

## **IOWA CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS**

*An Effort to Reduce Crime Through Criminal Justice Reform - Summer 2019*

Dear Iowa CURE members and friends:

This is my first letter as the official President of Iowa CURE, and do I have a lot of news for you. While I was the president in training, you might remember that I had the amazing opportunity to travel with then Iowa CRUE President, Jean Basinger to a few National and International CURE meeting. It is because of the great leadership and mentorship of Jean that I feel better about taking on this role. Jean is still around to help guide me in my new role and I am so blessed to have her knowledge, and passion.

I would like to share with you a few things I have been doing as the new president of Iowa CURE. In November I had the pleasure of attend the ACLU Bruch with Jean Basinger and others to hear about the history and future of the ACLU of Iowa. In November we has our Annual CURE meeting and our Fall Program. We had a wonderful Speaker, Mr. Dan Clark, Director of Iowa Prison Industries, shared with us about the programs and Apprenticeships, the Department of Corrections offer.

In January we had our Winter Program and Board Meeting. We got an overview of the upcoming 2019 Legislature from Brian Carter. We had the great opportunity to hear first had from a Formerly Incarcerated person, who also happens to be a wonderful author. Deon Harris gave an amazing book discussion on his book, "Doing Time Constructively". He is a wonderful example of using your time wisely while being incarcerated. Thank you, Deon!

In February, Jean, Jim Pemble and I went to the Iowa Board of Corrections meeting at the Women's Facility in Des Moines. It was a very eye opening and wonderful example of the beliefs that everyone should get a Fresh Start.

In February, I represented Iowa CURE at the National CURE Board meeting in Montgomery, AL It was a life changing experience. (see reflections) There were over 20 CURE chapters represented.

In April we had our Spring Program and Board Meeting. We heard from Brian that the bills to give former felons their right to vote, was not passed, and the Governor has not yet made an executive decision to do so. We are still one of two states that do not give felons their rights back after completing their sentence.

A group from the Iowa Department of Corrections were our panel guests, Dr. Beth Skinner, Deputy Director of Recidivism Reduction, Sean Crawford, Associate Warden of Treatment at the Newton Correctional Facility and Katrina Carter, Director of Programs and Reentry. They were our guests because the

Prison Director had retired. We had given questions to him, and we needed clarification on the answers. It was a very well attended meeting. We are waiting for follow up to some questions that were not answered. We are very optimistic about the ongoing communication with the Department.

In May, I had the pleasure of going to a book signing and reading by Andy Douglas, he has written a wonderful book about his involvement with the Community Choir at IMCC in Oakdale. The book, "Redemption Songs", is a must read.

I have been very busy, as you can see. I am truly blessed to have Jean Basinger, to collaborate with. Her knowledge and passion our unmatched when it comes to Iowa CURE. Thank you for all of the support from Iowa Cure Board Members, and the National Board, Pauline and Charlie. We are in a struggle for Justice. Thank you for struggling with us!

Peace,  
Carla A. Dawson  
Iowa CURE

### **Montgomery CURE**

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, I caught a plane from Des Moines to represent Iowa CURE at the National Cure meeting in Montgomery, AL. I had a thought that this would be a life changing experience, but I did not know how changed I would be. I am going to try to explain this transformation, but I know I will not do justice to any of the places, and people that I met, so please forgive me in advance.

When I arrived in Montgomery, I met another CURE member at the airport, and we shared a cab to the hotel. The ride to the hotel was very chilling. We were on roads that people had walked and died on to give me the right to ride in a cab with a white woman, and not be killed. The road was marked with numerous markers, dedicated to the past. When we asked the cab driver, what we should be sure to see he said, "Make sure to see the new Legacy Museum, we told him that was one of the reasons we were there to see firsthand the Legacy Museum."

After checking in we had our meet and greet in the MLK, room. The name of the room was not lost on me. We were there to learn about our role in the struggle for prison reform. Changes to the systems of oppression take time and energy, so we were energized, by what the other CURE Chapters were doing to fight the powers of oppression.

On Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>, I woke up and tried to prepare myself for the trip to the Peace and Justice Memorial Center and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. I was not ready. I don't think you can be ready for the past to be in the present. When we drove up to the Museum, I could feel the presence of the people who had died by lynching. I could also feel the love

and hope that went into making this Museum a reality. This Memorial for Peace and Justice has been needed for us as a people/Nation to begin the transformation to truth and reconciliation.

