. The plans call for re-entry programs to prepare prisoners for successful reentry. Why would these be included at a maximum security prison? One would assume that prisoners who are going to be released would be moved to a lower level of security to prepare for reentry.

Although Director Baldwin states that all maximum security prisoners will be single celled. There are reports that seem to come from credible sources that the actual plans call for double celling of many of these prisoners. This calls into question whether the safety and security of staff, prisoners, and the public are truly the number one priority. The Department is also saying that this huge new enterprise can be operated without adding any staff. Do you suppose that this is what the legislators and citizens of Illinois were told before their prison was built?

The Board of Corrections as made it clear that they expect the old prison to be shut down with the exception of the John Bennett Center and the Critical Care Unit, however at a meeting state legislators who were charged with making the decision about where new prison construction would be done, Union leader, Danny Holman made it clear that he and members of his Union believed that the old prison should be kept open with the current cells being used to relieve the crowding at Anamosa and the old cellblock, which has been closed for years, being used as a warehouse. The DOC has mentioned that the current CCU may be "repurposed. Possibilities might be a reentry center, or a control unit. CURE has recently heard that the roof of the old abandoned cellblock is being replaced and a new large tower is being built adjacent to it. Why spend this money if the present facility is going to be closed?

There have been many changes for lifers in the past few years. The Honor Lifer Unit at ISP, which was opened in 1976, was closed down. Last year the Honor Lifer Program at Rockwell City was suddenly closed down and the lifers plus several who have had their sentences commuted were taken to the Iowa Medical and Classification Center. Most of them have been moved several times since. They were told that they would have access to the same programs that were available at Rockwell City, but that has proven to be an empty promise. The lifers who were at the John Bennett Center have also when moved in anticipation that the JBC will be used to house the men from the Farms.

There are many questions and few answers. One thing has been made clear, since the state has already borrowed the money for this 200 million dollar expansion of ISP and the women's prison at Mitchellville, plans will move ahead and given the lack of transparency in the DOC we won't know what the outcome will be until it is too late to make changes.

## **SERVICES - INNOCENCE PROJECT OF IOWA**

Iowa now has its own Innocence Project. It is a nonprofit organization that seeks to prevent and remedy wrongful convictions. Their work will include education, advocacy, and litigation. The Project is staffed by a pool of volunteer attorneys. The Project may be contacted by mail at the following address: The Innocence Project of Iowa, 1329 Elmhurst Dr., Cedar Rapids, IA, 52402. The Nebraska Innocence Project may be contacted at the following address: Innocence Project of Nebraska, P.O. Box 24183, Omaha, NE, 68124-0183.

## **HELP WITH JUVENILE RECORD**

If you or someone you love has a Iowa juvenile record and want to explore the possibility of having it expunged, Contact Fredrick Gay in the Polk County Attorney's office. Contact information is as follows: Mr. Fredrick Gay, Juvenile Bureau Chief, Polk County Attorney Office, 206 6th Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309, 515-286-2160.

## **PROGRAMS**

THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION PROGRAM is being initiated by Creative Visions in Des Moines. It is designed to provide wrap-around services to incarcerated clients and their family members beginning 6 months prior to their release. The goal of the program is to aid in the transition of the client back into society and into their family. Participants must have been incarcerated in a state or federal penitentiary. They must enroll six months prior to their release date. They must agree to a full one year participation in the program and to adhere to all the rules and regulations of the program. By the end of the program the participants should feel more connected to their family and have a working support system in place. For more information contact: Dawn Thomas, Program Coordinator, Creative Vision Human Development, PO Box 326, Des Moines, IA 50302, 515-244-4003 est.16, [Dawn.thomas@creativevisions.org](mailto:Dawn.thomas@creativevisions.org)

## **VOICES TO BE HEARD**

"VOICES TO BE HEARD" is a organization that a support group for families, loved ones of those who are incarcerated in state and federal prisons. They meet three times a month in Des Moines to provide education, support, and organization for advocacy. They have a special mission to respond to the needs of children who have a loved one in the prison system. One the first Tuesday of each month they have a speaker, on the 2nd Tuesday they deal with business and advocacy, and on the third Tuesday they meet for support. They also sponsor family outings for children who attend the group on a regular basis. The meetings are held at Union Park United Methodist Church, East 12th and Guthrie in Des Moines. A meal is served at 5:30 p.m., from 6 to 7 a licensed counselor from Life Line meets with the children and the adults have their own meeting. The group is operated under the auspices of the Child and Family Policy. They hope to expand to other areas of the state. Misty Hansen is founder and Chairperson of the

group. For more information contact:  
[misty.hansen@mchsi.com](mailto:misty.hansen@mchsi.com) or [mel@cfpciowa.org](mailto:mel@cfpciowa.org). The former local Des Moines Chapter of CURE has merged with "Voices." Please share this information with all those persons who have a loved one in prison or on parole!!!

