

Corrections Connection

Fall 2012



New Employee



Jeremy Pilon began as an intern in February and was recently hired as a .4 FTE Drug Court Assistant. Originally from Spokane, he served three combat tours in Iraq as a Marine before entering Portland State where he obtained a degree in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Jeremy has been married to Bethany Rose for almost 8 years, and together they have a Chocolate Lab named Argyle. In his spare time Jeremy loves to camp, hike, work out, shoot guns, and play golf.

It Starts With a Good Assessment

With all the attention to risk assessment these days, you'd think it mattered. Well, actually, it does. In fact, good risk assessment is the foundation of our continuing focus on evidence-based practices. All of our well-intentioned hard work may be for naught without an understanding of a client's risk to re-offend and his/her risk factors.

The problem is that good risk assessment takes time. Eliminating the requirement for OCMS risk assessments and ensuring that low risk cases are moved to low supervision caseloads help, but there is no question that conducting the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) means added work. But for all this effort we get a more refined assessment of risk, information to create a relevant and personalized case plan, and an opportunity to develop greater understanding and rapport with our clients. The research tells us that over time we will see fewer violations and better outcomes, both of which should save us work.

The LS/CMI is now used in Probation and Parole, the Center, and in Jail Programs. This allows us, for the first time, to conduct an assessment at any

of these points of entry into the criminal justice system and share the results on-line. This avoids duplication of effort and allows much better coordination of case plans. We are the only county in the state where this is occurring.

The new Public Safety Checklist (PSC), which is used for the initial risk assessment, is easier to use and considerably more predictive than the OCMS tool. But while the size of our supervised population remains fairly steady, we have experienced a 34% increase in assignments to high and medium supervision with the PCS. This represents a significant shift in workload for the Probation and Parole Division. While in the long run this may mean additional state funding, for now it means additional work without additional resources. We are committed, however, to closely monitoring this trend and establishing realistic case management expectations.

So, does our focus on good assessment and other evidence-based practices matter? Our county's steady decline in recidivism suggests that it does.



Amy's Success Story	2
Roots in Recycling	3
Supervised Parenting Time	3
APPA & ICCA Conferences	4
Way to go Team	4

EBP Training with Community Correction Specialists

The Community Corrections Specialists at the Center represent the Department's front line in their daily interactions with offenders in custody. And it is through their ability to communicate effectively with residents who are sometimes angry, frustrated, confused, or scared that they maintain order and calm and support positive behavior change.

We are working across the Department to align services with evidence-based practices; this includes how we communicate with the probationers and parolees we supervise. We recently contracted with a former DOC staff trainer to share the latest research with the Community Corrections Specialists and to challenge them to evaluate their own communication styles. Greg Morton was employed with DOC for many years and is well-regarded as a trainer, especially for his work with custody staff. He presented eight hours of training to each shift and two additional hours to all supervisors and lead workers. The training provided a good overview of EBP in corrections, including specific communication tools for promoting behavior change and a safe work environment. One concept Greg emphasized was the importance of displaying "appropriate correctional concern". He defines this as "the use of active listening to demonstrate respect and dignity for the resident in understanding their circumstances while at the same time holding them accountable by clarifying consequences and outcomes of decisions they make."

We continue to look for ways to reinforce EBP principles at every position. We will be more successful if we're moving down the road together.

“There is no moral compass app.”
(Borrowed from a University of San Francisco ad)

Amy's Story

I got out of Coffee Creek on June 29th after almost 6 years. I went right into an Oxford House with the clothes I wore out and not much else. Besides one friend and my HGO mentor from prison, I knew no one in this area. During my "reach in" while still incarcerated I met Nancy Ferry, a recovery mentor that works with women getting out of Coffee Creek. Nancy came and saw me within a few days of getting out ...she helped walk me through the basics of what I now needed to do. It sounded easy enough ... but starting over at 47, in a new city pretty much alone, is very overwhelming. She gave me a bus pass, helped me obtain my ID, scheduled a time to see me again, and let me know that it was going to be OK.

This wasn't my first time getting out of prison; I was incarcerated years ago in another state, but this was my first time on my own. While incarcerated I developed a great support system through DDA, education and my spiritual groups/associations. I knew I had to do things differently and a big part of that was being humble enough to know I needed help and to ask for it.

I am currently enrolled at PCC in the Life Track program, a program for adults in transition who are interested in going back to school. I will be going back to school full time next term.

I remain involved with DDA, support groups including the Washington County Reentry Council and other groups involved in the reentry process. Having recently come out of the system, I understand how important those first few days and weeks are to someone's success. Having someone who saw me as a person and understood what I was going through made all the difference. Having that help gave me the room I needed to deal with my anxieties and fears so that I didn't become overwhelmed. I hope to remain involved with reentry for a long time to come; it is a way that I can give back and help others also be successful. I've been given a new chance at life and nothing is worth losing that chance, so I make sure when I make a decision I look at the big picture. I make sure that what I'm doing aligns with my values, who and what I want to be, and that I'm doing the best I can in any given moment.

Roots in Recycling



Susan Ranger is passionate about recycling. She first offered to collect the drink cups that typically end up in the garbage, but recently her offer expanded to include nearly any kind of plastic product. She hauls them off to her husband's business where they are recycled.

