

# OK-CURE

Winter 2014

Today's inmates are tomorrow's neighbors

## Getting Involved

Hello Everyone! It's a new year and there is a lot of work to be done. We here at the OK CURE continue to fight the good fight by educating the public about the OK Criminal Justice System, advocating for necessary changes and standing up for the human and civil rights of those incarcerated. It's a never-ending war. A battle may be won here and there, and though they may be small ones, they are victories nonetheless. The key to success is to never give up. These battles cannot be won singlehandedly. It takes all of us united together to get the job done.

I hear those who gripe and complain, moan and groan and yet they do nothing. Sitting idle does nothing but harbor frustration and aggravation for you and those around you. Get involved. Get up and do something to make a difference. Be an active participant in your own life and the life of the ones you love. Everything has to start somewhere. A good place to start is with your voice. No matter where you are, even incarcerated, your voice can be heard. There are many different ways to let your opinions and concerns be known. I mean, have you ever really thought about it? There are 26,000 offenders incarcerated in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. If each offender and one family member/friend write to their state legislator that would be a total of 52,000 letters. Just imagine if we could get one family member/friend for every offender to march on the capital.... Man, we could make a lot of noise with that many people in one place at one time.

OK CURE is here to help, but we cannot do it alone. One person had the courage to speak out and contact OK CURE regarding the recent happenings at Avalon. Appropriate connections were made and the offenders involved are now safe. Action was taken and DOC removed the offenders housed there and Avalon has since been closed pending investigation.

I'm sure there are those of you that do not look at Avalon's closing as a positive thing because you, your loved one or someone you know was shipped to another facility. The positive thing in all of this is that the wrongdoings were stopped and those who were in harm's way are now safe. All because someone spoke up and let their voice be heard.

Of course there are things regarding the situation at Avalon that cannot be discussed in this newsletter because there is an ongoing investigation, but what I am trying to tell you is that we are here for you. I am here for you! OK CURE IS HERE FOR YOU!!!

What do we do for you, the incarcerated? We are continuously in contact with our state representatives and senators discussing the issues that you bring to our attention. We go to the capital regularly to rally and participate in conversations, meetings and discussions regarding the problems that you face every day. We speak up in support of legislation such as the Aging Prisoners Bill and fight anything to do with the use of private prisons. We are constantly pushing for sentence reform, consistent sentencing guidelines, modification to the 85% law and the list goes on and on, but we cannot do it alone. Be an active participant in your own life and the life of the ones you love.

The 2014 legislative session is about to start. What can you do? For those of you in the outside world who have loved ones incarcerated, you can visit, call or e-mail your legislators. I know that some of you may be scared or worried about how it may affect your loved one and you fear repercussions. You do not have to divulge any information that you are not comfortable giving out. You only need to give your name and your opinion regarding the issue that you are contacting them about.

For those of you incarcerated, you can write to your legislators and voice your opinions as well. Just because you are incarcerated doesn't mean that your opinion doesn't count, because it does. You are a constituent for that representative or that senator. You are part of the population count for their district. (continued on back page)

## New OP's

01/31/14 OP-110602 Reasonable Suspicion Drug & Alcohol Testing Program OP-120601 Disbursement of Federal and State Seizure Funds & Property OP-120702 Employee Fund Committee OP-161001 Specialized Programs Case Management

01/30/14 OP-061002 Electronic Monitoring Program for DUI Offenders

01/29/14 OP-060205 Parole Process Procedures OP-060206 Corrections Compact Transfers OP-060210 Delayed Sentencing Program for Young Adults for Confined Offenders OP-061001 Global Position Satellite Surveillance (GPS) Program OP-140114 Screening New Arrivals OP-140115 Health Assessment OP-140134 Credentialing Process OP-160202 Case File Review

01/28/14 OP-030117 Correspondence, Publications and Audio/Video Media Guidelines OP-090101C Approved Achievement credits/program participation points

01/27/14 OP-140116 Employee Physical Examinations & Medical Screenings OP-140123 Care of the Actively Chemical Dependent Offender OP-140125 Bloodborne

Pathogen Exposure Control Program OP-140133 Othoses, Prostheses & Other Aids of Impairment OP-140138 Offender Living Will/Advance Directive for Health Care & Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) OP-160501 Community Corrections Skill Building Review Process OP-160601 Supervision of Sex Offenders OP-160801 Administrative Caseload

01/24/14 OP-030116 Offender Libraries OP-140401 DNA Testing OP-140653 Emergency Forced Psychotropic Medication

01/23/14 OP-020308 Preservation of Historical Documents & Artifacts OP-020601 Cooperation with Legislative & Executive Bodies OP-160201 Opening, Closing & Transferring Cases Under Supervision

