



Community Corrections Newsletter

Director John McGrath

Lt. Joanne Lake

Our Mission:

Providing services for adult offenders to enhance public safety through effective and innovative programs supporting positive choices, constructive behavior and accountability, thereby reducing repeat criminal behavior.

Our Principals:

- We believe change is possible, and it begins internally.
- We believe all people are equal and diverse individuals having intrinsic worth who deserve personal attention, support, humor, empowerment and recognition.
- We believe in creating a challenging environment that emphasizes individual growth, exploration and strength.
- We believe in being proactive participants in societal, environmental, political and individual change to promote a safer community.

"I've completed Intensive Out-Patient treatment and Moral Reconation Therapy. I've taken every education course and re-entry class offered by Geiger, and I'm on the Work Crew, too. One thing I've never had before is the confidence I've developed in Mrs. Butterfield's Breaking Barriers class. I'm anxious to get out and begin using the skills we learned and practiced."—**Geiger Inmate Jason; Breaking Barriers & New Horizon Treatment Graduate, 2-27-14**

Mentors Helping Re-Entering Offenders Stay On Course

Vincent Cruz learns fast. Whether in school, looking for work, on-the-job or pursuing a promotion, Vincent is prepared and determined. Unfortunately, Vincent was also a quick study in criminal pursuits, such as theft and delivery of controlled substances.

After excelling in Geiger re-entry education and substance abuse treatment early last year, Vincent was sent from Geiger to prison. Upon his release, he returned to Spokane, continuing job skills building and community re-integration at the Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic.

Fulcrum Institute partners with Geiger to offer offenders both pre- and post-release transitional education, mentoring support, connection to housing and community resources, job search help and even clothes suitable for interviews and work.

Vincent feels his struggle to re-establish a constructive life will succeed this time, in large part due to the post-release mentoring he's received from Fulcrum. "Mandy Cripps at Fulcrum has been patient, welcoming and supportive. The mentors have provided me with lightly used business clothing for an interview, and I was able to land a job at a call center. I try to elevate the mood at work if ever needed, saying silly stuff like 'smile while you dial.' I've applied for a supervisor's opening and think I have a good chance at it."

Mandy stated Fulcrum Institute has been lucky to have Vincent frequenting the center this winter. "He's really been helpful to other clients, and he's been inspiring to the staff, too. Coming from prison we imagined he'd be a challenge, but as we began to work with Vincent we knew he'd be successful. He calls whenever he's unsure or has a question, and frequently stops by without an appointment."

Vincent is scheduled to begin school this spring. "I'm excited about a welding apprenticeship program, with the hope of getting into underwater welding. Challenge excites me, so right now with my sobriety, work, schooling and my daughter, my life just can't get any more exciting."

Vincent was born in Guam and came to the U.S. at age 15; following his father, who was serving time at Lompoc Federal Correctional Institution in California. Vincent attended high school in San Diego, and was first arrested at age 16 for minor in possession of alcohol. By age 19 he had travelled to Washington state where an aunt resided. Although he earned a GED from Walla Walla Community College, about the time Vincent turned 21 he was convicted of possession and delivery of a controlled substance, receiving a 10-year prison sentence.

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Vincent Cruz confers with Fulcrum Institute offender re-integration mentor Shelly Viers. Shelly helps recently released offenders hone their interviewing skills, locate housing options, maintain a positive approach and solve unique re-entry challenges. She also administers Fulcrum's Business Roundtable, a consortium of local businesses committed to helping re-entry offenders get back to work.

EHM Program Giving Geiger Case Managers More Options



Geiger Case Manager Ron Cunningham fits District Court offender with an RF ankle bracelet for electronic home monitoring.

Geiger Corrections Center restarted Electric Home Monitoring (EHM) on Jan. 23, re-establishing a program that ended in 2009 amidst the national economic recession and resulting staff reductions. Several changes are implemented with the new EHM program. Ron Cunningham and Barb McGlothen, Geiger's Case Managers, are administering the program under the direction of Detention Services Sergeants Jason Robison and Jon Simbler.

Under the new EHM program, non-compliant EHM offenders are reported to the courts the next business day. "If there's a violation of EHM conditions, we'll contact the offender and ask him or her to report to Geiger," Ron explained. "If they don't, we'll report that to the court and an arrest warrant could be issued by the Judge. In rare instances, we might contact Law Enforcement to have the offender picked up. If there's a minor issue we'll typically phone the offender before determining a course of action. We're not setting up an offender apprehension team like we had before."

Barb explains EHM is offered to certain sentenced offenders having a stable residence and agreeing to pay equipment rental costs. "We're not accepting sex offenders or those posing a high risk of violence. We evaluate the risk of

noncompliance for each sentenced offender using a static risk assessment tool (ASRA). If the risk is too great, we don't offer EHM."

Detention Services Lt. Joanne Lake stated that as the program ramps up, she expects 25 or more offenders on Geiger EHM at any given time. "We're starting out very conservatively in terms of who we put on and who we don't. Our friends at the Center For Justice will tell you that to reduce recidivism, you address the offender's needs and criminogenic factors instead of the offense. Quite often an offender's rehabilitative needs overshadow the offense. For instance, you might think we should put all DWLS offenders out on EHM. However, if the DWLS offender also has an active history of violence, the greatest risk posed to the community isn't his driving."

Geiger offers several EHM options, depending on the level of risk and monitoring required. The least restrictive and least costly is RF monitoring, which is essentially home detention. GPS ankle bracelets can be used to track offender movements to school, work or home. A schedule can be programmed and specific geographical zones included (required) or excluded (prohibited). GPS monitors are available in active (real-time) and passive (reviewable report) versions.