Susan is good at reminding the rest of us to recycle, and it's not unusual to find her pulling someone else's plastic cup or yogurt container from the garbage. When asked where this enthusiasm for recycling comes from, she shared the following:

Well this is kind of a deep story. My mother recycled before it was hip. She used to open both ends of aluminum cans and let me step on them when I was a little girl. She would drive them to a place that recycled them since recycling pick-up was still 30 years in the future. I was really inspired by my brother Peter who was a huge recycler. When he died two years ago, one of the admins from his office told stories about how he would put paper back in the printer and she would have to tell him, "We can't submit multi-million dollar bids with writing on the back!" His favorite sweatshirt was one with the recycling emblem on the front (see picture). He drowned two years ago and was wearing that sweatshirt when the boat capsized. He had tied it to the stern hoping to be rescued. They found the boat five days later, but his body was never recovered. Months after the accident, a detective from the Canadian Mounted Police sent his sweatshirt back to my sister-in-law. Now when I think about not recycling something, I take the extra time and think he would be pleased that one less plastic cup will end up in a landfill. I'm honored to do this for him. If I can encourage others to do the same, it makes me feel like something good, that was a worthy cause to him, came from his tragic death.



Susan's brother, Peter (right), and friends.

3rd Annual Civil War Fundraiser

Quilt drawing tickets are \$25. Drawing tickets for all other items are \$1 each. Tickets for the tailgate party on 11/16 from 11:30-1:30 are \$5. We will serve pizza, salad, soda or water and cookies. Drawings will be held during the tailgate party. Tickets can be purchased from Janice Boatwright or Heather Lucas. Money raised is used to provide scholarships for after-school activities, school supplies, shoes, coats and Christmas gifts for children whose parents are in Drug Court.



Supervised Parenting Time

Safety First Supervised Parenting Time Center is now open! The Washington County site is located inside the Center for Counseling and Victims' Services, in partnership with Community Corrections. SF is an Office on Violence Against Women grant funded program. This grant, overseen by Multnomah County with partnerships in Washington and Clackamas Counties, helps communities support survivors of domestic violence and their children, to stay safe during supervised parenting time and child exchanges with their abuser. To be eligible for services, families need to identify current and/or history of domestic violence, children can't be in state custody, and if there is not a court order, both parents need to agree to services. Anyone can refer families to services. Safety is the priority in all services for all participants. SF is unable to provide custody evaluations, parenting skill building, therapeutic visits, or recommendations regarding services. During supervised parenting time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5-9 p.m., parents do not have contact. The arrival and departure times are staggered and secure doors are maintained between parents, to protect the children. For further information, questions, and/or to make a referral, contact Sara at: sara.windsheimer@multco.us, 503-846-3025, or visit our website at: web.multco.us/dcj-juvenile/safety-first

Promotion



Sam Hadley

was recently promoted to the Supervisor II position at the Center. In

this role, he will be overseeing the program services at the Center, including the men's and women's treatment dorms. Sam will play a vital role in moving the evidence based practices forward at the Center; he brings to the position a wealth of experience and knowledge of evidence based practices in working with the offender population. He has provided treatment services in two different women's prisons and two separate Drug Courts. Sam will be moving into the duties full time once we have successfully recruited for the Residential Counselor position that he has filled for the past two years. We are looking forward to him joining the management team at the Center.

APPA and ICCA Conferences Highlight Evidence-Based Practices

The staff who attended the American Probation and Parole Association and International Community Corrections Association conferences this summer returned with fresh ideas and, in many respects, confirmation that the Department is headed in the right direction. The following are just a few of the ideas shared by attendees in a recent conference de-brief:

- The research strongly supports the move away from a confrontational supervision style to a more client-centered motivational approach.
- There was a strong focus on the importance of the relationship that corrections professionals have with clients/offenders when behavior change is a goal.
- The principles of Risk, Need, and Responsivity are internationally accepted as the foundation for evidence-based corrections practices.
- It is important to pay attention to dosage (hours of service) when developing treatment programs.
- The evidence-based principles shown to be effective with clients can also be used with staff to achieve desired changes within an organization.
- Understanding the concept of "emotional intelligence" is helpful in this work environment.
- We will have more impact on our clients if we are healthy ourselves and serve as role models for physical and emotional health.
- It is important to understand the difference between assertive and aggressive behavior
- It can be helpful to develop line staff to become EBP coaches.

Conference attendees included JaRee Spatz, Brooke Vice, Joy Lewis, Steve Berger, Amy Miller, Nathan Bregel, Sam Hadley, and Joe Simich.

Way to go TEAM \$580 Raised through Hoop Shoot

Eleven teams (the most ever) participated in the October Hoop Shoot 2012, raising \$580 for the Randall Lee Nunnenkamp Foundation. In a close competition, Parole & Probation took second place finishing just three points behind the DA's office. Big "shout out" to Michael Albers for coordinating our team. 2012 Hoop Shoot Team: Michael Albers, Ken Rolf, Geoff Vernon, David Bellwood, Patricia Thompson, Melque Arroyo, Dominic Del Bosque, Steve Berger, Lisa Stanley & family (Brian and Tracy Scruggs).

Thank you to all who participated, donated and volunteered. The RLN Foundation helps Washington County foster children reach their post-secondary education goals.

