



CSOR

*Though I have fallen,
I will rise. - Micah 7:8*

5th Edition

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What's Going On at CMRC? Susan Walker based on communication with Deputy Executive Director Kellie Wasko and Warden Steve Hartley

CSOR is receiving letters and phone calls regarding Cheyenne Mountain Re-Entry Center (CMRC) and what is going on there. We reached out to several folks at CDOC, and got a prompt and clear response from Deputy Executive Director Kellie Wasko and CMRC Warden Steve Hartley. Here is their explanation!

CMRC was actually an idea in the mind of Executive Director Tom Clements before he was taken from us. He had a vision for a place where people could go before leaving CDOC that would bolster their re-entry information and skills, and provide a "buffer zone" so to speak between incarceration and life on the outside. Deputy Executive Director Wasko states that CDOC "is very excited about this and that I have personally been working on it for over a year now." The next paragraph states the reasons for the new CMRC program in her words.

"The idea is that we have such a bottleneck at the S.O. facilities because the clinicians have to offer the maintenance groups, which takes away from offering more Phase I and Phase II groups. So I worked with CMRC a year ago to develop a process by which an offender who has completed treatment and met criteria can go to the re-entry center and work on the re-entry modules while they are still getting maintenance follow-up. CMRC has bent over backwards to hire clinicians that we approved of; we sent them to FCF to train with our staff so they get the exact same curriculums and then to offer them an opportunity at CMRC for re-entry."

While she understands that people are going to have to make an adjustment to "dormitory living" and do without their personal appliances for a short time, she states that it will help if folks can look at it as "one step closer to being done". She says "I have to look at it as the best use of the precious resources that we have and get the offenders that are waiting for treatment, into treatment...It is really a good thing".

Many of you have been in prison a long time, and are, of course, focused on your personal desire to get out. No-one blames you for that. It is my opinion that we have to give CDOC a lot of credit for responding positively to the Outside Evaluators' Report on the SOTMP, and opening many new doors/pathways for treatment to happen and for many more of you to get out. I see guys that have had treatment inside CDOC come out of prison with much better coping skills than those who have not had treatment on the inside. Success and safe living is much more likely following the changes that CDOC has made in the treatment programs and pathways. Is it perfect? No, it's not, but it is a whole lot better than it was for many years! (continued on page 2)

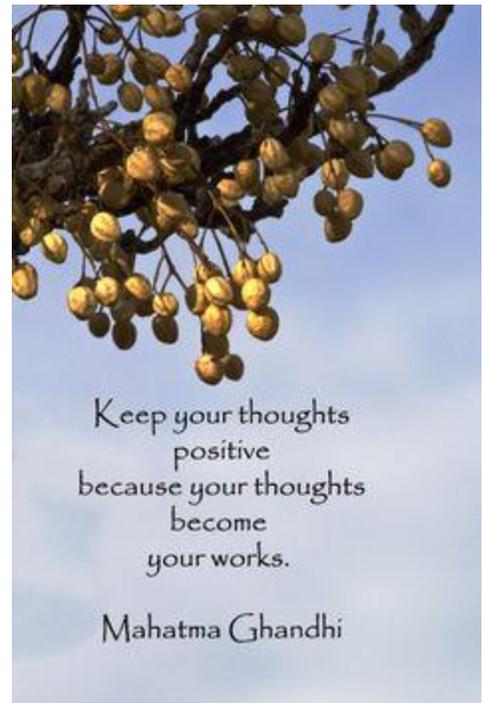
"Life in Christ is like traveling on a metro link train, with a predetermined destination. You are not the driver, Jesus is, and God provided the route on this one time trip. He plotted everything, the date and the time of your travel and arrival. There will be stops and delays along the way, but remember this, at the bottom of a traffic light is always a green light." — Rolly Lavapie

A phone conversation with CMRC Warden Steve Hartley on 2-11-15 offered more information. Here are some of the thoughts he shared with me: 1) People coming to the re-entry center from the sexual offense programs will be housed and programmed together, not in the general population. 2) They will be working together in the kitchen, and will eat separately from other inmates. 3) \$30,000 worth of new exercise equipment has been ordered for the facility; 4) yard time will be separate for those coming into CMRC from the maintenance sexual offense programs at CDOC; 5) the current plan is to move 20 or so people to CMRC who are close to getting out, and then adjust the program as needed in terms of who will be going there.

