

OK-CURE

Today's Inmates are Tomorrow's Neighbors

Fall 2013

July

NV P A	71
NV J R	198
V P A	35
V J R	105
NV Sec	59
V Sec	21
Reentry	93
Spe rev	0
Medical	4
total	586
Recom	
NV ST	154
Nv CS	23
NV Det	18
NV Com	0
V ST	137
V CS	12
V Det	14
V Com	0
Pardons	10
Par Rec	7
Waivers	137
Gov act	
To St	1
To CS	0
To deta	0
to Com	0
Revoc	13
Ne Con	6
Tech	1
Con+tec	7
pardons	4

We need your help!!

To be honest I'm not quite sure where to start. OK-CURE gets by on very little money every year just look how cheap our dues are and most of the inmate members are indigent. Every year we get by with so very little most being donations as we have a 501©3 and can count off on your taxes. We have no paid staff, only volunteers and we always need help. We cover our own expenses to travel for any and all meetings so sometimes we can't make it; we do it because we believe in the cause.

The question is do you believe? Money is not the only way to help; the easiest way to help is to tell others about us. We know where the inmates are, but we need help spreading the word; tell other inmates, families and volunteers. Tell others on your units, in the visiting rooms, and in your churches in other words every place. You can cut up use the enclosed cards and share them.

With the legislative session getting ready to start we need families that will call their state Senators

and Representatives. Otherwise they continue adding crimes to the 85% and adding more private prison beds. (There was an Interim Study this fall that asked the DA council what crimes they thought should be added to the 85% list)

They don't have to say anything about having a love one in prison, not their name, their crime nothing unless they want to. All they need to do is tell them where they stand on the issues. The legislators say if they hear from just 5 constituents on a subject it is a landslide. With over 26000 in prisons how many family members are there on the outside? If they got involved could it be the largest voting block in the state?

We use Facebook, twitter, yahoo group and our website to get the information and news out. During the current ice/snow storm we received and email from DOC that HMCC would not have visiting that weekend we were able to post it on Facebook, twitter & our yahoo group to help keep families informed.

Now to the money problem, the date on the mailing label is the expiry date for your membership; Check it out If it has passed please please renew your dues. It does take money to print and mail the newsletters and other things. Remember stamps can cover dues If you're still indigent we would like to know you are still interested in receiving the newsletter. We may have to remove your names if we don't hear something from you, which includes free world members also.

We are looking at trying to go greener, like emailing newsletters out to free world members. There are other brochures and info sheets we need to print but they are also available on our yahoo group site.

Also we are having request to put out the newsletter more than quarterly. BUT that would definitely take more people and money. Please complete the questionnaire enclosed in the newsletter or free world members can email the info.

New OP's

12/04/13 DOC 140121B Health Care Leave Request Form

11/25/13 OP-090101D CareerTech Completion Achievement Credits
OP-140124 Dental Services

11/20/13 OP-060102F Female Initial Custody Assessment Procedures
OP-060102M Male Initial Custody Assessment Procedure
OP-060104 Community Corrections Assessment
OP-060201 Initial Reception of Offenders
OP-060211-01 Sentence Administration

11/19/13 OP-140113 Health Assessment for Offender Transfers
OP-031001C Escorted Leave Request Form

11/18/13 OP-030401 Private Prison Monitoring Requirements DOC

040111A Authorization to apply restraints to a Pregnant Offender

11/01/13 OP-020307 Sex & Violent Crime Offender Registration
OP-060107-01 Systems of Incarceration
OP-060211 Sentence Administration
OP-061001-01 GPS Surveillance Program

10/30/13 P-020600 Legislative Initiative Process

10/22/13 OP-020111 Website Management
OP-030106 Recreation Activity Program
OP-040114 Security of Offenders in Non-prison Hospitals
OP-140118 Emergency Care

10/02/13 OP-090107 Offender Education Program

9/30/13 OP-030134 Chemical

Abuse Testing **P-010300** Mission & Organization of the ODOC
P-020100 Management of the ODOC
P-020800 Guidelines for Research & Research-Related Activities
P-130100 DOC Annual Inspection & Monitoring
P-150100 Physical Plant Standards & Long Range Plant Development for Correctional Industries

9/25/13 OP-080105 OCI Confidentiality Procedures

9/24/13 OP-120801 Property Inventory Control

9/23/13 OP-140101 Organizational Responsibilities of Medical Services
OP-140146 Palliative Care Program
OP-040206A Utilization of Transit Detention

DOC 2014 proposed Legislative Initiatives

At the October Board of Corrections meeting DOC presented the 5 following proposals for the next legislative session.

Clarify list of crimes excluded from eligibility for delayed sentencing. This law deals with any adult 18 through 21 as of the date of a verdict of guilty or a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for a nonviolent felony offense or a juvenile who has been certified to stand trial as an

adult for a nonviolent felony offense, who has not been convicted of: then it list 40 crimes.

