

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR CSOR

Now that the 501(c)(3) paperwork is in the mail, I (and we) can focus on other crucial work that must be done. Here is a summary of tasks to be undertaken over the next few months. The CSOR Board will meet soon to help more specifically chart the course forward.

1. Preparation for testimony at the legislature this fall when the Department of Public Safety gives its yearly report to the joint judicial committees, and later in the legislative session when the subject of the re-authorization of the SOMB (Sex Offender Management Board) is presented. This usually takes place somewhere between September and November.
2. Trip to another area of Colorado (trip to Grand Junction completed), perhaps the Colorado Springs/Pueblo area to develop coalition partners there, and to make parole and probation, as well as treatment providers more aware of the work that CSOR is doing. Engaging partners in the work of finding housing, general support, spiritual support, jobs etc. for people coming out of prison with a sexual offense is extremely important to their success.
3. Meeting with nursing home and assisted living providers who presently are not willing to accept people who have committed a sexual offense. At least one of our coalition partners is acutely aware of this challenge because she manages respite beds for people coming out of Denver Health and Stout Street Clinic. At least 3 of her 5 beds at any given time are for those with a sexual offense who often need to go on to assisted living or nursing facility. At present, there are no options.
4. Fundraising! While a number of folks have been extremely generous in their giving, we need to focus on encouraging more to contribute. The guys in prison who have access to funds are faithful in giving what they can – from stamps for newsletter mailings, to \$5.00, to \$200.00 which I believe has been the largest gift from a person who is incarcerated. We are grateful for all. In order for CSOR to be seriously considered for grants, we must develop financial resources from other sources. Families and friends of those incarcerated, on probation or parole, those who themselves are incarcerated or living with the continued weight of the need to register long term or for life – all of us must dig deep to find the dollars needed to continue the fight to make second chances possible.
5. Continued upgrading of the website, hopefully with new features of creative ways to communicate.
6. Ongoing coalition building. We currently partner with The Denver Rescue Mission, A Strong Tower Ministries, Christ Body Ministries, Volunteers of America/Veterans Outreach, The Rock Foundation, Second Chance Ministries (Colorado Springs), Hebrew House, The V.A., area jails, housing coalitions, landlords and management companies, Beyond Containment (Circles of Support and Accountability), Step-up Incorporated and more. We are seeking to be more involved with those who have been victimized, and are blessed to have someone as part of our coalition who is a “person who was once victimized” but chooses not to continue to be a victim. Our efforts at enjoining official victim advocacy groups have, so far, not been successful. Cheryl Cook (The Rock Foundation) and I recently attended a Restorative Justice Focus Group in Greeley, where Representative Pete Lee, a strong leader in this field, as well as his wife, were present, and offered suggestions as to why those with sexual offenses should be included in restorative justice initiatives.
7. It is important that we refocus some of our efforts on prevention and education. In doing this, we are following in the footsteps of The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA). Their policy statement regarding this change came out within the last couple of months.

Because 60 – 80% of those who have sexually abused or continue to sexually abuse have not been caught (they are mostly in families, neighborhoods, clubs, sports groups, among individuals in a variety of positions of trust), we cannot continue to squander millions in taxpayer dollars on the 20% who have been caught, the vast majority of whom are low risk to reoffend! CSOR needs to be a strong player in this arena. As we are able to pay staff over the next years, staff positions in prevention and education, as well as in re-entry or second chance opportunities are desired.

If you are reading this posting, and like what you see, please join us. We meet just quarterly, recognizing that all of our partners and family and friend participants have extremely busy schedules. Each meeting provides a lunch, so that people coming from work do not have to worry about midday nourishment. The meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each quarter. The next meeting will be held on December 10, 2014 at 1532 Emerson (just off East Colfax on Emerson St.) Two hour street parking is available – the meeting is from 11:30 to 1:00 and it is okay to be a little late, or leave a little early!

In closing, thanks to the re-entry team who so generously give of their time, gas, talents, encouragement, dollars to support those coming out of prison with a sexual offense. This includes our coalition partners who assist in many ways with these needs. The number is growing and will continue to grow. I would also like to thank Terri Bachetti for taking over the writing of letters to around eight guys who are currently incarcerated. These are eight letters I do not have to write. I currently have a stack of 35 to answer, more come in the mail almost every day of the week. Anyone who would like to learn to write letters of encouragement to these guys (with lots of support from me for doing so), please let me know!

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