



IOWA CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

An Effort to Reduce Crime Through Criminal Justice Reform - Winter 2018

RESIGNATION LETTER

June 19, 2018

Members of the Steering Committee,
Justice Reform Consortium.
P.O. Box 41005
Des Moines, IA 50311

Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe that it was 18 years ago that Carlos Jayne came to me with the idea of starting a Consortium of organizations which would focus on working toward reforming the criminal justice system in Iowa from one based on retributive justice to one based on restorative justice. He had just retired from his work as legislative advocate for the United Methodist Church and thought he would like to continue to work focusing on just the one issue. I didn't make a commitment, but he didn't give up and I finally gave up and we began organizing. Dick Woodward gave a lot of financial support. I was able to help also and we ask several organizations to join. Originally we were a part of the work of Criminal Justice Ministries. Then they decided to limit their work to providing housing to men coming out of prison and Trinity UMC took us in as a part of their justice work. Our list of organizations grew to 17.

Carlos decided to retire and we thought we should fold our tent, but then Marty and Stephanie agreed to accept our meager salary and we were able to continue. Now they feel it is time to retire and my health is making it impossible for me to drive and get to the places I need to be to be a leader so I feel I too, must retire. We need to make a decision regarding the future. I am sure we have made an impact on the criminal justice system in Iowa far beyond what we will ever know in spite of our limited resources. Our name is certainly known far and wide.

Thanks to each of you for your faithful support and service.
Peace,
Jean Basinger
Chair, Steering Committee JRC

LETTERS. WE GET LETTERS!

Iowa CURE receives many letters from the incarcerated. For many years Jean Basinger has been answering the majority of these letters. The Board has decided that we need a system to divide this responsibility among our board members. Each prison has been assigned to a board member. When a letter arrives Richard Nordin will send it on to the person assigned to the prison where the sender is living.

All letters should be sent to the Iowa CURE address: P.O. Box 41005, Des Moines, IA 50311. Remember that we cannot give

legal advice or offer services. We are an organization that advocates for criminal justice reform and the rights of the incarcerated and their families.

Anyone who receives the Iowa CURE newsletter needs to inform us if they move and have a new address. We now send notices of meetings out by e-mail and snail mail. If you have not heard from us recently, please check and make sure you have paid your membership dues.

SHUTDOWN OF JUSTICE REFORM CONSORTIUM

First of all thank you for being a part of the Justice Reform Consortium for all these years. The JRC was founded in 2000 by the Rev. Carlos Jayne and Jean Basinger. The original members were: Criminal Justice Ministries, Iowa CURE, Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners, and Restorative Justice Advocacy, Inc. Over the years we grew to have 18 member organizations. When Carlos retired we doubted we could find a way to continue and went through the process of shutting down. Then we learned that Marty Ryan and Stephanie Faxes Lee were available to be our legislative advocates and so they were hired, and we continued on until this year when Marty and Jean both retired.

In a letter to the membership organizations Marty stated: "We have accomplished many things together but the time has come to let someone else lead in the areas of criminal justice, restorative justice, and keeping divisive legislation from passing the Iowa General Assembly. The JRC website has been shut down. The information on the website has been printed or saved to digital storage. The organizational records, including, but not limited to: Website materials, legislative documents, emails, photos, etc. are going to be stored at Drake University's Cowles. These records will now live on as resource for future efforts on the issues that we all came together to work towards. If you or your organization has any records related to the work of the Justice Reform Consortium, please contact Marty Ryan. 515-681-8076 or mrtyryn@gmail.com. Records may be paper or digital. If you don't have the means to copy records, let us know and we will provide services or assistance.

Thank you again for your support and efforts. All good things must come to an end and we are confident that other organizations with greater resources will continue to fight on."

We would be amiss if we did not also acknowledge the faithful support of Dick Woodward over the years. We couldn't have continued our work without his support. If you have questions please contact Marty or Jean Basinger (jabwab@msn.com).

