

In this Edition

**Page 2 – Iowa
CURE**

**Page 3 –
Communications
Act of 2021 nd
CURE International
Conference**

**Page 4 – IJAN,
IDOC, Sentencing
Project**

**Page 5 – Second
Look Act**

**Page 6 – Just Us
Documentary**

**Page 7 – 13
Amendment**

**Page 8 – Mailing
and Vending
Machine Update**

**Page 9 – Hepatitis
C**

**Page 10 – Iowa
CURE meeting
with IDOC
leadership**

Iowa Cure

2022 Winter Newsletter

Iowa CURE is part of an international organization with membership inside and outside prisons which seeks to bring together individuals concerned about the criminal justice system. We believe in a system based on humane treatment of prisoners and more reliance on alternatives to prisons. We work for reform of sentencing laws, quality legal aid for indigent criminal defendants, access to good medical and mental health treatment for prisoners and improvement in resources for integrating back into society.



Hello Iowa CURE Members,

It is the beginning of another year of advocacy. The board of Iowa CURE is currently working on our legislative agenda, objectives and action items for the 2023 year. Our initiative this year will be to focus on air conditioning in the Anamosa and Mount Pleasant facilities. We hope that our legislators will listen to our voices and concerns about the lack of air conditioning at these facilities and allocate funds for the cause. The Department of Corrections has changed their mailing procedure and policies. Please note that we are making every effort for all of our members that are incarcerated to receive their newsletters. Once these are sent please keep in mind some people may receive theirs before others. We will keep everyone posted on our progress as the year goes by.

Wendy Wittrock – President of Iowa CURE

Iowa CURE Year in Review

We had 6 meetings 3 of those were membership meeting with speakers and one ended up being an online meeting with only board members in attendance.

March 2022: member online meeting

May 2022: board meeting

June 2022: Our first membership meeting with a speaker was Heather Wagner and Nancy Miller from Iowans Unafraid. Spoke to us re: incarcerated Iowans on the sexual abuse registry. They believe the registry is unconstitutional and should be abolished. Having been exposed to someone who committed a sex crime this work is now a passion for changing what families and the incarcerated endure. Working through advocacy to make changes in Iowa. Heather and Nancy are new comers to Advocacy for the Incarcerated but show dedication and are will to do the hard work necessary to make changes. We at Iowa Cure applaud them. And welcome their advocacy to helping Iowa prisoners.

September 2022: board meeting

November 2022: membership meeting with speakers Beth Skinner, Director of Iowa Department of Corrections, Katrina Carter, Assistant Deputy Director, Institution Operations Reentry & Programs. We had been asked to provide questions before the meeting. So we sent several and at the time of the meeting we were informed our speakers had limited time.

IOWA CURE BOARD

Wendy Wittrock – President

Sue Hutchins – Vice President

Richard Nordin – Treasurer

Mary Kay Dial – Secretary

Brian Carter

Carla Dawson

Eddie Bloomer

Heather Erwin

Jackie Robinson

Larry Smith

Carolyn Walker

Jean Basinger – Consultant

Iowa CURE is 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 your legal documents. In joining Iowa CURE, you are NOT entering into a contract for services.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION 2023 DUES NOTICE

Please remember to pay your 2023 Iowa CURE dues. Please fill out the information form below and mail it with your membership fee to Iowa CURE, P.O. Box 41005, Des Moines, IA 50311. You can also pay on our website www.iowacure.com.

Prisoners - \$2 Individual - \$10 Family - \$20 Sustaining - \$50 Life - \$100

Name/Organization _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Why should I join CURE? Being a CURE member gives you access to experienced staff, reputable research, political action, community organization, leadership and strategy development as well as informative fact sheets, action alerts, legislative and issue updates. Please feel free to pass this newsletter to interested friends, family, associates and loved ones in prison.

MARTHA WRIGHT-REED JUST AND REASONABLE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2021

This bill requires the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that charges for payphone services, including advanced (e.g., audio or video) communications services in correctional institutions, are just and reasonable. Introduced Session 117th Congress Bill Summary

AN ACT To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for telephone and advanced communications services in correctional and detention facilities. Subject Consumer affairs Correctional facilities and imprisonment Science, technology, communications Telecommunication rates and fees Telephone and wireless communication

Sponsors (14) Tammy Duckworth (D)*, Richard Blumenthal (D), Cory Booker (D), Robert Casey (D), Christopher Coons (D), Kirsten Gillibrand (D), Angus King (I), Amy Klobuchar (D), Ben Luján (D), Edward Markey (D), Robert Portman (R), Brian Schatz (D), Elizabeth Warren (D), Ron Wyden (D), Last Action Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (on 12/21/2022)

9th International CURE Conference 2023 Human Rights and Criminal Justice Reform

May 1, 2023 until May 5th 2023 International CURE will be holding their conference in Nairobi Kenya.

