



## IOWA CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

*An Effort to Reduce Crime Through Criminal Justice Reform - Winter 2016*

### MEETING OF IOWA CURE TO FEATURE NEW DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH

Dr. Jerome Greenfield, who has recently been appointed as director of mental health for the Iowa Department of Corrections, has agreed to be our speaker at the meeting of Iowa CURE. The meeting will be on 02/21/2016 at Trinity United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m. With such a high number of incarcerated persons in Iowa prisons having a mental illness we feel this will be a topic of interest to many of our members.

Dr. Greenfield received his medical degree from the University of Iowa Carver college of Medicine and has been practicing in Iowa for 30 years. He is a highly respected psychiatrist and many of his colleagues and patients are very sorry that he will no longer be practicing in the Des Moines area. The Department now has a top notch team hired to treat those in the criminal justice system who suffer from mental illness. For a number of years we have been saying that our prisons have become our mental health institutions and now it may be said that the best mental health treatment available is in our prisons. That is certainly something to think about.

### THE TIMES, AND MANY OTHER THINGS, ARE CHANGING!!

Jerry Bartruff, the new director of the Iowa Department of Corrections must have been doing a lot of thinking about changes he would make in the structure, programs, and staff of the department long before he was appointed to this position early this year. He has made many changes in a very short time. Most of us would probably agree that the majority of these changes are positives. However in some cases, we will reserve judgement until we see how things play out.

**STAFF CHANGES:** Diann Wilder Tomlinson is now Inspector General for the department. Michael Savala remains in the position of General Consul and will be working as the IDOC legislative advocate during the 2016 session. There will no longer be a Deputy Director for the Eastern Region and one for the Western Region. Dan Craig, formerly the Warden at IMCC, is now serving as Director of Prisons and Sally Kreamer, who was the Director of the 5th district CBCS, is now the Deputy Director of the CBCs. In addition, Beth Lenstra, who has worked for the Legislative Services Bureau for many years is now the Deputy Director of Administration. She worked for the Department before being employed by the LSA.

Due to these changes and several retirements there also are changes in the appointments of wardens. Kris Weizell is now the Warden at Fort Dodge Correctional Facility and Sheryl

Dahm is Warden at the Clarinda Correctional Facility. Jay Nelson is Warden Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility and Bill Sperflage is the Warden at ASP. Jim McKinney has been selected as Warden at IMCC.

Members of the Board of Corrections and staff have commented that they feel that there is an improvement in communication and openness. They were pleased to be included in the screening process in the selection of candidates for the open warden positions. Outside organizations, such as, Disability Rights Iowa has commented that the Department has been cooperative in sharing information needed for research. Mr. Bartruff has expressed his intention to work in cooperation with agencies such as: DRI and the Ombudsman's Office.

### OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS ELIMINATED

Concern has been expressed regarding the elimination of several of the programs that have long been seen as the most effective when it comes to helping prisoners turn their lives around, such as, the Victim Impact programs and the STAR program at ICIW. When prisoners have come before the Parole Board have been asked which program they felt had the most impact on helping them to turn their lives around, the answer was almost always, "the victim impact program." These programs were apart of the restorative justice curriculum for a number of years. Many victims took part in these programs and prisoners often commented that they had not considered the damage to their victims until they were involved in these programs. Victims of crime also said that participation in these programs was a healing experience for them.

An opportunity was given for those concerned to speak about the decision to end these programs at the October Board of Correction program. We have learned that the STAR program which has such a remarkable record when it comes to reducing recidivism has also been eliminated. This seems like a self-defeating move when there is such an emphasis on reduction of recidivism at this time.

There seems to be a trend nationwide to do away with in depth programs such as STAR that are offered to a limited number of prisoners, but have very good results, and instead use the same amount of money and put large numbers of prisoners in least intensive programs that require less staff training and time. This move has a name: it is called "Results First" and encourages the use of cognitive behavioral therapy rather than therapeutic communities that focus on "right living." We are deeply concerned about this move away from the recognition of the importance of community in recovery and the emphasis on individual consequences.