BASIC ESSENTIALS: DOING TIME CONSTRUCTIVELY

by Deon Harris

I, Sue Hutchins of CURE of Iowa, have had the privilege of getting to know Mr. Harris over the last few months and find him to be a man of integrity and determination. His book, **Basic Essentials: Doing Time Constructively**, was written to assist inmates who want to be successful in a positive way while incarcerated as well as when they re-enter society. After serving 16 years in Federal Prison, his first hand, practical and effective suggestions are intended to motivate and sustain success in life. His book addresses the mental, emotional and spiritual needs of those involved in the criminal justice system in a very open, honest and humble manner.

Mr. Harris will be a guest speaker at the January 27th CURE meeting in Des Moines. His story of how he made a 180 degree change in his thinking and his behavior is inspiring as well as informative. Reading his book and/or hearing him speak will be well worth your time. His \$10.00 book will be available after his presentation and is also available on Amazon.

RETURNING CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE VOTING RIGHTS RESTORED

At its annual meeting on November 11, Iowa CURE members voted to join the campaign to restore the voting rights who have completed their sentences. They will be working with the ACLU of Iowa, the Iowa League of Women Voters and the Public Safety Advisory Board. Iowa and KY are the only states that don't automatically return voting rights to returning citizens. Please contact your legislators and let them know that you support this campaign and want them to work to pass legislation to make this happen. These folks pay taxes and making it so difficult to get their rights restored amounts to taxation without representation. If we expect folks to make a positive contribution to society, we need to show them that we recognize them as citizens.

As we know, the governor has indicated that she too, wants to move ahead on this important issue. Let her know you support her efforts.

For information regarding who your legislators are and how to contact the governor, please go to the "Iowa General Assembly" website.

IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES : Rural Housing Initiative

Dan Clark, Director of Iowa Prison Industries presented a very interesting report regarding IPI with a special emphasis on the proposed Rural Housing Initiative. Modeled after a program in South Dakota called, "Governor's House. The idea is to create 2 and 3 bedroom stick houses on property next to the Newton Correctional Facility and Newton Release Center. They will use the men incarcerated in those facilities who are involved in the apprenticeship programs to do the labor while learning valuable skills that will prepare them for good paying jobs when

they return to society. Individuals or cities will reach out to the Council on Governments to arrange for sales.

House are built on pilons so they can be trucked to the destination in one piece. Utilities and either slab or basements are completed by a local crew. The Council will help to oversee completion and may help with payment assistance programs. Why is the Council on Governments involved? Because they have a state-wide presence and can address regional issues. They already work on housing and rehabilitation issues. They also have working relationships with their member counties and cities to identify housing needs.

Benefits of this program are as follows: provide affordable housing for a around \$100,000 to \$120,000, lower recidivism rates in Iowa, a pipeline of apprenticed workers who will fill needs in the community when they are released.

What can we do? Contact your legislation and let them know that you support this program and urge the legislators to approve funding. We understand that the budget is \$2 Million dollars (one-time funding for start-up investments.) The governor has pledged \$1 Million.

We understand that Iowa Senator Mark Lofgren (mark.lofgren@legis.iowa.gov.) is very supportive of this project. Let's write to him and let him know of our support for this very creative, multipurpose project.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF IOWA CURE

The annual meeting of Iowa CURE was held on Nov. 11, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Los Americas UMC in Des Moines. There was a good number of people in attendance with people coming from as far away as Lamoni and Iowa City. Many came expecting that IDOC Director Jerry Bartruff would be there to respond to our prepared questions. He was not there and did not send the answers via e-mail as promised.

We were happy to have Dan Clark, Director of Iowa Prison Industries as our guest speaker. He talked about IPI with an indepth report of the Rural Housing Initiative.

The minutes of the 2017 Annual meeting were approved.

Richard Nordin, Treasurer, reported that as of October 31 we have a balance of \$3,861.40. We were able to send Carla Dawson to the International CURE meeting and we supported the Jeanne Bishop event in October. Money contributed for those events from gifts exceeded expenses.

The report of the nominating committee was given by Carolyn Uhlenhake Walker. All the persons whose terms expire at the end of 2018 were contacted and expressed the desire to serve for another 3 year term, with the exception of Jean Basinger who will go off the board.