This conference is an opportunity to meet our partners in criminal justice advocacy from across the world. Currently advocates from Zambia, Ghana, Peru, Nepal, Australia, and Pakistan have signed up to attend.

PanAfrica CURE is assisting with the lodging expenses and two meals day during the conference. All travel cost are at the expense of the attendee. Currently cost of airline tickets are \$1,000 - \$1,200. Iowa CURE has three board members that are interested in attending.

The interested members are humbly asking for donations to be able to attend this conference. If you are interested in donating you can send a check to P.O Box 41005, Des Moines Iowa 50311 or via online at www.iowacure.com. If you are mailing a check please note that the donation is for the international conference contribution. Any help is greatly appreciated to participate in this highly anticipated event.



“You will achieve more in their world through acts of mercy than you will through acts of retribution” – Nelson Mandela



Iowa Justice Action Network Winter Conference

Advocating for Change: Stemming 50 Years of Mass Incarceration

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM

Registration – There will be no charge for this conference, but people must register in order to receive the Zoom invitation. Register by emailing allen.hays@uni.edu.



The District of Columbia made history.

The DC Council unanimously passed the Revised Criminal Code of 2022 (RCCA), a sweeping modernization of the district's criminal laws. The RCCA positions the district as a national leader in sentencing reform and models how legislatures can reduce extreme sentences.

The RCCA's reforms include:

- Eliminating almost all mandatory minimum sentences
- Lowering the maximum sentence possible to 45 years in prison
- Expanding DC's current second look law, which allows people who committed a crime below the age of 25 to petition for resentencing after serving 15 years, to allow judges to consider resentencing after 20 years of imprisonment for people who were older at the time of the crime
- Reducing the scope and maximum penalty for felony murder, a law that holds people liable for murder if they participated in a felony that resulted in someone's unintentional death

People are worried about crime and they want to feel safe. But as the Council recognized extreme sentences aren't the answer.

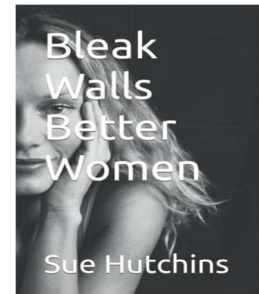
Washingtonians deserve real solutions that save lives, protect kids, strengthen families, advance racial justice, and empower communities – not more mass incarceration. We applaud the Council's leadership and we urge Mayor Bowser to swiftly sign the RCCA into law. If enacted, implementation of the RCCA's provisions would gradually occur over the next three years.

More reforms are needed to curb extreme sentences and racial injustice in the District, but the RCCA is a remarkable achievement and the product of years of advocacy, research, and negotiation. It offers hope as we fight nationwide to end all mandatory minimums, create universal second look after 10 years, limit sentence maximums to 20 years, and repeal felony murder laws.

Iowa Department of Corrections

The schedule for 2023 will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2023 at the DOC Central Office.

This meeting will begin at 9:30 am and the agenda will be posted to the website prior to the meeting.



This book is devoted solely to women, incarcerated and serving Life or Virtual Life sentences, in the State of Iowa. You, the reader, are not often privy to read or to hear women's stories **In Their Own Words** of how they ended up in prison. Nor do you often get the chance to read or hear firsthand stories of the trauma they have experienced nor the trauma they admittedly have caused others.

It is my belief that the public should be given every opportunity to read and hear from these women *in their own words* so you can judge for yourselves if you believe we are a system of Justice with Mercy.

This book is available for purchase at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Second Look Act

Sen. Booker reintroduces the Second Look Act!

SIX YEARS AGO, I MET SENATOR BOOKER INSIDE A FEDERAL PRISON.

I told him about my family, shared my story, and told him about how I was sentenced to life without parole. I explained that I had grown and changed and that I deserved to be home. I told him that I was not unique. So many people in prison deserve a second chance, and often, they never even get a first one. I was thrilled when Senator Booker and Congresswoman Bass first introduced the Second Look Act in 2019, inspired, in part, by that meeting. I celebrated from inside a federal prison because I knew that the Second Look Act was an opportunity to have a national conversation about the importance of second chances.