The elimination of the STAR program was on the agenda of the Iowa Board of Corrections meeting on January 8, 2016. Apparently the replacement is a program called "Thinking for a Change" which is a new version of a cognitive behavior therapy approach that has been around for many years. It focuses on thinking about your actions and role planning what you would do in difficult situation. A number of IDOC staff are presently being trained to lead classes in "C4T" as it is being called. Apparently a revival of this approach to treatment is sweeping the country, but statistics regarding "success" in reducing recidivism are not yet available. It lacks the foundation of a community of support which is so important in dealing with helping people maintain a healthy lifestyle and doesn't deal with what we have long known about addiction, "it is a chronic disease that is cunning, baffling and powerful." We hope that this new program proves to be as successful as those who are introducing it to Iowa corrections believe it will be.

### **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM NOW IN ALL NINE PRISONS**

There are now registered apprenticeship programs in all nine of our institutions. There are currently 187 people in these programs. Twenty Nine people have completed their apprenticeship programs. Programs are now being offered in 16 areas. The program has collaborations state-wide with many organizations, including community colleges, Iowa Work Force Development, Iowa Prison Industries, the Iowa Board of Parole to mention only a few. They have a data sharing agreement with the Iowa Work Force Development. If they are discharged before completing a program they can finish at a community college. The question was asked whether those who completed the programs and being discharged were actually giving jobs, but there is apparently no data available on that at present.

Work is currently being done on a IDOC Apprenticeship Policy. An apprenticeship Committee is now being organized and will meet quarterly. We hope to have the staff members overseeing the apprenticeship program as speakers at a CURE meeting in the near future.

### **UPDATE ON JUVENILES WHO RECEIVED LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE**

Very slowly those prisoners who received the sentence of life without parole as juveniles and are eligible for re-sentencing as a result of the decisions of the US Supreme Court are being see by the courts. Unfortunately the legislation passed by the 2015 Iowa Legislature contained the option of life without parole as one of the options available to judges in cases which a the judge sees to have been especially egregious. Most are being sentenced to life with the possibility of parole or 25 years to life with the possibility of parole.

As a result those who have been given the possibility of parole are being given a "paper review" by the parole board. This means all their records are reviewed and the parole board members decide whether or not they want a "face to face" interview with the person via the ICN. Their lawyers cannot speak at these reviews without getting special permission from the board. Sister JoAnne Talarico and Jean Basinger.

members of the Iowa CURE Board and its focus group "Iowa Coalition 4 Juvenile Justice," try to attend all of these paper reviews, and the few face to face interviews that have taken place. In a few classes we have been able to attend re-sentencing and Iowa Supreme Court oral arguments regarding sentencing. Iowa CURE Board members Richard Nordin and Sister Joanne Talarico attending the re-sentencing hearing of Rene Zarete and we were so moved by the thank you letter that we received from him that we would like to share it with you.

### **From Rene:**

"Receive the warmest of holiday greetings. The reason behind this short, but deep in appreciation, letter is to inform you that I have been officially re-sentenced to 25 years to life. This new sentence gives me a solidity of hope that I had only dreamed of. I wanted to thank you and, through you, all of the people that make this cause possible. I understand my greatest gesture of appreciation towards all of you can only be shown by my making full use of this opportunity. I plan on doing just that. I will not fail in my attempt to make something better of myself than what my past mistakes have made me to be. The door, the threshold, through which I can truly pass into the land of opportunity, has been opened to me I'm too hungry to love and be loved, I'm too eager to do good and to be of service, I'm too conscious of my past faults and my need to give back so as not to cross this threshold. Thank you kindly! Thank you whole-heartedly. God Bless!

### **JUSTICE REFORM CONSORTIUM HOLDS ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

The Justice Reform Consortium held our annual luncheon on October 22 at Valley United Methodist Church. We are happy to announce that we have two new members: the IA-NE NAACP and Urban Dreams. We now have 19 members. Iowa CURE was one of the founding members back in 2000.

This year's speaker was Betty Andrews, the current president of the IA-NE NAACP. She gave a very inspiring talk which included the history of the NAACP and their current goals. We have been very impressed with the Justice/Disparities Summits which they have sponsored the past 3 years. They resulted in the Governor's appointing a working group to investigate disparities in the system. We should also note that Ms Andrews was recently selected by the "Des Moines Register's" as one of the top 15 leaders to watch.