I was not able to hold my tears they would not stop. When I walked into the Peace and Justice Memorial Center and saw hundreds of jars of dirt from actual places that Lynching had taken place. My heart was heavy with the weight of so much death and loss. I read every name of towns that had tortured and frighten black people into subservient roles. I also had in my mind that it had worked for so long, but in the end, I was standing there as a reminder of what my ancestors had overcome for me to be able to even stand in that spot.

Across the street from the Peace and Justice Memorial Center is The National Memorial for Peace and Justice, also known as the Lynching Memorial. The first thing that you see walking into the Memorial is a group of chained up people who were enslaved in African and brought to the United States. These statues are so life like that it takes your breath away. I stood there for a long time trying to put my self in their place. Not knowing what was in their future, but feeling in your bones that it wasn't going to be good.

Walking up the winding path, reading the history of my ancestors had me in a kind of surreal place. I could not even fathom, someone coming in the day or night and taking my dad, brother, or son and them never being seen again. What would it be like having to go cut them down from a tree, and not being able to recognize them? The knots in my stomach would not go away. That might have been one of a handful of times I could not speak. Any one that can make it to Montgomery, I implore you to go to these places to see the connection between slavery, lynching and the prison system of today. You will understand the connection, and want to fight to change it.

After that, it was hard to process other things.

On Sunday night, the over 60 people representing CURE and other groups got together to share insights, dreams, organizing suggestion, singing and dancing. It was a good time to talk about the past and plans for the future.

Monday morning, we regrouped to go and visit the Southern Poverty Law Center, SPLC. This is an organization that has been tracking hate groups since 1971. Another place that understands that without staying vigilant on issues of hate, injustice, and death, we will never have a chance to live as sisters and brothers.

We had the great timely chance to visit the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church. It was also on Monday and they are usually closed, but we got a chance to see where Dr. King got his start preaching.

We had a panel discussion on the Campaign to release people serving life sentences. It was very moving and something that Iowa CURE has been working on.

We had a wonderful visit from Charlotte who is a lawyer with EJI. She also was a presenter in Rwanda on what the EJI staff was doing to share the history of lynching in the U.S. She brought Kiara and Evan to share on how people can bring lynching monuments to your county. They had so much insight into the process, and are a great resource for us all.

We had a closing dinner and final words from the people who were still there. I got the chance to say that the United States has such a long way to go heal the past evils, so we can one day have reconciliation. What I took away from my time in Montgomery, there are people dedicating their lives to shine the light on our troubled history, and working to not repeat it. It is past time for people to connect the dots from slavery, Jim Crow, and the current mass incarceration, this is a history that can't be denied, but it can be righted, by working for the dismantling of the system.

Thanks for being part of the resistance!

Paz,

Carla A. Dawson, Iowa CURE President

### **Release of Federal Prisoners**

We have been asked what happens when a federal prisoner nears the time to be released. Federal prisoners usually go to a federally contracted half-way house from their facility for the last few months of their sentence. They will get re-entry counseling there and will also have to find a job or enroll in full time schooling before being allowed to go on home confinement. Some people are only at the halfway house for a few weeks, some are there for a few months. If a person had a sex offense they will have tighter restrictions for job hunting, computer access, and housing options, and it will take longer to get to home confinement because of their restrictions. The person will be assigned a specific halfway house location during his last couple of months at the prison. Once they get this information they can contact the halfway house.

### **Media Matters**

Documentary on HBO

For those of you who have access to HBO you will want to watch a new documentary called "TRUE JUSTICE: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality." As we know Stevenson has worked tirelessly for justice for a number of years. He is responsible for getting a number of innocent people off of death row, worked tirelessly to eliminate the sentence of life without parole for juveniles and is responsible for creating the new monument and museum to identify and honor those who died of lynching in the United States.

Stevenson says that the injustice in the criminal justice system in the U.S. is the civil rights issue of our times. The documentary will be shown beginning at 8 p.m. on June 26 and will be shown throughout the summer. It will also be shown at select theaters across the country.