Senator Booker and Congresswoman Bass reintroduced the Second Look Act. I celebrate again with one big difference: I'm home. Thanks to the First Step Act, I'm now free and fighting for others to receive a second chance like me.

The Second Look Act is ambitious and groundbreaking. It would allow people who have served at least 10 years in federal prison to petition a court to take a "second look" at their sentence and assess their rehabilitation and whether their continued incarceration serves the interests of justice. It would create a rebuttable presumption of release for people who are 50 years of age or older, meaning the burden shifts to the government to demonstrate why that person should remain behind bars.

Extreme sentences also come with a profound human cost as people spend decades in cruel conditions, separated from their loved ones. And the research is clear: as people grow and mature, they typically stop engaging in crime. There are many reasons for this, but lengthy sentences aren't one of them. They produce diminishing returns on public safety and waste scarce public resources on keeping people in prison long past the time when they pose a risk to the community. Instead, we should be funding things that make communities safer. I hope you'll join me and take action to support the Second Look Act. Please contact your senators.

Gavin Newsom Signs SB 1008, making phone calls from California prisons free

SACRAMENTO, CA – On Thursday Sept. 29, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 1008, making phone calls from California prisons free. Under this legislation, incarcerated people and the people who are being called will no longer be charged for calls made in prisons. Rather, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will cover those associated costs. California is now the second state to institute this policy after Connecticut. Proponents of SB 1008 assert that the impacts of this kind of policy go a long way toward reducing the harm incarcerated people and their loved ones face. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has long sought to reduce rates for telephone calls in prisons across the nation.

*"Our prisons in Iowa as in this country are a violation of human rights, and we don't talk about it". –
Iowa Representative Ako Abdul*



*The film exploring racial disparities and other problems educates and inspires as we watch ex-prisoners lead prison reform through grassroots efforts. **Rachelle Chase** from the Des Moines Register*

"JustUs" opens with aerial shots of Des Moines as Cedric B. Theus shares staggering statistics. "Between 1980 and 2021, Iowa saw a 200% increase in incarceration. And while the state's population is about 4% African American, the prison population is approximately 25% African American. This racial disparity is the result of many factors, including the long history of tough on crime laws."

In video clips, former Gov. Terry Branstad proudly takes credit for the increased number of people incarcerated and demands to double the number of prison beds, restore the death penalty, and eliminate parole in Iowa; then-U.S. Sen. Joe Biden proudly proclaims new laws against drug dealers and also demands the death penalty. Theus points out that while each man, each representing a major party, has changed his stance on some of these issues, Branstad's and Biden's past policy decisions have contributed to lifetime sentences for many people who committed crimes when they were teenagers.

"I'm one of those people. My name is Ced. I'm a prisoner at Iowa State Penitentiary. This is the story of my community and what we're doing to help solve Iowa's incarceration problem." "JustUs" had an international crew and professional filming and production. It also has compelling storytelling, including the stories of Dontá McKenzie, released after 23 years in prison, and Charles Brewton, sentenced to 37 years for second-degree robbery but paroled after 12 years. Both are successful married fathers who help youth and people who are in prison and returning citizens. All of which made it easy to see why "JustUs" was an "official selection" for the 2022 Oneota Film Festival and Julien Dubuque International Film Festival.

Theus conceived, co-produced, and directed "JustUs." He narrates over a phone line as an animated version of him goes about activities that support the film's action from his prison cell. "I want people to know that we're not just statistics and to kind of look at our stories," Theus said. "We don't just commit, you know, horrible crimes, which each one of us did, because we're bad people. When you look at the childhood circumstances..." He mentioned McKenzie, who in the film tells of beatings by his father, some of which kept him out of school for a month, and the first and last time his abused mom fought back. "We deal with all types of traumas that affect us later in life, especially during our teenage years, and if untreated, sometimes we make bad decisions when we're 18 or 19. But that doesn't define us, especially when we mature and we're able to really process what happened and understand what happened."