Dennis Henderson was honored for his work for justice. We recognized him for his many hours of volunteer service in working for changes in legislation related to criminal justice reform. We also recognized his program to encourage young people to stay in school and lead productive lives.

We also recognized several members who have been honored by other organizations for their work in the area of criminal and social justice reform. Anne Bickell received the Mary Louise Smith Human Rights Award from the city of Des Moines for 22 years of commitment to fair housing. In 2002 she received the Humanitarian Award for the DM Assoc. of Realtors. In 2003 she received the Good Neighbor Award for work with low and moderate income buyers, teaching classes on budgeting, and working with local bands to set up classes on savings.

We recognized the Rev. Chet Guinn who recently received the Lee and Mac Ball Award which is the highest national award given by the Methodist Federation for Social Action for his lifelong work for justice and peace through the church, community and beyond. It recognizes the importance of the independent advocate for social change. Chet's activities for peace range from, helping with the Freedom Schools and voter registration in the south to leading the redesign of the new Peace Park in Cowles Commons in downtown Des Moines.

We recognized Jean Basinger who recently received the Louise Noun Award from the Iowa ACLU for her advocacy for prisoners and working to insure their constitutional rights.

Marty Ryan gave us an overview of legislation that may be coming up in the new session. It is always wonderful to note the networking among our member organization that takes place at the annual meeting.

### **THE GRAYING OF OUR PRISONS**

At several recent meetings of the Iowa Board of Corrections Dr. Harbens Deol, Medical Director for the Iowa Department of Corrections, has spoken about the growing number of older prisoners in Iowa prisons. At the January meeting of the board he spoke of how we have referred to the fact that our prisons have become our mental institutions. Speaking of the "graying of our prisons" he wonders if, in the future, our prisons will become our nursing homes. We have many people in our prisons who are serving life and/or very long sentence. We also know that people in prison age more quickly than most people in society, often they have not had good health care before coming to prison for a variety of reasons, many have substance abuse problems and mental health problems and the level of stress is also high.

When older prisoners with health problems are ready to be discharged, it is extremely hard to find places for them to live. He mentioned making hundreds of calls to try to find somewhere that will take them. Some have dementia and may also have other chronic health problems.

He also pointed out that, if we tour the new prison we can see that they were built for young people. They have many steps and it is necessary to walk long distances to get from place to place, often outside. Someone suggested that maybe we will need to build a prison especially for older people. These factors put a heavy strain on the IDOC budget because older adults may require expensive medications and medical care for chronic medical problems.

Some of the older prisoners may remember Bill Kelly who spent 49 years and 2 months in the Iowa prison system. He had a life sentence which was commuted by Governor Hughes. He came out and tried to make a go of it, but felt overwhelmed and begged his parole officer to put him back in prison. When his parole officer told him he couldn't do that because he hadn't violated his parole. Bill took out a knife and cut the officer. Then he asked, "Now can I go back?"

The time came when he was ready to discharge his sentence and the Director of the IDOC contacted the Rev. Robert Cook, who operated Hansen House, and asked Bob if he would let

Bill live at Hansen House. Robert agreed and Bill got along fine. He had a part-time job and made the coffee and monitored the kitchen at HH. He was suspicious of most people, but he did make friends with Bill Basinger who sometimes dropped by to see him. He liked to say that Bill was the age his own son Bill would have been.

The time came when Bill couldn't take care of himself and Bill Basinger found him a place in a local nursing home and then became his guardian when he had to go to Broadlawns Hospital. With the assistance of a very special social worker, Jill Sorensen, decisions were made regarding Bill's care and then his funeral. He gave his body to the Des Moines Orthopedic Medical College. He had a fear of being buried in the cemetery behind the penitentiary. Perhaps what we need to help with these "greying" prisoners is more people like Bill Basinger.