Those continuing to serve are: Larry Smith, Richard Nordin, Carla Dawson, Peggy Aguilar, and Brian Carter. unanimous ballot was approved. Jean Basinger agreed to be available for consultation when needed.

Those present agreed that Iowa CURE should join the campaign to restore voting rights to returning citizens and also a campaign to work for the release of lifers which will be launched Dec. 4 and will be built around a new book "The Meaning of Life". This campaign is being organized by the Sentencing Project.

A meeting of the Iowa CURE board was held and the following officers were elected: President, Carla Dawson, Vice presidents: Sue Hutchins and Wendy Wittrock, Membership Secretary: Jackie Robinson, Treasurer and Clerk: Richard Nordin, Recording Secretary: Mary Kay Dial.

The next Iowa CURE meeting will be January 27th. We will ask Brian Carter to give us a legislative update. Deon Harris, author of a new book, "Basic Essentials: Doing Time Constructively" will be our main speaker.

INTERNATIONAL CURE MEETING IN RWANDA

I am writing to tell you of my wonderful trip I was blessed to go on in May. I was the representative for Iowa CURE, to the 8th International CURE Conference on Human Rights and Prison Reform, in Kigali, Rwanda. It was such a life changing conference, that I feel like I need to share some of the highlights.

Rwanda was chosen, because a member of the 7th International Conference that was held in Costa Rica had a vision to show us how far his country had come from the brink of disaster to the transformative country it is today.

This was my first, 20 plus hour international flight to another continent. When the plane was landing in Kigali, I was so overwhelmed with emotions that I cried. I could not believe that I was in the land of my ancestors. The lady next to me who was Rwandan, patted my shoulder, and said "sister you are home", which only made me cry harder.

The first day in Rwanda was spent traveling around and sight seeing, we had arrived a day early so we would be all set when we had our first official meetings. The next day we were welcomed by a dinner, dancing, and introductions to start off the conference. It was so powerful to see the joy, and hope on all of the people faces from all over the world.

The next day we had our first panel of people from Rwanda, they told us about the Genocide that their country had been through and how they had worked with the Gacaca, (grass courts) to identify and hold accountable the people who were perpetrators in the genocide. We had round table discussions on what Reconciliation can and should look like. Then we went on our first Genocide Memorial visit.

The Kigali Memorial Centre is the largest memorial to Genocide victims. A tour guide, who asked out of respect that we not take pictures, welcomed us. At the Memorial we learned the history of Rwanda, and all of the things that led up to the Genocide. The Memorials were the hardest parts of the

trip. It put you into places, where there was no escaping what had happened. When I saw pictures of little children who had been killed, it tore my heart into little pieces. Rwanda has a slogan, kwibuka²⁴, remember-unite-renew. This is something you saw all over Rwanda, it is a statement that looks to the future, but does not forget the past.

We also visited the NYAMATA GENOCIDE MEMORIAL. The Nyamata was a former church before the genocide, now it is a memorial to what happened in a church when people fled from the violence, and found no sanctuary in the church. There were skulls of the dead, remnants of clothing, and a tiny pair of sandals that belong to a baby.

We also visited a prison. We were greeted by the head officials of the prison, and given a program of our tour. I have never seen so many prisoner, housed in a big football field, and to know that they did not have access to many things we take for granted in the US prison system, was shocking. To see thousands of men who looked like my father, was gut wrenching. The vast difference in how international prisoners were treated was astounding. International prisoners were treated like they were on a vacation, and not prisoners.

The highlight of the trip was our visit to a Reconciling Village. This is the place where truth and reconciliation and not just words but life. We meet people who were victims of genocide, living right next door to people who were perpetrators of genocide. We heard story from both. We saw with our own eyes the power of truth and reconciliation. We were given the opportunity to buy items that were made by women who have been the most effected by the genocide, who work together to make a better future for their children.

We wrapped up our trip with resolutions to the United Nations on what we would like them to consider on prison reform, and how we believe that without Truth and Reconciliation there is no prison reform.

