

# Corrections Connection

Spring 2013



## Marcus Ford



Marcus Ford is a Community Corrections Specialist who works night shift at the Center. Some POs may

not recognize his face; however, they might recognize his voice as they may have heard him on the phone in the middle of the night.

Marcus graduated from Willamette University in 2009 with a degree in Sociology. While attending he also played football and was a member of an all male acapella group called "Headband." He has experience working with developmentally disabled youth, young sex offenders, and clients with severe and persistent mental illnesses. He started with us at the Center in June 2010.

In his free time he and his wife enjoy watching and playing sports and they have recently taken up running. He also enjoys visiting with family and friends in Monterey, California.

## A Snapshot of 2012

Each spring about this time, we compile data from the previous year to track Department progress and trends. In this article I review a few of our more significant findings.

Last year our supervised population dropped for the fifth year in a row. We now supervise about 900 fewer cases than we did in 2005. Nearly three-quarters of the drop is the result of a downward trend in new probation cases referred by the courts. This reflects a significant reduction in crime rates over the past several years and our policy decision to eliminate supervision of certain misdemeanants.

Felons now comprise 75% of our probation and parole caseload, up from 63% in 2010. Case carrying POs aren't surprised; I know you are feeling the difference in your workload. The change is a consequence of limiting our supervision of misdemeanants to person crimes and retaining low-risk felons rather than converting them to bench probation. The Center population has changed some as a result. The population has been equally divided between felons and misdemeanants for several years, but in 2012 the felony percentage rose to 54%.

Of the cases closed in 2012, 69% completed supervision and 31% were revoked. This represents a modest drop in the completion rate, likely reflecting the higher percentage of felons supervised. The Center's completion rate improved slightly to 88%.

The employment rate for offenders who did complete supervision increased noticeably over the previous year. In 2011, only 51% of completers were employed, reflecting the impact of an extended recession. Last year the number employed increased to 64%, a 25% improvement.

I think the most remarkable news concerns our recidivism rates. The average rate last year was 15.6% for probationers and 23.4% for parolees. These are excellent rates, down from approximately 25% (probation) and 30% (parole) five years ago. Oregon's recidivism is among the best in the country, and Washington County's rates are among the best in the state.

Budget cuts and the recession made 2012 a challenging year. But through our hard work and professionalism, we managed those challenges very well.



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## New PO II: David Schrenk



David Schrenk joined the Probation and Parole Division on April 15. He has been cross training

with David Bellwood on the General Team, as Dave Bellwood is transferring back to the Sex Offender Team. Clients should be able to remember the first name of their new PO!

David has a Business Administration Degree from PSU and began his career in corrections in 1992 as a Group Life Coordinator II for the OYA at MacLaren. During the next several years, he also served as Unit Coordinator of a behavioral management program, the Acting Treatment Manager of SITP (the long term violent offender program), and Treatment Manager of the Special Needs/Mental Health unit. David also served as the Acting Program Director responsible for population, training, and quality improvement curriculum for MacLaren. David's recent work has been as a Job Developer for Clackamas County Community Corrections helping adult corrections clients transition back into society with employment and new career opportunities.

David is a father of 4 children and is actively involved in his children's sports programs, coaching, and volunteering in various capacities. When he does find the time, you can find him up on the slopes of Mt. Hood.

## EBP Committee Update By Danielle Taylor

Community Corrections employees from Parole & Probation, the Community Corrections Center, and Center for Counseling & Victims' Services continue to meet every other month to discuss ongoing implementation of research supported practices within Community Corrections. The purpose is to continue to increase effectiveness of service delivery and healthy organizational culture. The work of this committee supports the mission and values of the Department by enhancing community safety by promoting positive behavior change.

The focus of the last EBP Committee meeting on March 20 was the ongoing implementation of the LSCMI within Community Corrections and a review of the recent training by DOC's Jeff Hanson on the implementation of client case plans. Brooke Vice, Danielle Taylor (Parole and Probation), and Sam Hadley (Community Corrections Center) attended the LSCMI train the trainer program in Josephine County April 30 - May 2 to increase access and support for staff. Lastly, the committee reviewed data from a satisfaction survey conducted in February by Parole and Probation. Dennis Erickson presented the data and shared the positive feedback from clients regarding satisfaction with services.