### **The GRANT MANAGER FOR STATE RECIDIVISM REDUCTION GRANT SPEAKS TO IOWA CURE**

Dr. Beth Skinner, the Grant Manager for the Second Chance State Recidivism Reduction Grant spoke to a record turnout of about 50 CURE members and guests at their program meeting on November 8 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Iowa was selected to be one of the states to receive a \$3 million dollar grant with a goal of reducing recidivism state-wide. Dr. Skinner worked in community based corrections in Iowa for 10 years before moving to Washington D.C. where she worked on the national level for the Council of State Governments Justice Center as National Reentry Resource Director. Katrina Carter from the IDOC who has many years experience in working with treatment programs for offenders also participated

The goal is to deduct the recidivism rates of adult offenders. A number of agencies will be involved and the Offender Reentry Task Force will serve as the steering committee. Dr. Skinner has hired two people to work on quality assurance for the project.

The program must be designed so that it will be able to continue on after the grant expires.

Iowa CURE members shared their own experiences with re-entry with Dr. Skinner and those in attendance. Randy Ball, whose life sentence was commuted after over 30 years in prison said that most of the help he received in reintegrating back into society came from friends who had been supportive during his years in prison. He was able to get a job due to contacts he made himself, John Romeo spent a number of years in prison and has become an "Offender Work Force Development Specialist and is eager to assist others make their adjustment back into society. Everyone wanted to be sure that those designing the Statewide Recidivism Reduction program design it so it will deal with issues of housing, LiVING WAGE Jobs, transportation, and medical services. We are anxious to have incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons involved in the planning process and as mentors in the programs that are developed.

### **GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP ON JUSTICE POLICY REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS\***

The Governor announced the the formation of his Working Group on Justice Policy Reforms at the Iowa Summit on

Justice and Disparities which was hosted by the IOWA-NEBRASKA NAACP held in Ankeny in August. The purpose of the group was to do research and make recommendations related to reforms in Iowa criminal justice practices. The members of the group represented a number of government agencies and organizations, with the exception of Betty Andrews, President of the IA-Nebraska NAACP. The group met several times and heard testimony and received written testimony, as well. They also met in small groups.(Iowa CURE submitted written testimony on the need to bring telephone charges into compliance with the FCC rulings.) Their final report was released on November 12 and will be sent to members of the legislature for consideration.

They made recommendations regarding drug courts, and mental health courts. They recommend that statewide funding should be provided for drug and mental health courts. At least one drug court should be provided in each district and should be properly funded. Minorities should be encouraged to voluntarily participate in drug and mental health courts.

Regarding the diversity of jury pools, the recommendations focus on strategies that will produce a fair cross section of the community for jury pools. Collect and maintain statistics regarding the racial composition of jury pools, and study the ways to improve response rates to jury summonses and evaluate juror terms of service.

Regarding Juvenile Delinquency they recommending the presumption that juvenile delinquency records should remain confidential unless a judge specifically finds it in the best interest of the child and the public to make the records publicly available, provide the court with discretion to subsequently make the records public in the juvenile later re-offends.

Regarding prison and jail calls the Director of Corrections was asked to renegotiate contracts with the ICN and seek bids from other vendors with the goal of reducing rates paid by prison inmates and their families. Transition to a per minute calculation for call costs rather than a flat fee and enable and encourage COUNTIES to partner with one another or the Department of Corrections to negotiate more favorable rates with phone vendors.

It is our understanding that the cost of inmate phone calls will be reduced to 11 cents per minute as on March 1st. This is in compliance with the ruling by the FCC. It is somewhat ironic that voting rights for felons was not on the list of the items to be considered by the Working Group in spite of the fact that it was brought up as a disparity that must be addressed several times during the Summit.

\* This is a summary of the recommendations.

## **GOVERNOR CREATES WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS DIVISION**

We are happy to report that Gov. Branstad is creating a Wrongful Convictions Division in partnership with the National Innocence Project. This office will focus on convictions reached between the 1980s and early 1990s in which hair sample analyses played a role. According to the "Mason City Gazette" the FBI has admitted that its agents gave flawed testimony regarding hair analysis over two decades. Roughly

100 cases will be examined. The attorney hired to work in Iowa's new office has freed seven wrongfully convicted people. She'll get help from the Innocence Project of Iowa, a separate and local nonprofit group of attorneys. The Governor is to be commended for taking this step.