Warden Hartley states that he is acutely aware of the concerns regarding safety for all of you, having been warden at a variety of CDOC facilities in the past. Warden Hartley was warden at AVCF when that sexual offense specific program got great reviews from the outside evaluators.

Closing Points: I have been told by John McGill and by others that every effort will be made to store your personal appliances until you leave CDOC if you are one of the people that ends up going to CMRC. Is it possible that some will be lost? Yes, it is possible, but once you are out, CSOR is here to help get you started with new appliances and supplies for your life on the outside if some of your items do end up missing! I can't promise 40" flat screen television's for everyone, but I can promise we will do all we can to help get you settled with the necessities of life.

After many years in prison, any move inside CDOC and not to the outside has got to be a hard move. If you have made it this far, you will survive and hopefully thrive through this last step! It is going to happen, so the only thing to do is to make the best of it. On the outside, you will enjoy a moment of relief because you are out, but the challenges of life go on whether you are in or out! Be positive and don't give up.



Update on DOCCA Lawsuit John Pineau via E-mail to Susan Walker

Here is John's e-mail to me on February 12, 2015:

"We still have not heard from all target class reps. However, we have decided to go forward with what we have. The final data on class reps is being collated and sent to Ingrid and Alison for inclusion in the final draft.

Respectfully,

John Pineau"

CSOR is now a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization!

On Saturday January 31, I received a letter from the Internal Revenue Services stating that "upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code." CSOR is now classified as a public charity.

It took several months to get the application done, and about five months to get it back from the IRS. I want to thank Ellen Toomey-Hale who assisted me a number of times over lunch in making the application as perfect as possible. It obviously paid off! We can now expand our fundraising program beyond small fundraisers and individual donations to include grants, bequests etc. While this means more work and more accountability, it should serve our cause well!

5th Amendment Information Shared by Laurie Rose Kepros at AFC Holiday Party in December and Reported on in the December AFC Newsletter

(based on e-mail conversation with Laurie Kepros and with her permission to use)

I have received letters from a number of folks asking for further explanation of the 5th amendment information shared by Laurie Kepros (Director of Sexual Litigation for the Public Defender's Office) at the AFC Holiday Party and reported on in the AFC December Newsletter.

Laurie states that for SOMB purposes, "they are now saying that people who are asserting the 5th pending appeal are no longer "deniers" as it regards the Adult Standards". She notes that this is DIFFERENT from DOC's policy at SOTMP and, for complex legal reasons, DOC believes the 5th Amendment does not fully apply to SOTMP.

According to Director of Sexual Litigation Kepros, "it would probably take a federal lawsuit to get to the US Supreme Court to change their minds. The gist of that of course is that you still always have the right to remain silent at DOC/SOTMP, but if you suffer hardship as a result of that silence, it is not considered punishment".

Since I am not (nor ever will be) an attorney, I cannot expound anymore on what this means. Hopefully Laurie's explanation is enough, and it will clarify what you did not understand in the AFC article. If you still have questions, feel free to send them to me in SHORT, CLEAR, BULLETED form, and I will see if I can indulge on her to answer them to the best of her ability and understanding.

Lunch with Debby Beatty and Suzanne Juarez of T.H.E.
January 2015
Susan Walker

A few weeks ago, another offender advocate and I had lunch with Debby Beatty, the new Clinical Director at T.H.E., and Suzanne Juarez, the new Executive Director. Debby was the former victims' advocate for CDOC. Suzanne has worked for a number of years with federal probation. According to these ladies, Greig Veeder is retired, and not involved in the ongoing treatment program.

There were several specific questions that were important for me to ask. They included: 1) What is the status of T.H.E.'s SLA's? 2) Will the name of the program be changed? 3) Is Greig's vision for what was not so fondly called "Veederville" likely to materialize in the future?

- 1) Status of the SLA's. T.H.E. is planning to "regroup" and continue its SLA's, feeling that they are integral to T.H.E.'s program.
- 2) The name T.H.E. will not be changed at this time. It is not clear whether it will ever change. I suggested that because of the stern/punishing reputation the program had, it would be wise to look at a name change at some point.
- 3) When I asked the questions regarding Greig's vision for mass housing for those with a sexual offense, I was told that the two staff we were having lunch with did not know whether that project was going forward, but that if it did, it would not be connected to the treatment program.