The racial disparity that Theus literally dreamt about was a huge inspiration. "We're less than 4% of the population," he said. "So chances are the average Iowan don't know us, as a people, talking about African Americans in general. They don't live next door. They don't go to school with us. They don't go to church with us. We don't work with them. So it's easy for them to dismiss our humanity or dismiss, you know, our stories of what's going on and say, 'Hey, these people they're ending up in prison at disproportionate rates because they're committing crime at disproportionate rates so there's something that's wrong with them.' And that's not the case at all." All want viewers to take action. "JustUs" not only tells the stories and illustrates the problems, but it shows how ex-prisoners are taking action to solve the problems. It should inspire viewers — you can watch for free on

Tubi and Roku — to do so, too. Theus suggested: “We can hold our politicians accountable. We can hold people that are at the correctional level accountable for how our tax dollars are spent. It costs \$59,000 a year to incarcerate me here at ISP. Okay, what are you getting for your money? And understand that the powers that be, the politicians, we have to ask questions. You know, what type of system do we have here in Iowa? What do we want to accomplish? We keep saying things about the racial disparity, you know, year after year, in the paper, but what are you doing to bring that down? What are we doing to make people better? What are we doing to set prisoners up for success once they reenter society?” “I want people to ask questions, to hold their politicians or people who are in power accountable.” One way of holding them accountable is picking up the phone and calling your legislator, regardless of party, and ask them those questions. “And say, hey, what are you doing about this? I saw this film. You know, what are you doing to address this?” To watch "JustUs" for free:

Tubi: <https://tubitv.com/movies/644714/justus>

Roku: <https://therokuchannel.roku.com/details/a6b59a0a201c5a04b21c64d633e72e70/justus>

Questions? We are happy to tell you more about the film and our goals. If you want to collaborate with us or share your stories, feel free to send us an email at justusdocumentary@gmail.com.

13th Amendment



Voters in four states have approved ballot measures that will change their state constitutions to prohibit slavery and involuntary servitude as punishment for crime, while those in a fifth state rejected a flawed version of the question. The measures approved could curtail the use of prison labor in Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee and Vermont. In Louisiana, a former slave-holding state and one of a handful that sentences convicted felons to hard labor, lawmakers trying to get rid of forced prisoner labor ended up torpedoing their own measure. They told voters to reject it because the ballot measure included ambiguous language that did not prohibit involuntary servitude in the criminal justice system. “I believed that the people would choose freedom over slavery, if we gave them the opportunity, by taking the slavery question away from the legislators and putting it into the hands of the people. And they proved us right,” he said.

The four approved initiatives won’t force immediate changes in the states’ prisons, but they may invite legal challenges over the practice of coercing prisoners to work under threat of sanctions or loss of privileges if they refuse the work. No sweep for the Republicans, and 5 other takeaways from election night. Vermont’s constitutional amendment removes what supporters say is ambiguous language and makes clear that slavery and indentured servitude are prohibited in the state. While Vermont’s legislature was the first state to abolish adult slavery in 1777, its constitution stated that no person 21 or older should serve as a slave unless bound by their own consent or “by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs, or the like.” The amendment removes that language and adds that slavery and indentured servitude in any form are banned.

Coinciding with the creation of the Juneteenth federal holiday last year, Merkley and Rep. Nikema Williams, D-Georgia, reintroduced legislation to revise the 13th Amendment to end the slavery exception. If it wins approval in Congress, the constitutional amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of U.S. states. More than a dozen

states still have constitutions that include language permitting slavery and involuntary servitude for prisoners. Several other states have no constitutional language for or against the labor. Voters in Colorado became the first to approve removal of slavery exception language from the state constitution in 2018, followed by Nebraska and Utah two years later. Parthas said he and other advocates in his network worked with 15 states on anti-slavery legislation in 2022, although only five made it to the ballot. In 2023, the network plans to work with two dozen states.

Today, prison labor is a multibillion-dollar practice. By comparison, workers can make pennies on the dollar. And prisoners who refuse to work can be denied privileges such as phone calls and visits with family, as well as face solitary confinement, all punishments that are eerily similar to those used during antebellum slavery. “The 13th Amendment didn’t actually abolish slavery — what it did was make it invisible,” Bianca Tylek, an anti-slavery advocate and the executive director of the criminal justice advocacy group Worth Rises, told the AP in an interview ahead of Election Day.