## **180 DEGREES, HOSPITALITY HOUSE FOR VETERANS**

There were several errors in the information about the hospitality house, 180 Degrees which appeared in the last newsletter and we wanted to be sure to get those corrections to you.

1. 100% of residents are veterans. The house is funded through the VA so residents do have to vets. They do have to be vets of some type, but they don't have to have received an honorable discharge.
2. Residents have to pay 10% of their income for room and board. The VA requires that they charge between 10 and 30% and 180 has chosen 10%. They are not charged rent if they have no income.
3. Sobriety issues are dealt with on a case by case basis.

## **IOWA CURE BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CURE BOARD MEETING**

Carla Dawson and Jean Basinger, members of the board of Iowa CURE, attended the board meeting of International Cure in Washington, D.C. from October 3 to 5, 2015. The board spent a major block of time focusing on the future of CURE. Although our leadership at the national level has not announced that they plan to retire anytime soon, it is vital that we plan for the future of our work and those who will carry it own. We had a lively discussion regarding what is vital to our work. We feel that it is important to seek input from our state chapter members regarding what is vital and also to consider what is it that the state chapter does that all of you feel is important and should consider considering.

### **What things on this list do you feel are important:**

Maintaining a national presence in Washington D.C.

Remaining true to the grassroots

Maintaining significant volunteer involvement

Providing advocacy and empowerment, but no services

Working with the legislature

Avoiding being a single issue organization

Maintaining an international component

Exploring the use of webinars; Use of social media

Membership meetings with speakers at the local level

Contact via e-mail

What are you willing to do to keep the organization alive?

## **APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM NOW IN ALL NINE PRISONS**

There are now registered apprenticeship programs in all nine of our institutions. There are currently 187 people in these programs. Twenty Nine people have completed their apprenticeship programs. Programs are now being offered in 16 areas. The program has collaborations state-wide with many organizations, including community colleges, Iowa Work Force Development, Iowa Prison Industries, the Iowa Board of Parole to mention only a few. They have a data sharing agreement with the Iowa Work Force Development. If they are

discharged before completing a program they can finish at a community college. The question was asked whether those completed the programs and being discharged were actually giving jobs, but there is apparently no data available on that at present. Work is currently being done on a IDOC Apprenticeship Policy. An Apprenticeship Committee is now being organized and will meet quarterly. We hope to have the staff members overseeing the apprenticeship program as speakers at a CURE meeting in the near future.

### **IOWA CURE REPORT 2014 AND 2015**

The Iowa Chapter of CURE had the following program meetings in 2014 and 2015:

**January 25, 2014:** Focus on juveniles who have received life without parole and other excessive prison sentences.

Speakers were Attorney Gordon Allen, former Iowa Assistant Attorney General and Marty Ryan, Lobbyist for the Justice Reform Consortium.

**April 27, 2014:** Focus on racism and the war on drugs and our need to rethink our drug policy and the resulting over-representation of African-Americans in our Iowa prison system.

**Oct. 26, 2014:** Annual meeting and focus on the cost of inmate phone calls and recommendations of the FCC. Presenter was Angela McBride, staff person from the Iowa Office of the Ombudsman. Gordon Allen also gave an update on the latest rulings of the courts regarding mandatory sentencing of juveniles and re-sentencing of juveniles who have received LWOP. Marty Ryan gave an overview of the 2014 legislative session and an overview of the upcoming 2015 sessions.

**January 2015:** A meeting of the board of Iowa CURE meeting was held at Trinity UMC due to the number of new members joining the board and the need for some in-depth planning.

**May 2, 2015:** The Justice Reform Consortium (includes Iowa CURE) co-sponsored state-wide action conference on Mass Incarceration which was held in Cedar Falls Iowa. Many CURE members attended.

**August 23, 2015:** Meeting with Jerry Bartruff, Director of Corrections for the state of Iowa. Focus was on Director Bartruff's vision for the department and how we can work together.

**November 8, 2015:** Meeting with Dr. Beth Skinner, Grant Co-ordinator for the 3 million dollar grant which Iowa has received to focus on the goal of reducing recidivism state-wide. Persons who have had experience with re-entry and recidivism will be invited to share.