### **ARTICLES IN PRINT**

"Who Built Your Pew" Sojourners Magazine, June issue.  
An article by Editorial Assistant Will Young

This article focuses on the use of incarcerated persons in prison industries. Iowa Prison Industries is featured because

they are the only prison Industries operation in the country sells their products to churches at prices that can't be equaled elsewhere. He asks and explores the question of whether or not some Iowa churches are supporting the prison industrial complex by making these purchases. He looks at this from all sides of the issue and has interviewed incarcerated persons who have worked in this industry. He asks: "Is this a way that the incarcerated can pay for the expense of housing them? Or, as some feel, is it modern day slavery? Young encourages us to look at all sides of the issue. Dan Clark, who oversees IPI, always stresses the rehabilitation opportunity for those who are going to be looking for jobs that pay a living wage when they return to society. Go to the Sojourners website to check out this article.

BOOKS (available at Beaverdale Books in Des Moines, Your local bookstore and on Amazon.com.

"Redemption Songs" by Andy Douglas: a year in the life of a community prison choir by Andy Douglas. Douglas documents his seven year experience as an "outside" participant in the Community Choir inside the walls of the Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Oakdale, IA. It is much more than the story of the choir made up of incarcerated persons and volunteers from the outside. He interweaves information about criminal justice in Iowa and the throughout the country. He tells the stories of both insiders and outsiders who participate in the choir, as well as to the staff of the prison. He gives credit to Warden Jim McKinney for his support of the community choir

"Solitary" UnBroken by four decades in solitary confinement. My story of transformation and hope." This book was written by Albert Woodfox. Barry Scheck of the Innocence Project says, "A man who would not be broken. Not by more than 40 years of solitary in Angola, not by maddening injustice in courts, not by beatings, isolation, or loneliness. Albert's courage, wisdom and kindness will inspire all who fight for social justice and have the good sense to read this book".

"foolish church: Messy, raw, real, and making room. by Lee Roorda Schott." Rev. Schott is the pastor of a United Methodist Church which is inside the walls of Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. Make no mistake she is NOT a chaplain, she is a UMC pastor who happens to be appointed to serve the as pastor to a church inside of the walls at ICIW. This is not an appointment that she sought, but she has found it to be a wonderful experience and she shares that experience with us in her book. "Messy, Raw, Real, and Making Room:" this is the way she describes our churches when we are doing what we are called to do. She includes sessions for study which can be used to stimulate discussion.

"THE MEANING OF LIFE, the case Abolishing Life Sentences" by Marc Mauer and Ashley Nellis. This book features six portraits of lifers and is the foundation for a new campaign for the elimination of the sentence of Life Without Parole. Vanita Gupta, President and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights says, "A blistering indictment of America's practice of sentencing people to die in prison

that dares readers to the way we think about public safety, redemption and justice. Essential reading for anyone committed to restoring legitimacy to our institutions.

## **MAJOR CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP BY IDOC AND BOARD OF CORRECTIONS**

There have been major changes in leadership of the Iowa DOC and the Iowa Board of Parole. Iowa DOC Director Jerry Bartruff retired, and Director of Prisons, Dan Craig, has been serving as Interim Director. He plans to retire soon. He has been with the Department for 34 years.

Governor Reynolds recently appointed Dr. Beth Skinner, who has been serving as Risk Reduction Coordinator for the Department since 2015, to fill that position. For the past 4 years Dr. Skinner has been overseeing a \$3 million dollar grant from the Bureau of labor focused on reducing recidivism. She started as an intern with the IDOC in 2002. She was employed as a residential officer for the 6th District. In 2012 she moved to Washington, D.C. to take a position with the Council of State Government. She moved back to Iowa to head up the statewide recidivism reduction project. Dr. Skinner's strength seem to be in research and staff training, and quality improvement. She has bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees for the University of Iowa.

Patti Wachtendorf retired as Warden of the Iowa State Penitentiary in May. She has worked for the IDOC for 36 years starting and ending her career in corrections at ISP. She started as a correctional officer and spent 20 years working with women incarcerated at Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. During her time there she oversaw the expansion and construction of the facility. She has stated that a life-long goal had been to be warden of a maximum security men's prison. She reached that goal when she became warden at ISP in 2017.