01/15/14 OP-050109 Reporting of Incidents OP-050401 Hostage Situations OP-150101 Physical Plant Development

01/14/14 P-010100 System of Manuals, Handbooks & Monitoring Procedures P-020700 ODOC Information System P-030200 Offender Housing, Job & Program Integration P-040100 Security Standards for the ODOC P-080100 Mission & Man-

agement of Correctional Industries P-090100 Provisions of Programs P-140100 Offender Medical, Mental Health & Dental Care P-160100 Purpose & Function of Probation & Parole

01/10/14 OP-090133 Career & Technical Training

01/08/14 OP-030101 Unit Management Overview & Major Objectives OP-031001 Offender Escorted Leave/Activities OP-060107-02 Systems of Incarceration OP-090106 Prisoner Public Work Contract & Assignment of Offenders to Public Works Programs

12/17/13 OP-050108-01 Use of Force Standards & Reportable Incidents OP-090101 Standards for Offender Programs OP-140121 Outside Providers for Health Care Management

12/13/13 OP-030501 Personal Hygiene & Appearance Code OP-140107 Medical Services Management System OP-140112 Security and Maintenance of the Health Services Unit's Equipment & Supplies

12/09/13 OP-140108-01 Privacy of Protected Health Information

12/05/13 OP-030402 Community Corrections Residential Contracts

## Changes in Early Parole/Commutations

After the last newsletter the Pardon & Parole board offices were flooded with request for the early parole/commutations applications so they decided to make a change in the procedures

The new procedures will have the applications will be made available

in each of the law libraries sometime during Feb. They have not given us an exact date yet.

Hearing dates are March 10-14; April 7-11; May 5-9; June 2-6; July 7-11; Aug 15-19; Sept 15-19; Oct 13-17; Nov 10-14 and Dec 8-12.

We encourage people to attend a hearing before their love one comes up for parole as the open meeting act allows anyone to attend the meetings at Kate Barnard Community Corrections Center at 3300 N Martin Luther King Ave in Oklahoma City.



**CITIZENS UNITED FOR  
THE REHABILITATION OF  
ERRANTS**

**BOX 9741  
TULSA OK 74157**

*How to find us*

Phone 918-744-9857 E-mail [okcure@okcure.org](mailto:okcure@okcure.org)

[www.okcure.org](http://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](http://www.doc.state.ok.us/newsroom/publications/guideforfamilies.pdf)

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Basic \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Life \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOC # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Prisoners \$2 \_\_\_\_\_ Stamps \_\_\_\_\_ Indigent Prisoner Free \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

(continued from front page)

How are they supposed to know what is going on inside the prison walls – what it is really like unless you tell them. Tell them how you feel about the issues to be discussed during the legislative session. Tell them what you think needs to change and how it needs to change. According to DOC Policy OP-030117, correspondence to elected officials of the Oklahoma State Legislature is considered Privileged Correspondence and cannot be read by staff. It can only be inspected to see that no contraband is contained and that it is, in fact, being sent to a state legislator. It should be sealed in the presence of any staff member or the law library supervisor and sent out from the law library. It must be logged as privileged mail. Check with your law library supervisor for your facility's guidelines.

According to statistics, Oklahoma legislators only hear from approximately five constituents each year. They want to hear from you, from me, from us, their constituents. Let's give them something to talk about. For those of you living on the outside, if you are unsure of who your legislators are and how to contact them, please follow the link below: <http://www.capitolconnect.com/oklahoma/default.aspx> and fill in the necessary information. For those of you who are incarcerated, you can visit your facility's law library and if the information is not posted for your convenience, the law library supervisor should be able to assist you. Of course, you can always write to OK CURE and we will gladly provide you with the correct information.

Don't feel that your legislators are out of your reach no matter if you live in the outside world or if you are incarcerated. I recently decided to write to my representative, in lieu of calling or e-mailing, to seek assistance with an issue that I am having. I guess I am just so used to writing letters, it never really crossed my mind to just e-mail her. In any case, all of my contact information: name, address, phone number and e-mail address was in the heading of my stationary. I was pleasantly surprised to receive both e-mails and phone calls from her within just a few days. Will she be able to help me with my problem? She is definitely trying and that is all that any of us can ask.

So, be an active participant in your own life and the life of the ones you love. Write your legislator today and encourage your neighbor or your cellie to do the same. ONE VOICE IS BUT A TINY GROWL.... MANY VOICES UNITED TOGETHER IS A LOUD ROAR!!! LET OUR STATE LEGISLATORS HEAR US ROAR!! Karen Lorayne Wood