We are happy to report that the cost of phone calls for the incarcerated have been significantly reduced and we are hoping that we will soon be at a point where the charges will be per minute as recommended by the FCC.

Members of the Iowa CURE Board try to attend all the meetings of the Department of Corrections and to speak to the board about concerns. We also continue to work with numerous organizations on criminal justice reform. During the past two legislative sessions we have worked on legislation under the guidance of the Justice Reform Consortium.

The re-sentencing of juveniles who received Life Without Parole has been a major focus as has the shackling of

pregnant prisoners during the last weeks of their pregnancy and during labor and delivery.

Iowa CURE responds to numerous letters from prisoners and phone calls from family members and friends of the incarcerated.

### **EXTENDING OUR SYMPATHY TO FRIENDS AND MEMBERS**

We want to extend our deepest sympathy to several of our members who have lost loved ones recently.

- To Misty Hansen Connor, founder of Voices to be Heard and member of Iowa CURE and her children on the untimely death of her husband Tacona Connor.
- To Peggy Aguilar on the recent death of her father
- To Dr. Ted Solmon on the death of his wife Marian, Iowa CURE member and long time and crusader for peace with justice.
- To Stephanie Fawles Lee, member of Iowa CURE and contract worker for the Justice Reform Consortium at the time of the death of her sister
- Lois Crilly, editor of the CURE newsletter in the recent loss of two of her brothers.

### **PROBLEMS REGARDING VISITING IN IOWA PRISONS**

IDOC Director Jerry Bartruff has stated that he recognizes the importance of support for keeping connections between the families and friends of those in prison and the incarcerated. In light of this he is seeking comments regarding any problems that those of us who want to visit those in prison encounter when trying to keep those connections. He has asked Jean Basinger and Misty Hansen Conner to collect comments from families and friends of prisoners regarding their experiences with seeking to visit and visiting, that can be shared with the director. This should include problems being approved for visitation, experiences when arriving at the prison and while visiting. We do understand that security and safety for staff, the incarcerated, and visitors has to be a priority. You can send your comments to Jean at Iowa CURE, P.O. Box 41005, Des Moines, Iowa 50311 or to Misty at Voices to be Heard at Child and Family Policy Center, 505 5th Ave., Suite 404, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309.

### **HIGH RISK ORIENTATION PROGRAM\***

The Iowa Department of Corrections has a vision of becoming a premier program in addressing the needs of high risk prisoners. According to the DOC the incarcerated persons selected for this program will participate in structured programming that challenges them to look at the harm they have caused themselves and others in an effort to bring them to a point where they are ready to make positive change. This is a 12 week course and consists of 3 segments: corrective thinking, anger management, and problem solving.

The High Risk Orientation Class (HIROC) was developed and implemented at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility as it was noted that there was a direct correlation of men who committed rule violations and those who scored high on risk for victimization or violence on the Iowa Board Parole Risk Assessment. Upon arrival men are classified based on high risk for violence, high risk for future victimization, prior institutional adjustment and Security Threat Group involvement. Men can be classified into the HiROC program due to classification review. They are reviewed after one month in the program by the classification team composed of unit managers, the HiROC counselor and input from other staff.

They have access to a unit psychologist, special needs gym, individualized treatment options and all options available to offenders in general population. According to the IDOC, 72% of the men in this program have some type of mental health diagnosis and 35% have a diagnosis identified as a serious mental health issue. There are mentors who work with the participants and there are special incentives such as; pizza and extra gym time.

\*Information courtesy of Iowa Department of Corrections

### **GOVERNOR USES SELECTIVE HEARING REGARDING MINORITY DISENFRANCHISEMENT**

We applaud the Governor's appointment of the Working Group on Criminal Justice Reform and the recommendations that have resulted. There was one issue that was brought to the Governor's attention several times at the recent Summit on Justice and Disparities hosted by the NAACP that was overlooked by the Governor when he gave the Working Group their assignment to examine disparities. That is the issue of voting rights for felons. Most of us will recall that Governor Vilsack issued an executive order restoring voting rights to felons and Governor Branstad, upon being installed into office immediately eliminated that order. He could just as easily restore that order which disenfranchises so many African-Americans. All it would take would be a swipe of this pen.