Voices to be Heard: Our Vision: Every family's voice of suffering, grief, shame and abandonment from dealing with an incarcerated loved one will be heard and dealt with in a healthy way.

### **JUSTICE REFORM CONSORTIUM**

The Justice Reform Consortium is made up of 16 member organizations that work together for reform of the criminal justice from one based on retributive justice to one based on restorative justice. The organizations work to support legislation that would provide for increased funding for family connections, education, mental health, and substance abuse treatment and reentry programs. We believe that the state should not be adding any new prison beds, but should be investing dollars in community based corrections, including drug and mental health courts, reentry centers, improving family connections,

The Consortium was founded through the joint efforts of the Rev. Carlos Jayne and Jean Basinger, President of Iowa CURE. Iowa CURE was one of the founding members. Last Summer Rev. Jayne announced his retirement and we believed that our efforts would have to be drastically scaled back. We now can announce the good news that we have hired Marty Ryan, who has a long history as a lobbyist for the Iowa ACLU, to be the lobbyist and legislative advocate for the Consortium. He has been hard at work at the Capitol testifying on our behalf, attending meetings and speaking with legislators. He is doing a great job of keeping us informed about legislation through a weekly newsletter. It is up to us to follow up with contacts to our legislators when they are needed as hearing from constituents is what really makes the difference. He can be reached by e-mail at [mrtyryn@gmail.com](mailto:mrtyryn@gmail.com) and by phone at 515-281-8076. The mailing address for the consortium is: 41005, Des Moines, IA 50311

### **Minutes of the International CURE Annual Board Meeting**

October 9-12, 2009  
Denver, CO

I. States attending: Western: CO, OR, NM, WY, Eastern: ME, AL, VA, NH, NJ, RI, MD, FL, OH, Central: OK, KS, IA, IN, LA, AR, MI.

II. Highlights: a speech by Colorado DOC Director Ari Zavaras, a presentation by the Director of the Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center, a talk by Sylvester Uhaa, Exec. Director of CURE-Nigeria. Nigeria will host the international annual board meeting.

III. There was a discussion as to whether we would have the annual national gathering every 18 months, rather than every 12 and not have a meeting in Washington, D.C.. It is being to be too much for Pauline to make these arrangements due to her health. Opposition is that we miss opportunities to talk to our congressmen and that it seems symbolic to be at the

National Capitol. On Monday at the business meeting a motion was made, seconded and passed to have the annual board meeting not less than every 12 months and not more than every 18 months. Location to be determined.

IV. There was a recognition of World Death Penalty Abolition Day, which was October 10th and on October 12th there was a ceremony of remembrance of prison reformers who have died in the past 2 years. A treasurer's report was given by Pauline Sullivan. We are solvent.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this Board meeting. I enjoyed meeting people who are advocating that all deserve a second chance and the dignity of humankind. Mary Kay Dial, Iowa CURE Board Member (Secretary)

### **IOWA CURE BOARD MINUTES**

A meeting of the Iowa CURE Board was held on July 11, 2009. A meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 4, 2010. Minutes of these meetings are available to members upon request. The current members of the Board are: Jean Basinger, Mary Kay Dial, Ed Bloomer, Jackie Robinson, and Anne Bickell. David Spencer recently resigned as a Board member. In July of 2009 the Iowa CURE board sent out a survey requesting that members (those on the outside who are current in their dues) requesting that members suggest persons to be nominated for the board and suggestion for programs. Very few surveys were returned. If you are interested in serving on the board or have ideas for programs, please contact Iowa CURE immediately. We will be sending out an election ballot soon. Minute of the meetings of the board are available to members upon request.

### **MANDATORY DEDUCTIONS FROM COMMISSARY ACCOUNTS**

These are the mandatory deductions taken from all money in inmate commissary accounts.

Child support- 50% from wages and allowances only,  
restitution- 20% from all credits to account, mandatory 10% from all credits to account until amount reaches \$100. This is for the gate fee and draws no interest. Prisoners do not automatically receive \$100 when discharged, they only receive the amount that they themselves have saved for their gate fee. Medical co-pay for self-initiated visit to health services.