Other interesting information included the following:

Suzanne Juarez was on the T.H.E. board for many years at the request of Greig Veeder.

Debby Beatty told us that upon arrival at the program as the new Clinical Director, she told the guys that unless they really believed it, they were not to any longer say in their introduction before group "I am a very dangerous person". I was greatly encouraged by this piece of information.

Debby also told us that instead of starting everyone at T.H.E. at the highest level of containment/risk, the "new T.H.E." would start everyone at medium containment. The SOMB will be following up with programs regarding the importance of utilizing risk assessment scores and past progress in treatment to determine where people start in the community treatment programs.

THE plans to hold open house gatherings to honor those who have progressed in treatment at T.H.E., and to make it very clear that people are progressing!



My piano top was decorated with the Christmas cards many of you sent. Four of them were handmade! It was so pleasant sitting in my recliner in the evening, looking at the Christmas tree, and at all of these wonderful cards. I was hoping to attach a picture big enough to show you the piano and a corner of the tree, but this will give you an idea. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

SOMB Annual Report to the Legislature

Representatives of CSOR, AFC and Colorado Cure, as well as the Director of Sexual Litigation for the Public Defender's Office went to the Colorado Legislature on Tuesday, February 17 to hear the SOMB's yearly presentation to the House and Senate Judicial Committees and to testify. There were also multiple offender advocates present who did not plan to testify. I reviewed both last year's report and this year's report in preparation for this presentation, and do believe that some old themes present in last year's report are noticeably absent or in the background in this year's report (such as the containment model).

This reflects both the slow change that the SOMB was already undergoing, and the huge push that the Outside Evaluators' Reports regarding both the SOTMP and the SOMB gave the change process. There are still major issues that need to be addressed including the following which I included in an e-mail to Jesse Hansen, SOMB Researcher before the legislative presentation. He and Chris Lobanov-Rostovsky authored the Legislative Report. The following represents my outstanding concerns, and the object of my planned testimony. Also present to testify were: Laurie Rose Kepros, Director of Sexual Litigation for the Public Defender's Office and Mike Dell from Colorado Cure.

Polygraph: The report states in support of continued widespread use of the polygraph that Gannon, Beech and Ward claim that there is evidence for continued adjunct use of the polygraph. I pointed out to Jesse Hansen in my comments to him that "adjunct" means alongside of. It does not indicate that it should be an integral part of everyone's treatment, nor that it should be required to get out of prison, or move on in treatment on the outside. It can be a helpful tool when applied carefully in some instances. The report also states that the polygraph helps to identify and deliver important services for previously undisclosed victims. I reminded Jesse that 80% of people interviewed by the Outside Evaluators inside CDOC/SOTMP stated that they believed they were coerced into admitting victims they never had in order to progress in treatment, and that according to the evaluators, this huge percentage cannot be ignored going forward.

My suggestion to Jesse was that the paper and presentation reflect this accusation of coercion, as most legislators will not read the Outside Evaluators' Reports from cover to cover if at all. It needs to be brought to their attention if we are really going to take an honest look at the use of the polygraph.

Fast Facts

“Specifically, studies examining historical risk factors, stable-dynamic risk factors, and acute-dynamic risk factors are examined and evaluated. We conclude that there is reasonable evidence supporting polygraph use in some areas of risk assessment. However, the vast majority of studies suffers from serious confounds that should be taken into account by professionals who use the polygraph as a standard practice in sexual offender risk assessment and management.”

- ScienceDirect Aggression and Violent Behavior 13 (2008) 29–44, Theresa A. Gannon, *, Anthony R. Beech, Tony Ward

“In 2002, there were 533,977 reported arrests for various crimes for those age fifty and older. This age group constitutes 5.5 percent of all those arrested.”

- SOURCEBOOK OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS 355 (Ann L. Pastore & Kathleen Maguire eds., 2003)

suggesting this area as a policy issue for the legislature. Their suggestion is that instead of the offense-based registration Colorado currently has, we go to a tiered system (i.e. could be tiers 1 – 3, with the third tier representing what is currently the “SVP” level. The SVP as we know it would go away if this issue were to turn into legislation and pass.