### **BUDGET CONCERNS AT IOWA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR WOMEN**

It seems like only yesterday that we were touring the new additions and reconstruction at the Iowa Correctional Facility for Women. We expected that it would be a model for women's prisons throughout the country. What we didn't anticipate was that the Iowa Legislature and the Governor would not keep their promise to provide the necessary funding to staff and run the prison as was planned. Now the Warden is faced with finding places where she can cut costs in order to stay within the budget. This means shutting down entire housing units because she can't hire enough staff for even minimal coverage. There have been women living in the open areas called "bays" for many months which has meant no privacy for the women and difficulty in supervision by staff. This week over one hundred women will move to the minimum outs building so there won't have to be women in the bay, but bunk beds will be moved into rooms so that they

can house 3 women. The Warden is trying her best not to cut staff.

The Warden is going to invite legislators to come to ICIW to tour the facility soon and we hope that many of them will accept that invitation. Please contact your legislator and urge them to accept the Warden's invitation. If your legislator is a woman urge her to contact other women legislators and share concerns about this situation. We remember in the past when a group of women legislators would go periodically to ICIW and meet with incarcerated women to talk about their concerns. Of course, we would also like to encourage men to take an interest, especially those of the Justice Appropriations Committee.

You can call your representative by calling the House Phone at [515-281-3221](tel:515-281-3221) or [515-281-3371](tel:515-281-3371) to reach the Senate. You can leave a message or ask to be connected. If you don't know who your legislators are go to the webpage for the Iowa General Assembly, click on "legislators" and then click on "find your legislator."

As tax payers and persons concerned for people incarcerated in our prisons we need to see that the criminal justice system is funded so that it can function effectively.

### **THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CURE**

Iowa CURE is a 501(c)3 organization and your gifts are tax deductible. When you send in your membership to Iowa CURE we will send your name to the National organization and you will receive their newsletter.

We are not qualified to send or receive "Legal Mail."

We do not offer services such as legal services and re-entry services.

We are not setup to accept phone calls from jails and prisons.

We can accept calls from family members and friends. Please send us your concerns in writing.

We will respond if at all possible. Do not send us copies of letters that are part of a mass mailing.

Do not send us copies of your legal papers or your only copies of court documents or disciplinary reports as we cannot send them back.

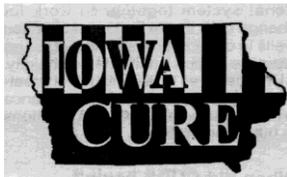
We cannot represent you in challenging your disciplinary reports.