Cost of incarceration- a 6% surcharge added to withdrawals from account or purchases from the commissary. The warden can make exceptions to charge. It is our understanding that if a prisoner overspends the money in their account they receive a major report and they have to send out the articles which they ordered through the commissary.

Disciplinary sanctions- Institutions may deduct any amount or percent necessary for assessed damages resulting from misconduct.

Other news concerning finances: All institutions are moving to electronic card system for vending services. This service will

take all tokens, vendor and visitor cash out of the prison system. Prices will be identical at all institutions. Offenders, visitors, and staff will place funds on a Debit card, all funds will be deposited in the Fort Madison Central Bank Vending Account.

**WHAT IS CURE?** Cure is an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization. Iowa CURE is a multi-issue, membership-based organization which brings together people inside and outside prison walls to work for a criminal justice system based on the principles of restorative justice. CURE believes in fair and humane treatment of those incarcerated in Iowa's prisons and in more reliance on alternatives to prisons. We publish a newsletter once or twice a year and try to answer as many of your letters as we can. We cannot do legal research for you. We get a large number of letters from

prisoners and calls from family members from all across the country. We try to respond in a timely fashion, however please keep in mind that Iowa CURE has no staff. All our work is done by volunteers who also cover most of our operating costs.

**WHAT CURE IS NOT:** Cure cannot offer legal services. Please do not send us your legal materials. We do not know of lawyers who provide pro bono services.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### IOWA CURE

Jean Basinger, President  
and Newsletter Editor  
P.O. Box 41005  
Des Moines, IA 50311  
Phone: 515-277-6296  
[jabwab@msn.com](mailto:jabwab@msn.com)  
[www.iowacure.org](http://www.iowacure.org)

### Des Moines CURE

See "Voices"

### Henry County CURE

Susie Snyder  
319-385-3435  
[skizer@iowatelecom.net](mailto:skizer@iowatelecom.net)

### Northeast Iowa CURE

Barb Dahlen  
[dahlen@mchsi.com](mailto:dahlen@mchsi.com)  
Linda  
[gingerlin@surfbest.net](mailto:gingerlin@surfbest.net)

### Fort Madison CURE (Inactive)

### CURE for Vets

535 Queen St  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
[Jcautilli2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Jcautilli2003@yahoo.com)  
[www.vets-cure.com](http://www.vets-cure.com)

### Voices To Be Heard

Misty Hansen, Chr.  
[misty.hansen@mchsi.com](mailto:misty.hansen@mchsi.com)  
Melissa Nelson, 515-280-9027

### CURE Sort

#### (Sex Offenders Restored Through Treatment)

P.O. Box 761  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-0761  
[sata@satasort.org](mailto:sata@satasort.org)

### Federal CURE

P. O. Box 15667  
Plantation, FL 33318-5657  
[FedCure@FedCURE.org](mailto:FedCure@FedCURE.org)

### Life Long CURE

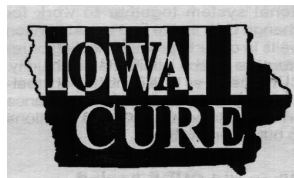
P. O. Box 2093  
Englewood, CO 80150  
Kathy Isor and Barb Stephenson  
Send stamped, self-addressed envelope  
for brochure: [everyonesmom4@comcast.net](mailto:everyonesmom4@comcast.net)

### CURE International

Charlie and Pauline Sullivan  
P. O. Box 2310  
Washington, D.C. 20013  
[cure@curenational.org](mailto:cure@curenational.org)



**IOWA CURE**  
**P. O. BOX 41005**  
**Des Moines, IA 50311**



**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**  
**2010 DUES NOTICE**

*Please remember to pay your 2010 Iowa CURE dues*

**How do I join?**

Fill out the application form below and mail it with your membership fee to the Iowa CURE office address below

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Fees**

Prisoner	\$2
Individual	\$10
Family	\$20
Sustaining	\$50
Life	\$100

**IOWA CURE**  
**P. O. BOX 41005**  
**Des Moines, IA**  
**50311**

Please remove me from this mailing list

**Why should I join CURE?**

Being a CURE member gives you access to experienced staff, reputable research, political action, community organizing, leadership and strategy development as well as informative fact sheets, action alerts, legislative and issue updates. **Please feel free to photocopy this newsletter/application to pass along to interested friends, family, associates or loved ones in prison.**