IOWA PRISON MAIL & VENDING

Submitted by Larry Smith, Iowa CURE Board Member

MAIL: The Iowa prison mailing system has taken a sharp downward turn since the pandemic with the widespread existence and use of the drug known as K-2. K-2 is a type of synthetic cannabinoid that is also known as Spice. K-2 and other synthetic cannabinoids are manmade chemicals whose purpose is to alter a person’s mental state. Since they are made from chemicals and not plants, they are extremely more dangerous and have led to numerous deaths of Iowa inmates. For this reason, the Iowa DOC developed procedures to curb the inflow of K-2 into the Iowa Prisons. One is done by copying all incoming inmate mail and then forwarding the copies to the inmate. In 2022 the Iowa DOC decided to outsource this procedure to a 3rd party known as Pigeonly based in Las Vegas. All incoming inmate mail is addressed to the inmate by mailing the document to “Inmate’s Name and number, Prison Name and number, PO Box 96777, Las Vegas NV 89193”. At Pigeonly the mail is opened, copied, and the copies sent to inmates along with a copy of the envelope it came in which shows the postmark when the original letter was mailed. These procedures are for regular mail only. All mail from Attorneys, Ombudsman, and the Iowa DOC are to go straight to the intended prison, be opened and copies made in front of the inmate, then destroyed while the inmate watches.

I recently attended an Iowa DOC Board meeting in which it was stated that most mail is taking approximately 7 days to process. This is from the Post Marked date to the time received by the inmate. I also recently spoke with the Ombudsman’s Office in Des Moines. Currently they are not conducting an investigation into mail delays. The Ombudsman office said they have

Iowa CURE Group

Iowa CURE seeks to bring together those who face incarceration of a loved one to support each other. The first meeting via Zoom was January 7, with seven people from three states. All wanted to continue, and Iowa CURE vice president Sue Hutchins will help form us into a strong support group.

All who want to be part are welcome. Please send your name, hometown, email address, and which prison your loved one is at, to iowacure@gmail.com.

Incarceration Alternatives Crime Report: Home Confinement: A Safe Alternative To Mass Incarceration

Under the authority of the Cares Act of 2020 (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act), the U.S. Justice Department (DOJ), with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons (BOP), identified the most vulnerable inmates of the virus and released them back into community under home confinement. With the extraordinary success of the Cares Act releases, the BOP felt embolden enough to expand the use of home confinement to the point that nearly 48,000 of its inmates have now successfully completed their sentences in home confinement rather than penal incarceration.



not received adequate complaints from the 8,400 inmates in Iowa to warrant an investigation. Gathering information received by C.U.R.E. from inmates and family members a letter mailed today by a loved one will not reach the inmate for 3-4 weeks. If you are experiencing a delay in your mail longer than the 7 days being disseminated by the Iowa DOC and not satisfied with the delivery time, change is up to you. Inmates must file a grievance with their respective prison. After the grievance is exhausted, the inmate should send the results of the grievance to the Ombudsman's Office. The Ombudsman needs to receive a lot of complaints from inmates before they will act. As for the families and loved one you need to contact the U.S.P.S Inspector General at the following: Phone 800-372-8347 or email www.uspsoig.gov, File on line Complaint, Contract Fraud, or write ATTN: Fraud USPS, 433 Harrison Street RM 3255, Chicago Il 60699-3255 This will take 100s of grievances and complaints to resolve the slowness of mail. So, please take the time if you want to see changes.

VENDING: I have attended Iowa DOC Board Meetings during 2022. During these meetings it has been brought up my myself and other family members requesting the Iowa DOC to again allow the use of food vending machines in the visiting rooms. The Iowa DOC continues the stance of only allowing liquid vending machines to operate in the visiting rooms. The Iowa Doc is basing their decision on the following. As with the mail K-2 is being brought into the prisons. They feel the food vending machines are being used for this purpose. The drug is placed in the vending machine tray by someone making a purchase. The drug is then picked up by an inmate and taken into the prison. For this reason, the Iowa DOC does not intend to change its policy in the near future. That does not mean inmates cannot fire grievances and loved ones should not continue to advocate for restarting the vending machines to the Iowa DOC.