Amend Sex Offender Registration Act to clarify registration requirement does not apply while offender is incarcerated.

Increase time frame from 6 months to 12 months from scheduled release for Parole Board docketing of nonviolent offenders when all facili-

ties reach maximum capacity and DOC contracts for bedspace.

Amend statute on offender medical care to have DOC pay Medicaid reimbursement for inpatient hospitalization rather than current network rates.

Exempt offenders serving LWOP from requirement to deposit 20% wages in mandatory savings, payable upon discharge.

Early Parole/ Commutations

Tracy George the Acting Executive Director and General Counsel of the Pardon and Parole Board advised the following regarding early paroles and commutations

Only the offender, themselves will be able to ask for an early parole or commutation by writing the Pardon

and Parole office at: Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board, Attn: Executive Director, First National Center, 120 N Robinson Ave #900W, Oklahoma City OK 73102.

In your letter advice you want to be considered for an early parole or a commutation. They will send you a

packet to complete and return. This is just to be considered it does NOT mean that they will hear your case.

You do not need an attorney because the offender must send the request and complete the packet.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

No matter how you choose to honor the holiday season remember to make the best of it. Whatever holiday you observe they offer tools for living. Do not let nostalgia drive you crazy or get you down and blue. It should be about the passage of time not worrying about how to speed it up. Take every day for what it is worth and finding something or someone to be thankful for.

The holidays can be a painful time for all of us. For those who are incarcerated it is difficult not to be homesick and lonely. For those who do not have family it is easy to become callous and even angry. Be responsive to those around you and reach out to one another. A small act of kindness goes a long way.

It is also difficult for the family and friends of those who are incarcerated. Many times the reality of it all leads to depression and anxiety. Some suffer from loneliness and even guilt. Everyone, offenders and family and friends alike, need to make it a point to lift each other up with love and support.

It is best to keep busy and not fall into "self-pity mode" feeling sorry for yourself because you are away from the one(s) you love and allowing that only hurts the them. Getting upset during phone calls, visits or even in a letter only tears you and them down when you should be lifting each other up. Remember, if it is hard on you it is just as hard if not harder on them.

The best that anyone can do is to continue to look forward. Leave the past in the past and focus on the future. Do not fall into the trap of comparing this year with "the good ole days." Be content with what you have by taking things one moment at a time.

The holiday season affects everyone differently. Be patient, kind, loving and caring to everyone around you. Set yourself a goal that everyday you will make at least one person that you encounter smile. You'll find yourself smiling in the process remembering that the holiday season is one of love and joy.

Moving into the New Year remember that we here at OK CURE continue to "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT" by educating the public about the Oklahoma Criminal Justice System and standing up for the rights of those incarcerated. We fight hard to speak up for those who feel that they have no voice. Issues such as bathroom breaks during visits, unsanitary chow hall conditions, no hot water issues, visiting issues, medical care issues, religious dietary issues and saying "NO" to private prisons are only a few. We continue to push for legislation for aging prisoners, the modification of the 85% law, and the necessity of Truth In Sentencing and well, the list goes on and on and on.

Please keep in mind that though we rally together to assist offenders and their family and friends, we are

not at liberty to offer legal assistance or advice. We cannot recommend legal action or legal council. For those entertaining legal action OK CURE is unable to assist you in drafting briefs or petitions. We cannot act on your behalf by drafting or filing court documents. If you are without an attorney and are acting pro se the only advice that we can offer is to visit your facility's law library and seek out a certified legal research assistant. They are there to help you.

There is much work to be done and not enough of us to do it all. Encourage everyone you know to join OK CURE and be active in what we are trying to accomplish. Being "active" is the key word. Anyone can be a member of something, but being an active member is the key. Everyone has something to offer whether it is stuffing envelopes, making phone calls, sending emails or giving someone a ride to a meeting. Besides the more members we have the louder our voice will be. One voice is but a tiny growl...MANY VOICES UNITED TOGETHER ARE A LOUD ROAR!!! WE NEED TO BE HEARD!!!

So, until our next newsletter in 2014, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from all of us at OK CURE to all of you!!!

Karen Lorayne Wood

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.

**Indeed it's the only thing that ever has
Margaret Mead**

CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF

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How to find us
Phone 918-744-9857
E-mail okcure@okcure.org
www.okcure.org

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OKCURE/
Also on Facebook & twitter

Family Guide
http://www.doc.state.ok.us/newsroom/publications/guideforfamilies.pdf

Today's Inmates are Tomorrow's Neighbors

2014 Legislative Session

The 2014 legislative session is about to start. At this time there hasn't been any announcements about reducing any of the 85% crimes. There was even an Interim Study 13-010 (Comprehensive look at restricting of classifications of violent and non-violent felonies. Rep. Leslie Osborn even asked the DA's Council if they had any crimes that they felt should be added to the 85% laws.