Evidenced Based Practices continues to make a significant impact in the State of Oregon and Community Corrections. The focus of the committee is to identify research-based interventions that will promote positive behavior change while reducing recidivism. The EBP committee invites any individuals interested in attending. The next meeting will be by May 22 at 12 p.m. at the Probation Office. For more information, call Danielle x3451 or Brooke at x3480.

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## New DVDS Assistant: Steve Hammerson



Steve Hammerson joined the Probation and Parole Division Domestic Violence Deferred Sentencing program on May 6 as a 16 hour employee. Steve is a recent graduate of Western Oregon University with a BS in Criminal Justice and has been volunteering with the department the past six months. He previously served as a volunteer with the Polk County Fire Department and is currently enrolled in the citizen's academy for the Beaverton Police Department.

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## 2013 NAMI Walk Northwest

The Washington County Reentry Council is sponsoring a team in the upcoming NAMI Walk on Sunday, May 19. The walk is held at noon at the Eastbank Esplanade in Portland. For more information, or to sponsor a team member, go to their [team page](#).



# CCVS Internship Program

The Center for Counseling and Victims' Services (CCVS) is known for providing victim advocacy as well as free counseling services to our department clients and community members. However, many people don't know that CCVS is a rich training center for masters in counseling students from Portland State University, Lewis and Clark, and Pacific University. Most of CCVS' counseling services are provided by counseling interns. The students are immersed in learning how to help people recover from trauma, build healthy relationships, and transition from criminal behavior to pro-social behavior.

At any given time CCVS has up to five counseling interns. They provide individual, couples, and family counseling at the CCVS site and group facilitation at our Community Corrections Center. The students we "hire" come to us with a passion for working with corrections clients and understanding all sides of criminal impact. They find that our supportive work culture and growth-oriented philosophies make for a fantastic internship experience.

Kim Hattig, Portland State's new Internship Coordinator, recently paid us a visit. She shared that PSU just conducted an internship site survey with students and that one of the survey items asked students to rate their top site choices for internship. **CCVS came out as the top internship site.** It's wonderful that our organization is able to provide quality training for beginner counselors and that, in turn, we have the privilege of recruiting top notch students.

We just completed our recruitment and interview process for our next wave of counselors. CCVS had 17 strong applicants from the three schools and our selection was highly competitive. We were able to place the top five candidates. The first will join us in May, others in the summer, and the last two in September. One is a military vet who specializes in working with other vets and treating PTSD, another is a bilingual couples/family counselor, and three who bring advanced systemic and social justice perspectives. Their addition will be wonderful for our organization and clients.

As for our current counselors, we congratulate Francesca Dodson on her graduation from internship, and will be saying goodbye to Libby Harrington, Benita Munson, and Nickole Rowland when they graduate in June. They have been terrific and a joy to work with. We also just welcomed Melinda Meyer, a bilingual counselor, to our team. She will be here until August.

Our student counselors are not "just interns." They are the heart of CCVS and skilled practitioners who make a big impact for our clients and our department. They believe in our mission and values, are excited about what we do at the Community Corrections Center, and know that our POs do all they can to help our clients become better people.

# PACS in Corrections

By Karleigh Mollahan

NAMI is partnering with the Community Corrections Center to provide the PACS (Peer Advocacy and Community Services) program to some of its residents. The program is designed to offer support to residents who have mental health issues and could benefit from being connected to resources in the community.

A peer advocate is available to meet individually with residents at the Center for an initial appointment. Once that connection has been made, the resident then has a familiar contact at the NAMI facility in Aloha. The peer advocate will assist the resident in creating a Wellness Action Plan. This plan includes referrals to multiple resources at NAMI and other community based services. We are very excited to have this bridge in place in order to give the residents a stronger connection to a wide variety of services and support.

# Micholine's Story

I am writing this in regards to my success in recovery due to the Washington County Treatment Dorm. This is where I built a foundation for myself. The staff and my mentor believed in me and gave me encouragement where no one ever believed in me like they did. With the support I had from my counselors, my mentor, and staff, I changed my life. I was given the tools to survive and live life on life's terms. Through the 12-steps of MRT I learned to love myself and learned who I am and now I am able to be productive in society.

I now have 16 months clean and have been at the same job for a year. I live in the same house and I go to family groups as an alumni member to give encouragement to other girls who need it. I owe special thanks to the Community Corrections Center for giving me the strength to be the person I have become.