Hundreds of incarcerated people are dying of hep C even though we have a simple cure

Nicholas Florko with Stat News

Hepatitis C is referred to as the “silent epidemic” because it often does not cause symptoms until a person is very sick. Some states, moreover, are still not doing the bare minimum to address the virus in their facilities: testing everyone. STAT's investigation found that 1,013 inmates died of hepatitis C-related complications in states' custody in the six years after the first cure, a Gilead antiviral drug called Sovaldi, hit the market in late 2013. This tally, based on an analysis of 27,674 highly restricted death records, has never before been reported. Many of those 1,013 people were not serving life sentences; they would likely have had the chance to return home, reapply for jobs, and reconnect with parents, spouses, and children. Many should not have died. In fact, the treatment for hepatitis C is a modern medical marvel. The scientists who paved the way for its discovery won a Nobel Prize. Public health experts say it's possible to cut hepatitis C deaths to virtually zero, and effectively eliminate the virus as we've done with smallpox or polio. Francis Collins, the White House science adviser and former longtime director of the National Institutes of Health, called STAT's findings “unacceptable.” To read the entire article you can go online at www.statnews.com/2022/12/15/hundreds-incarcerated-people-dying-hepatitis-c-despite-simple-cure/



Iowa CURE Meets with Iowa Department of Corrections Leadership

Beth Skinner, Director of Iowa Department of Corrections, Katrina Carter, Assistant Deputy Director, Institution Operations Reentry & Programs were Iowa CURE's guest speakers for the November membership meeting. Prior to the meeting de had been asked by the department of corrections to provide questions before the meeting. Iowa CURE emailed the members to have your questions forwarded to the department. A deadline was given to the membership to have your questions in so that the questions could be provided to the department in a timely manner in preparation for the meeting. The deadline was met and the questions were forwarded. Several

questions were given to Iowa CURE after the deadline and after the department had already received the initial email with the documented questions. On the date of the meeting, we were informed our speakers had limited time and had to make a hard stop at 3. This allowed us one hour of the department leaderships time as the meeting started at 2. Beth, Katrina, and Shawn had printed the questions we sent and had answers prepared on several topics. The meeting was online and in person. Individuals online sent in questions to the department leadership that were not included on our initial question list sent. The questions that were asked online have been complied and forwarded to the department. We have not received an answer to those questions. We will make every effort to get all the questions answered. We do not have a timeframe on when the department will get back to us. Other questions that the leadership answered were covid 19 and monkey pox, visiting rooms, treatment programs, volunteers and vending machines that were removed. Although the time we had was limited we were still able to get answers to many questions. Iowa CURE appreciates that they took time out of their day to come. To provide some background about this meeting this took our dedicated program committee about four months to bring this to fruition. The information below is a synopsis of what was discussed in the meeting.

COVID 19/Monkey Pox: COVID cases have decreased in the prison. There are no current cases of Monkey Pox.

Air Conditioning Units: A request has been put in every year to have the units purchased and installed. Other matters have taken precedence over this request. Iowa CURE will review an initiative to see how we can assist the DOC with getting more funding for the AC units at Anamosa and Mount Pleasant. Expect more communication in the future on this issue.

Visitation: At this time there is no intention of putting soda machines/vending machines back in the prison visiting rooms. Unfortunately, it took a few people to introduce contraband in the food to have this taken away. 6 is the limit on an inmate visiting list at this time because of staffing/security reasons. This can be reevaluated in the future. Because of staffing the visiting hours have not been increased and more days have not been added. Once the facilities are staffed accordingly this can be reevaluated. For people who travel from very far distances have your loved one contact their counselor or warden. In the past exceptions have been made on a case-by-case basis. This is not a guarantee, but it is worth having them ask.

Sex offender treatment in a timely manner: Iowa Law is clear that an individual cannot be incarcerated longer than what they have been sentenced. In the case of sex offenders some people can be sentenced to 3 years, and others to 30 with the possibility of parole after 75%. The department is required to have inmates have sex offender treatment completed before release. The individuals that are serving shorter sentences will more than likely be in the sex offender treatment courses before an individual who is serving a long sentence. This has been brought up to the DOC on many occasions. One option is to hire more counselors; however this needs approval and a budget increase. This is also something Iowa CURE can look into advocating for. The DOC also knows the need of children to visit their parents while they are incarcerated.

Volunteers: The DOC understands the need for volunteers in prisons. At this time with low staffing, they are slowly bringing volunteer groups back. The first groups are the religious groups. Other groups will be evaluated on a case by case basis. The DOC has not closed the door to all volunteering. This is a matter of staffing, time commitments, space, approvals, etc. This can be revisited.

Mailing concerns: We will be providing the department feedback that mailings are taking much longer than they claim. We received multiple comments and emails about the length of time it takes to get the mail delivered to inmates. We will keep everyone posted on the progress we make finding out the cause of the delays. The mail process will not change as this is a security issue. K2 is getting into the prisons. This is not just an Iowa issue. This is a national issue.