The deadline for them to requesting bills is Dec 13. We will start learning the wording of the bills after Jan 16. The session starts the 1st Monday in Feb. and must end by the last Fri. in May. There are deadlines between those dates in which the bills must be heard by the committees, voted on the floor and sent to the other side.

The Senate and the House have different dates. The next newsletter mainly be about the bills of interest. We will also be putting out info on the yahoo group to keep families and friends inform and up today when the bills will be seen

Meeting Info.

2014 OK-CURE Meetings

Hopefully this information will once again be posted on the units as Director Jones had done for this year.

In Oklahoma City the meetings are during the odd months, the second Sunday of the month at 2PM at the Ralph Ellison Library 2000 NE 23rd (23rd & Martin Luther King) **Jan 12, March 9** (Annual meeting election of officers) **May 11, July 13, Sept 14, and Nov 9.** Guest will be announced later.

In Tulsa the meetings are during the even months, the second Saturday of the month at 2 PM at the Schusterman-Benson Library 3333 E 32nd Pl (right off Harvard at 32nd Pl.) **Feb 8, April 12, June 14, August 8, October 11 and Dec 13**

We will announce guest later.

2014 Board of Corrections Meetings

These meetings are open to the public and we would encourage any time you can make a meeting to do so. They must be reminded that there are families and friends that care a great deal for those on the inside. Most if not all the meetings are on Thursday at 1 pm. Once we receive a copy of the agenda we send it out on our yahoo group email.

Jan. 9, 1PM at DOC Headquarters North Conference Rm. 3400 N Martin Luther King Ave, OKC

Feb. 6, 1pm at JLCC 105150 N 3670 Rd, Boley

Mar. 6 1pm at KBCCC 3300 N Martin Luther King Ave, OKC

April 3 1pm at UCCCC 700 North State Hwy 81, Union City

May 1 1pm at DOC Headquarters North Conference Rm. 3400 N Martin Luther Kings Ave OKC

June 5 1pm at MACC 1151 N Hwy 69, Stringtown

July 10, 1pm at CCF 3200 S Kings Hwy, Cushing

Aug no meeting

Sept 11 1pm at ECCC 2613 N Van Buren, Enid;

Oct TBD

Nov 6 1pm, EWCC, 400 Oak St, Taft;

Dec no meeting

From all of us at Christmas to all of you

**Some Christmases are merrier than others
But although you've had
Holiday seasons more joyous
Than this one may be
Remember that there are
A lot of people in your corner
People who love you
People who know
What a good heart you have
And that you deserve happiness
Not just at the holidays but every day.**

**So as you head into the New Year,
Don't forget who's heading into it with you
Hoping it brings comfort and joy,
Wishing you only the best**

**Your Oklahoma CURE Family & Friends
No matter what holiday you celebrate
We wish you the very best**

*Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays
+ Happy New Year.*

Get Involved. Help make a difference!

Do you want to help make a change? Then join OK-CURE. If you are already a member, then check your newsletter for the expiry date, if it is past due then use part of the sheet below to renew. If your family members are not members of CURE, send this form to them so they can join. Otherwise give it to a friend so they can join. Or if your dues are up to date, maybe you want to use this form to make a donation? It would be a tax deduction. Complete the form and send it to OK-CURE at Box 9741, Tulsa Ok 74157. Call us at 918-744-9857 check out our website. www.okcure.org & our email okcure@okcure.org to receive our emails join us at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OKCURE>

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____

Zip _____ Home phone _____ Email _____

Basic \$10 _____ Family \$20 _____ Life \$100 _____ Donation _____ 501(c)3

Name _____ DOC # _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____

Zip _____ Prisoners \$2 _____ Stamps _____ Indigent Prisoner Free _____ Donation _____

 If you don't know the following information, call your County Election Board. Please provide either your District number or your legislator's name, if you know it, if not known we will verify the info for you.

State Senate District _____ State Representative District _____

Federal Senate District _____ Federal Representative District _____ Are you a registered voter _____ if so, are you active in your party? _____ If not, would you like to learn how to be?

_____ Would you be interested in attending meetings to learn about how to educate your legislators on the issues? _____ To visit the legislature? _____ Call your legislator on issues? _____ Attend

DOC or legislative meetings open to the public? _____ Willing to receive email newsletter _____

Interested in serving on the OK-CURE board _____ On a committee _____ Area of interest _____

What you can do to help OK-CURE _____

Areas you have an interest in _____

Areas you wish OK-CURE to do more _____

Do you advise others about OK CURE? (In and out) _____

Do you make craft items you would like to donate to OK CURE to help raise money? _____

Do you have any other ideas how to help OK-CURE raise money? _____

Other comments _____