Because the board believes there is likely to be a lot of discussion around this issue at the legislature, they are reluctant to try to go back and reassess people already designated SVP’s via the faulty assessment tools created in 1998 and a couple of times since then at the same time the legislature is discussing the new tiered approach. They believe there is likely to be a fiscal note attached to this reassessment, and feel that the attached fiscal note might influence the legislature’s willingness to look seriously at changing the way registration is done. A member of the group that launched the first SORS Instrument stated to me this past year that the whole group knew the instrument identified nothing indicating a person fit or did not fit a “special” category called sexually violent predator. A future rewrite, done by Kim English of the Division of Criminal Justice, was soundly criticized in the Outside Evaluators’ Report of the SOMB. That report indicated serious problems with the assessment instrument as well.

According to the report, there are “...serious flaws with the construction of the current version of the SORS. The first two flaws suggest that one cannot safely assume results with the present sample are generalizable to the general run of sexual offenders currently being managed in Colorado. The third and fourth points suggest that there were flaws in how recidivism data was collected, in the data analysis, or in how the research was written up. The fifth point means that there is currently no credible data on how predictive the SORS is”. I e-mailed Kim English, and asked her if she would accompany me to lunch to discuss this report, and suggested that if, as she claimed, there was data to support her assessment tool, she should contact the outside evaluators to share that data with them and thus vindicate herself and the assessment tool she created. She never responded to my request. She has now been asked by the SOMB to create yet another SVP assessment tool that will “fill in” until the legislature has a chance to look at the proposed new registration approach.

Those of us representing the offender advocacy groups made it clear that it was a moral and ethical obligation to go back and reassess everyone who is currently labeled an SVP. Angel Weandt, probation analyst who sits on the board, made a public statement regarding this as well in an SOMB Meeting during 2014. The lives of the people who carry this label have been seriously affected for the worse, and it would be inexcusable not to rectify the results of this faulty instrument.

People with Dementia and the Criminal Justice System: One of the issues that I have shared with the SOMB for a number of years reflects my background, (Masters in Gerontology – i.e. study of aging) in terms of working with older adults. There are far too many people inside CDOC (on their way out or stuck there for life), and way too many on probation who have early to late stage dementia. Dementia is displayed or can be displayed in many disease processes, including Alzheimer’s Disease, Lewy Body Disease, multi-infarct (small stroke) dementia, Parkinson’s Disease, multiple sclerosis etc. People with dementia should not be part of the criminal justice system.

People with dementia do not learn new information. Their brains are atrophied, and continue to atrophy seriously over time. The report states that someone with dementia (or a very elderly person with a sexual offense) might forget part of a safety plan. My comment to Jesse is that not only will those with dementia not remember components of a safety plan; they are not able to learn new information at all, and definitely should not be part of the criminal justice system and a treatment and supervision program that expect them to remember anything.

Jesse and Chris’s report did point out to the legislature as a potential policy change issue, that aging persons with a sexual offense are part of a huge increase in the older adult population expected by the year 2030, and that they need assisted living and nursing home placements just as other older adults do. Most nursing homes and assisted livings will not take those with a sexual offense, and the report points out that the Legislature needs to do something about this. The 75 – 80 year old population will double by the year 2030 and ½ of those will have dementia. If the law does not change, our jails, treatment centers and prisons will have a growing number of older adults as residents/participants.

SVP/Registration: The issue of what registration looks like in Colorado has been discussed for some time now in an SVP/Registration Committee that is part of the SOMB’s committee structure. I have been on that committee. The SOMB is

The hearing before the house and senate judicial committees was scheduled for 2-17-15. We all showed up, ready to testify, but the senate judicial committee members did not finish their morning session until 11:15 or so, and thus did not join the house judicial committee and audience members until around 11:30. Since the hearing, in order to be completed, would have needed to start around 10:00, Representative Daniel Kagan, Chair, suggested that since the senate judicial group was so late arriving and some committee members had other obligations as it approached noon, that the rest of the report be rescheduled for another day. Because of the time it takes to prepare the newsletter, get the envelopes printed, print the newsletter, fold it and get it ready to mail, I decided to go ahead and make this partial report so that it could go out during the first or second week of March as planned. If anything significant happens as a result of the follow-up meeting, CSOR can make that information available to all of you in the June Newsletter, or via individual letters to all of you (you can then pass the word!).

"Strong people are those who can build a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at them".

From: lessonslearnedinlife.com



NO MAN EVER STEPS
IN THE SAME RIVER
TWICE FOR IT'S NOT
THE SAME RIVER AND
HE'S NOT THE SAME
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