I was truly blessed to go to Rwanda, and be a part of the 8th International CURE Conference. I do not take lightly how changed this experience has made me. I believe that the whole world needs to look at how we treat the least of us. We need to focus on Truth and Reconciliation in everything we do. I believe that is the only way we are going to continue to live in this world. Without Truth, there can be no Reconciliation.

Peace,
Carla A. Dawson
Iowa CURE President, elect 2019

INMATE TELEPHONE REBATE EXPENDITURE 2019

The Iowa Board of Corrections approved the following expenditures for FY 2019:

- Education (HISSET, Literacy, Special Needs, Life Skills, Apprenticeship Programs and Vocational Training: \$458,119
- Telephone Administration: \$72,293
- Translation: \$1000

Total: \$531,712

We do not know how much is allocated for each item under education. We also don't know the total revenue and expenditures for the inmate phone system.

We have had concerns expressed by families and friends of those who use the inmate phone system at ASP. The reports are that there are not enough phones. We have been told that there are not enough cables to the units, and that the phones are constantly broken. We are told that those who work in the industries can only make calls in the late afternoon or evening. Wait time to make a call can be up to one hour. During the day the tier one and two prisoners are unable to make calls due to the constricted time they have out of their cells and the wait lines. We understand that inmate counsel offered to purchase more phones and the request was rejected. Shouldn't the revenue generated by the phone system be available to purchase more phones and keep the current phones in repair, if it is true that contact with families and lawyers is important to reduce recidivism?

JEANNE BISHOP EVENTS IN IOWA

Jeanne Bishop, author of the book, "Change of Heart" made several appearances in Iowa at the invitation of the Iowa Coalition 4 Juvenile Justice, a focus group of Iowa CURE and in the Cedar Rapids area. She was the guest speaker at Beaverdale Books and was interviewed on Iowa Public Radio's "River to River". The main event in Des Moines was attended by about 65 people including 10 or 11 victims. She spoke of her long journey to forgiving the young man who killed her pregnant sister and brother-in-law. There were about 100 people in attendance at the event in the Cedar Rapids area and Carla Dawson also gave a moving presentation on her experience in Rwanda at the international conference of CURE. We feel very fortunate to have been able to have Ms. Bishop come to Iowa to share her experiences.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next meeting of Iowa CURE will be January 27 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Los Americas. As the new legislative session will have recently started, we will have a report of possible legislation that will be considered. Rumors are that there will once again be an attempt to pass the death penalty.

Deon Harris, who spent 16 years in federal prison will be our guest speaker. He has written a book, "Basic Essentials; Doing Time Constructively".

IOWA JUSTICE ACTION NETWORK LOBBY DAY

IJAN will have their annual LOBBY DAY at the state capitol on Thursday, February 7, 2019 starting at 11:00 a.m. For more details contact Allen Hays: allen.hays@uni.edu or call 319-8406.

LIFE WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE

Is it time to take a new look at the sentencing of people to life without the possibility of parole? In the past few years thanks to the action of the courts, we have begun re-

sentencing of juveniles who received a life sentence without parole to "life with the possibility of parole. This means they have an annual review. Due to the decision of the Iowa Supreme Court. The Parole Board is charged with special criteria for those in this group. The focus is less focused on the original crime and more focused on the behavior of the person during the years they have been in prison, the efforts they have made to rehabilitate themselves and whether they have engaged in violent behavior during their years in prison. The Parole Board has to decide when it or if it is safe to return these folks to society.

I try to attend these annual reviews and interviews of those persons and recently I have been asking myself why we limit this approach to those under 18. Surely there are many people who were older than 18 at the time of their crime who have made a meaningful effort to rehabilitate themselves, have used their time creatively and would be at low risk to commit another crime.

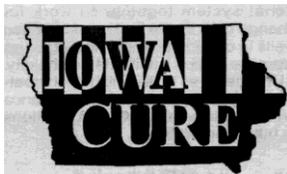
Is it time to take a look at the sentence of life without parole and instead consider lifers and long termers for the possibility of parole? Statistics show that these folks are among the least likely to commit new crimes. With a sentence of "life with the possibility of parole there is NO guarantee that the person will ever be released, but it does leave the person with hope for returning to the free world. Life without parole is retributive, while Life with the possibility of parole is restorative.