On April 5 the Iowa Board of Corrections approved the appointment of Randy Gibbs as the next warden at ISP. Gibbs has been serving as warden of the Clarinda Corrections Facility since May of 2017. He started his career with the department in 1991 as a correctional officer at Anamosa State Penitentiary. He has served in many positions over the years. Stephen Weis, the Deputy Warden at CCF has been serving as acting warden and was recently approved by the IBOC to serve as warden. He has been working in corrections for 31 years.

There are also changes in those serving on the Iowa Board of Corrections. John Chalstrom, who has served for 8 years, and Tom Phillips, who has served 2 years, are going off the Board and Mark DeJong of Ankeny and Ed Kranto have been appointed to serve 4-year terms.

Jeff Wright, who was serving as Chairperson of the Iowa Board of Parole, was appointed by the Governor to serve as head of the State Public Defenders' department. Helen Miller of Fort Dodge has been appointed to be the new chair of the Iowa Board of Parole. She is from Fort Dodge and served for 16 years in the Iowa House of Representatives. She has said that she believes in "redemption" and in "second chances."

## **REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF IOWA CURE FALL 2017 TO 2018**

Members of the Iowa Chapter of Cure met on November 19, 2017 at Trinity Los Americas Church in Des Moines, Iowa for our annual meeting.

We have had the following program meeting during this past year:

November 11, 2018: Dan Clark, Director of Iowa Prison Industries was our presenter and was very well received. He spoke to all that Iowa Prison Industries provides regarding work for inmates and services for the public to purchase. Several of our members expressed gratitude for this program.

January 28, 2018: Our guest speakers today were Marty and Stephanie Ryan. Marty lobbies for issues CURE is deeply invested in. He reported on Bills that need to be monitored, among them are Restitution, Banning the Box, Correctional officers making advances on inmates and Maggie's Law. We also discussed our remaining opposition to restoring the Death Penalty.

May 12, 2018: Carla Dawson attended an international conference of CURE in Rwanda this summer and presented a wonderful power point presentation on said conference. It was extremely well received and focused on the success that country has had in reconciliation following the genocide in the 1990's. She will be making numerous presentations of this remarkable reconciliation for numerous agencies throughout the coming year.

On October 8th and 9th CURE co-sponsored 2 presentations by Jeanne Bishop, author of A CHANGE OF HEART, one in Des Moines and one in Waterloo, Iowa. Her story is one of forgiveness and reconciliation regarding the murders of 3 of her family members by a juvenile. She is now an advocate for no sentencing of life without parole for juveniles and a public defender in Illinois.

CURE has representatives at every meeting of the Iowa DOC. Our legislative representative, Mary Ryan, retired this year, and the Justice Reform Consortium closed after 18 years of working for criminal justice reform. CURE will be working closely with IJAN (Iowa Justice Action Network), ACLU Iowans against the Death Penalty and various other organizations we share values and common issue with. Jean Basinger, President of Iowa CURE also retired the end of this year. Carla Dawson was elected President by the Board and Wendy Whittrock and Sue Hutchins were elected co-Vice Presidents by the Board.

Jerry Bartruff, Director of Iowa DOC, retired December 27th of 2018. He will be missed as he did advocate for education and apprenticeship programs for inmates.

Iowa CURE has a focus group called Iowa Coalition 4 Juvenile Justice which we will also continue to work closely with, monitoring the Iowa board of Parole and making sure they follow the US Supreme Court's decisions.

We have also voluntarily assigned different Board members to handle letters from inmates at the prisons in Iowa. We have a central location where all letters are sent to and then dispersed to the appropriate res pponder. We keep close communication between each other regarding issues that arise at different institutions.

We will continue to work toward restoring voting rights to returning citizens, improving conditions in the prisons, mental

health treatment issues and re-entry issues, particularly housing and jobs. It remains our privilege to serve.

Respectfully,  
Sue Hutchins, CURE of Iowa

### **Sr. JoAnne Talarico**

Iowa CURE members and board members want to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Sister Joann Talarico who died recently. She has been a leader in the work to eliminate the sentence of life without parole for juveniles and to support the effort to give the opportunity for parole for the nearly 50 incarcerated persons in that category.

Sister JoAnne was a member of the Congregation of the Humility of Mary for many years. She was an educator and a seeker of human rights and justice. She is greatly missed by many. A celebration of her life is scheduled for June 25 at 1 p.m. at the Bishop Drumm Chapel in Johnston.