Please file grievances and, if not, successful, file a report with the Ombudsman's Office.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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| <p><b>IOWA CURE</b><br/>         Jean Basinger, Chair/Newletter Editor<br/>         P. O. Box 41005<br/>         Des Moines, IA 50311<br/>         Phone: 515-277-6296<br/> <a href="mailto:jabwab@msn.com">jabwab@msn.com</a>; <a href="http://www.iowacure.org">www.iowacure.org</a><br/>         Board Members: Anne Bickell, Peggy Aguilar, Eddie Bloomer, Jackie Robinson, Carla Dawson, Diane Crane, Carolyn Uhlehake, Heidi Anfinson, Brian Carter, Mary Kay Dial, Richard Nordin, Larry Smith, Sr. Joanne Talarico</p> | <p><b>Voices To Be Heard / Des Moines CURE</b><br/>         Support group for persons who have a love one in prison, parole or probation and those concerned about people in the criminal justice system. Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues – Wesley UMC.<br/>         Support group for adults and special program for children from 6 to 7:30 p.m.<br/>         Contacts: Jean Basinger 515-277-6296 or <a href="mailto:jeanbasinger@gmail.com">jeanbasinger@gmail.com</a>, Melissa Nelson 515-280-9027<br/> <b>Cedar Rapids CURE</b> - Sue Hutchins<br/> <a href="mailto:voices.heard@yahoo.com">voices.heard@yahoo.com</a></p> |
| <p><b>Henry County CURE</b><br/>         Susie Snyder<br/> <a href="mailto:skizer@iowatelecom.net">skizer@iowatelecom.net</a></p>  | <p><b>Life Long CURE</b><br/>         Willis Harris<br/>         665 Willis St, Ste. B-1<br/>         Detroit, MI 48201, phone: <a href="tel:313-442-3929">313-442-3929</a><br/>         Self-stamped, self-addressed envelope for brochure<br/> <a href="mailto:everyonesmom4@comcast.net">everyonesmom4@comcast.net</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Federal CURE</b><br/>         P. O. Box 15667<br/>         Plantation, FL 33318-5657<br/> <a href="mailto:FedCure@FedCURE.org">FedCure@FedCURE.org</a></p>   | <p><b>CURE International</b><br/>         Charlie and Pauline Sullivan<br/>         P. O. Box 2310<br/>         Washington, D. C. 20013<br/> <a href="mailto:cure@curenational.org">cure@curenational.org</a></p>   |
| <p><b>CURE for Vets</b><br/>         535 Queen St<br/>         Philadelphia, PA 19147<br/> <a href="mailto:Jcautilli2003@yahoo.com">Jcautilli2003@yahoo.com</a><br/> <a href="http://www.vets-cure.com">www.vets-cure.com</a></p>  | <p><b>Iowa Coalition 4 Juvenile Justice</b><br/>         (now a focus group for Iowa CURE)<br/>         Website: <a href="http://ia4juvenilejustice.org">ia4juvenilejustice.org</a><br/>         Sr. JoAnn Talarico, Facilitator<br/>         P. O. Box 41005<br/>         Des Moines, IA 50311</p>   |
| <p><b>Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners</b><br/>         Website: <a href="http://friendsofiowawomenprisoners.org">friendsofiowawomenprisoners.org</a><br/>         Facilitator: Vi Darsee<br/> <a href="mailto:vdarsee@g.com">vdarsee@g.com</a><br/>         Phone: 515-225-8349<br/>         Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of each month at noon at Wesley UMC<br/>         800 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St, Des Moines, IA<br/> <a href="http://www.iowacure.org">www.iowacure.org</a></p>  | <p><b>Justice Reform Consortium</b><br/>         Marty Ryan and Stephanie Fawkes-Lee, Legislative Advocates<br/> <a href="mailto:mrtyrn@gmail.com">mrtyrn@gmail.com</a><br/>         Legislative update sent out every 2 weeks during session<br/>         Contact Marty to receive it. Phone: 515-681-8076</p>   |
| <p><b>Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans Program</b><br/>         Brian Brooks: VA Medical Center, 3600 30<sup>th</sup> St,<br/>         Des Moines, IA 50310, 515-577-8068<br/> <a href="mailto:Brian.brooks@va.com">Brian.brooks@va.com</a>; website: <a href="http://i.va.gov/homelesspage.cfm?pg_38">i.va.gov/homelesspage.cfm?pg_38</a>.<br/>         Eligible: Those who are currently incarcerated by the DOC-Fort Des Moines and prisons (not in jail or released from prison)</p>                                      | <p><b>CURE Sort – Sex Offenders Restored Through Treatment</b><br/>         P. O. Box 761<br/>         Milwaukee, WI 53201-0761<br/> <a href="mailto:wbowers8@cox.net">wbowers8@cox.net</a></p>   |
| <p><b>Help for Veterans</b><br/>         Will visit incarcerated veterans in need in central Iowa<br/>         Jennifer Miner, 515-577-8892 or 699-5999 ext. 4875<br/> <a href="mailto:Jennifer.miner@va.gov">Jennifer.miner@va.gov</a><br/>         Covers eastern Iowa: Sherri Koob, Veterans Justice Outreach, cell: 563-320-9887; <a href="mailto:sherri.koob@va.gov">sherri.koob@va.gov</a></p>   | <p><b>A note about Iowa CURE:</b> We are an organization with members in and out of the prison system. We cannot offer legal services or accept phone calls from prisoners. Letters will be answered to the best of our ability. Do not send us your legal documents. In joining CURE, you are <b>NOT</b> entering into a contract for services</p>   |

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



**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**  
**2016 DUES NOTICE**

*Please remember to pay your 2016 Iowa CURE dues*

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**  
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**50311**

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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.**