Watch for developments in the project to address this issue as part of the new campaign by the Sentencing Project.

CONTACT INFORMATION

<p>IOWA CURE Jean Basinger, Chair/Newletter Editor P. O. Box 41005 Des Moines, IA 50311 Phone: 515-277-6296 jabwab@msn.com; www.iowacure.org</p> <p>Board Members: Anne Bickell, Peggy Aguilar, Eddie Bloomer, Jackie Robinson, Carla Dawson, Diane Crane, Carolyn Uhlehake, Brian Carter, Mary Kay Dial, Richard Nordin, Larry Smith, Sr. Joanne Talarico, Wendy Wittrock, Sue Hutchins, Shelia Corsbie</p> <p>Class of 2022: Larry Smith, Richard Nordin, Carla Dawson, Peggy Aguilar, Brian Carter</p> <p>Class of 2021: Eddie Bloomer, Shelia Corsbie</p> <p>Class of 2020: Wendy Wittlock, Carolyn Uhlehake Walker, Sr. Joanne Talarico</p> <p>Class of 2019: Jackie Robinson, Mary Kay Dial, Anne Bickell, and Sue Hutchins</p> <p>Consultant to the Board of Directors: Jean Basinger</p>	<p>Voices To Be Heard / Des Moines CURE 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 1st and 3rd Tues – Wesley UMC. Support group for adults and special program for children from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Contacts: Jean Basinger 515-277-6296 jeanbasinger@gmail.com,</p> <p>Melissa Nelson 515-280-9027 melissa@chihousing.com</p>
<p>IA-NE NAACP Betty Andrews, President, 1620 Pleasant St., Ste. 210 Des Moines, IA 50314</p>	<p>Life Long CURE Willis Harris 665 Willis St, Ste. B-1 Detroit, MI 48201, phone: 313-442-3929 Self-stamped, self-addressed envelope for brochure everyonesmom4@comcast.net</p>
<p>CURE Sort – Sex Offenders Restored Through Treatment P. O. Box 761 Milwaukee, WI 53201-0761 wbowers8@cox.net</p>	<p>CURE International Charlie and Pauline Sullivan P. O. Box 2310 Washington, D. C. 20013 cure@curenational.org</p>
<p>CURE for Vets 535 Queen St Philadelphia, PA 19147 Jcautilli2003@yahoo.com www.vets-cure.com</p>	<p>Iowa Coalition 4 Juvenile Justice (now a focus group for Iowa CURE) Website: ia4juvenilejustice.org Sr. JoAnn Talarico, Facilitator P. O. Box 41005, Des Moines, IA 50311</p>
<p>Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners Website: friendsofiowawomenprisoners.org Facilitator: Kirk Knesset knesset@preludeiowa.org Phone: 515-225-8349 www.iowacure.org Meets 3rd Tues of each month at noon at Wesley UMC 800 E. 12th St, Des Moines, IA</p>	<p>Justice Reform Consortium Marty Ryan and Stephanie Fawkes-Lee, Legislative Advocates mrtyn@gmail.com Legislative update sent out every 2 weeks during session, Contact Marty to receive it. Phone: 515-681-8076</p>
<p>Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans Program Brian Brooks: VA Medical Center, 3600 30th St, Des Moines, IA 50310, 515-577-8068 Brian.brooks@va.com; website: i.va.gov/homeless.page.cfm?pg_38. Eligible: Those who are currently incarcerated by the DOC-Fort Des Moines and prisons (not in jail or released from prison)</p>	<p>Help for Veterans Will visit incarcerated veterans in need in central Iowa Jennifer Miner, 515-577-8892 or 699-5999 ext. 4875 Jennifer.miner@va.gov Covers eastern Iowa: Sherri Koob, Veterans Justice Outreach, cell: 563-320-9887; sherri.koob@va.gov</p>
<p>Living Beyond the Bars Sue Hutchins, facilitator, Sue@yahoo.com</p>	<p>A note about Iowa CURE: 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 NOT entering into a contract for services</p>

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



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
2018 DUES NOTICE

Please remember to pay your 2018 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
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.**