### **Opportunity to Write**

After many years of corresponding with those incarcerated in Iowa's prisons, we know that there are many of you who are excellent thinkers and writers. The American Prison Writing Archive is the largest and first fully searchable digital archive of non-fiction essays by incarcerated people writing about their experience inside. To get your view of the prison system into the public sphere, write to request a permissions questionnaire: The APWA, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, NY 13323.

### **THE FIRST STEP ACT**

The "The First Step Act is well named as it is just that. According to the folks at the "Sentencing Project" say it will make a difference in sentencing and time served in prison for thousands of people in federal institutions; however the new law does not adequately address the mandatory minimum and excessively long sentences that have filled our prisons and turned some into mental institutions and geriatric facilities. It does not address on the effect the lives of nearly 2 million men and women in our state prisons and local jails. It does not address the fact that 200,000 Americans: two thirds of whom are people of color and are now serving life sentences It did not address the right to vote for more than 4 million Americans who are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction.

We need to continue to work together to address the many areas of injustice in the U.S. criminal Justice system. According to the Sentencing Project we need to expand support for capping sentences at no more than 20 years except in unusual circumstances. We need to establish a Second Look process that would allow anyone who has served 10 years to apply for re-sentencing before an independent decision-making body. We need to assist networks of state and local activists to work for change. We need to produce an analyses of racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. Of course, we also need to work for automatic restoration of voting rights for returning citizens.

If you are interested in learning more about working for these and other progressive changes in the criminal justice system.

Please contact The Sentencing Project, 1705 Desales St.NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20036 for more information.

### **A Letter of Thanks**

My mom told me as a kid she wanted me to become one of three professions: a doctor, a lawyer, or a priest. I didn't think I had the brains or the keen eye to become a doctor or lawyer, and even though I was an altar boy then, I didn't feel I had the heart to become a priest. However, I did want to make my mom proud. I dreamt of becoming someone respectable. I'm dispirited to say that somewhere in between the ages of 12 and 15, I lost sight of my desire to make my mom proud. Then, to make matters even worse, one dreadful night instead of bringing my pride and respect to my mom and the rest of the family, I brought shame and hurt. Five months after my fifteenth birthday, I committed a horrible and unthinkable crime. I took the life of a fellow human being.

My world and the world of my family as we once knew it changed forever. I was sentenced to life in prison. I entered the prison system as a scared seventeen-year-old kid. Hiding my fear, I became a pretender. I made a strong effort to act tough and defiant. I tried to forget my shameful and cruel crime in an effort to run from it. Eventually, it caught up with me. I felt my world cave in. I could not understand nor make sense of what was happening to me. I thought I was losing my mind as I dealt with the appalling facts of my crime and as I acknowledged the atrocious effects it had on my victim, his family, my family, and my community. A new realm arose before me. In the new realm, I was the cancer doctors fight to extract, the criminal lawyers hate to represent, and the sin priests look to eradicate. I was a horrible person. A horrible person I didn't want to be. This realization brought about a mental and spiritual fight I didn't think I could bear.

Thank God for my family and the good people in my life. Without their guidance and love, I would not have been able to fact my dreadful past. Their kind words and support have helped me rekindle my desire to make my mom proud. They've helped me realize what it takes to become a better person, and that it's never too late to become what I should have been, a servant to the good in both my family and in my community. My main purpose with this article is to thank the farsighted people in my life who've helped me see that it's not where I breathe that I live, but where I help and love. Thank you.

–Rene Zarate

*Rene Zarate is one of nearly 40 Iowa's who were affected by the Graham decision (2010) and related Miller decision (2012) of the U.S. Supreme Court that declared unconstitutional life imprisonment without parole for those whose offenses were committed as minors. Iowa Juvenile Justice Network, an interest group of Iowa CURE, has been tracking the progress toward release and advocating for these individuals since the decision.*

### **CENSORSHIP OF MEDIA IOWA PRISONS**

After losing a sexual harassment suit which cost the Iowa Department of Corrections, the Iowa DOC changed its policy regarding the "Recreation" videos and TV programs that incarcerated persons can watch. They were also required to cancel subscriptions to magazines that might have sexual content. TV programs having a rating of more than TV 14. are now blocked. The most extreme response to this policy was the destruction of Christmas cards mailed to incarcerated persons at Christmas time that had a picture of baby Jesus on them! Below is a copy of the policy.

"Recreation Programs" Marcy 2019 , Dan Craig Interim Director:

#### **APPROVAL OF VIDEO RECORDINGS AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS**

1. Videos shall not be shown in an institution that has a greater rating than PG 13.

Unrated religious videos may be shown and content reviewed on a case by case basis by the warden or designee.

2. Television programs shall not be shown that have a greater than TV 14. Programs with intense sexual context shall be blocked. News, religious, home shopping and sports are exempt from the TV rating.

system and maybe considered unrated,

3. Institutions shall establish procedures for video review and approval.

4. Video shown must be in compliance with video licensing agreement.

### **POLICY REGARDING COMMUNICATION WITH IDOC**

A new policy regarding communication between the members of the public or those under supervision of the IDOC with the Board of Corrections.

Mail correspondence to the Iowa Board of Corrections, c/o Iowa DOC, 510 E.12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319. All correspondence addressed to the Board of Corrections shall first be directed to the Chairperson for resolution and response, if deemed necessary. The Chairperson may, at their discretion, direct the correspondence to the DOC Public Information Officer who will confer with the appropriate DOC division and provide the Board of Corrections Chair with the requested information.

### **REVISED 2019 Department of Corrections Board Meetings Locations**

(Meeting agenda will be posted on the DOC web site - <https://doc.iowa.gov/>.)

January 4, 2019 Des Moines, Central Office  
510 East 12th Street Des Moines, IA

February 7, 2019 Des Moines, Central Office  
(Legislative Breakfast 7-9)

This meeting will 510 East 12th Street begin at 9:30  
Des Moines, IA

March 1, 2019 5th Judicial District

Fresh Start Women's Facility Des Moines, IA

April 5, 2019 Des Moines, Central Office  
510 East 12th Street Des Moines, IA

May 3, 2019 Iowa Medical and Classification Center

2700 Coral Ridge Avenue Coralville, IA  
June 7, 2019 Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility  
1200 East Washington Street Mt. Pleasant, IA  
July 12, 2019 1st Judicial District Women Center for Change  
1515 Lafayette Waterloo, Iowa  
August 2, 2019 Clarinda Correctional Facility  
2000 N. 16th Street Clarinda, IA  
September 6, 2019 7th Judicial District  
605 Main Street Davenport, IA  
October 4, 2019 4th Judicial District Residential Correctional  
Facility  
900 9th Avenue Council Bluffs, IA  
November 1, 2019 Iowa Prison Industries Showroom  
1445 E. Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA  
December No Meeting

Ombudsman Hirschman recently spoke to members of the  
Voices to be Heard and they found her to be very open to  
questions about the work of her office. The 2018 Report is on  
the Iowa Ombudsman website. There are also instructions  
regarding how to file a complaint.

### **REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

The office of the ombudsman looks into complaints and  
answers questions regarding most state agencies of state and  
local government in Iowa. This includes prisons and jails. The  
office receives about 5000 contacts a year. Approximately one  
third involves the prison system. Complaints to the office rose  
for the fifth straight year in 2018. In her annual report, the  
Director, Kristie Hirschman shared her wish list. She states  
that in order to keep up with this steady, steep rise in cases  
she has a wish list of things she would like to see. Below is  
her wish list:

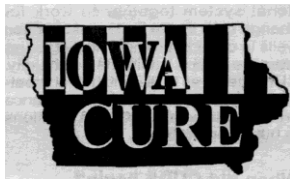
1. I wish government agencies would be more transparent and  
explain their decisions to citizens.
2. I wish government agencies would take our  
recommendations seriously.
3. I wish agencies did not view our inquiries as an annoyance.
4. I wish board members and government officials would  
remember that they are public servants.
5. I wish I could figure out why complaints from inmates in  
county jails are skyrocketing.
6. I wish that the privatization of government service would not  
make our job more difficult and limit our ability to resolve  
complaints.

According to the report the number of cases they opened  
against county jails last year increased by 24 per cent. That  
followed an increase of 34 percent the year before. In 2018  
the Department of Corrections cases totaled 1231. This is by  
far the agency with the most cases.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

*Please remember to pay your 2019 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

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**P. O. BOX 41005**  
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**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.**