State of the art EHM technology is most apparent in the SoberLink cell phoned-based breath alcohol monitor. SoberLink is a combination cell phone, camera and breath alcohol reader. DUI offenders are typically required provide a breath sample according to a schedule, but the monitoring Officer can order a breath test at any time. A built-in cameral assures the right person gives the sample.

Sgt. Simbler explained Washington State DUI repeat offenders laws have become more stringent the past year. "Those convicted of a repeat DUI are required to serve a mandatory jail sentence, followed by a state-mandated period on EHM. As these offenders complete the jail portion of their sentence, Geiger is now able to seamlessly move them to the EHM program. Several of our initial EHM hook-ups have been DUI inmates moving to mandatory monitoring. These bifurcated DUI sentences mean drunk drivers will be a big part of our EHM clientele."

Geiger Corrections Center Resumes New Horizon Drug/Alcohol Treatment

Drug and alcohol treatment was suspended at Geiger Corrections Center last fall as budgeted funding was exhausted before 2013 was up. Geiger's Intensive Outpatient (IOP) treatment program restarted Jan. 6, with chemical dependence counselor Eileen Jacobson of New Horizon Care Center directing two separate groups.

Geiger Lt. Joanne Lake is elated to have chemical dependence treatment up and running again. "Treatment is the most expensive inmate program we operate at Geiger, but it appears to be the most effective at reducing recidivism. Those inmates working in treatment and in re-entry education trend toward our lowest re-arrest rates."

Lt. Lake explained that about 12 Geiger inmates at any

time are enrolled in treatment. They participate in group counseling three days a week and are required to maintain progress in a morality re-training course called Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT). Treatment males are housed together, allowing them to support each other in learning new thought patterns and practicing ethical behavior. Treatment inmates abide by all Geiger rules, complete homework assignments and maintain normal treatment progress.

To determine who would best benefit from treatment, drug and alcohol assessments are conducted by Penny Penton and Ann Ulene of Northeast Washington Treatment Alternatives (NEWTA). Those inmates diagnosed as addictive are referred to Eileen, who then conducts an intake interview. "Because treatment is so expensive

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Geiger Treatment, Re-Entry Education Re-arrest Trends Showing Promise

Geiger Corrections Center began offering drug and alcohol treatment late in 2011 for inmates assessed with a clinical addiction. The first full year of treatment occurred in 2012. Those inmates left Geiger over a year ago now.

Geiger's substance treatment program focuses not only on substance abuse, but reshaping values and mores undermining rational decision making. Research indicates in-custody drug and alcohol treatment yields financially positive results to the community (Washington State Public Policy Institute; 2012), but how do we know for sure? After all, Geiger spent in excess of \$100,000 on treatment each of the past two years, and will spend a similar amount in 2014. Is it worth it?

Criminal re-arrest data was tabulated for those participating in Geiger Treatment during 2012, then compared with re-arrest rates for those Geiger inmates not involved in substance treatment (control group). For our purposes, only re-arrests on new charges were considered a reoffending act. Re-incarceration for failure to comply with probation or release conditions, warrant arrests for failure to appear, or re-sentencing on a former charge do not represent new criminal activity and were not counted as a re-arrest.

Typically, community corrections programs use re-arrest data to gauge effectiveness, rather than re-conviction or re-incarceration rates. Statisticians commonly track community corrections clients for three years after release to gauge the effectiveness of community corrections programs.

Additionally, Geiger did not search out-of-county jurisdictions for re-arrest information. Only those arrests made in Spokane County were tallied. This obviously skews the data, but our intent is to learn whether treatment and other Geiger programs are having an appreciable effect on the re-offense rate, rather than determining the exact recidivism rate. "We're looking for trends and patterns in our attempt to see what's working and what's not," Geiger Lt. Joanne Lake explained. "Everything we're seeing suggests that the more involved in programs that Geiger inmates become, the greater chance they have of breaking the revolving door syndrome. We'll continue tracking these offenders for two more years, but we're already seeing some trends that give us a hint of what's working and where changes might yield improvement."

Geiger 2012 Recidivism Trends (as of Dec. 31, 2013)

Incarceration Group—all inmates from each specified group were tracked (no sampling).	Time period 2012	Size of group	All New Arrests	Re-arrest % (all new arrests)	Felonies & Significant Misdemeanors	Re-arrest % (felony & sig misd.)
Drug Treatment & MRT participants	2012	69	28	40.6%	17	24.6%
Floor B-1(treatment, work release, Drug Crt)	2012	210	90	42.9%	72	34.3%
Fulcrum participants (re-entry ed. ≥3 classes)	2012	28	10	35.7%	10	35.7%
Fulcrum participants (re-entry education)	2012	216	96	44.4%	86	39.8%
Breaking Barriers class (re-entry education)	2012	139	66	47.5%	56	40.3%
Floor A-2 (work crew only, no re-entry ed.)	July 2012	144	71	49.3%	63	43.8%
Floor B-3 (SCJ overflow)-- control group	July 2012	142	80	56.3%	69	48.6%

Note: Significant misdemeanors exclude DWLS, Liability Insurance, Seat Belt, minor driving violations. However, DUI, pedestrian interference, disorderly conduct and theft were counted as significant misdemeanors.

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and Geiger's funds are limited, we look for those who are going to be here long enough to complete IOP and who are committed toward positive change," Eileen explained. "For those who won't be at Geiger long enough, Penny can refer them to treatment in the community and help them connect to funding assistance."

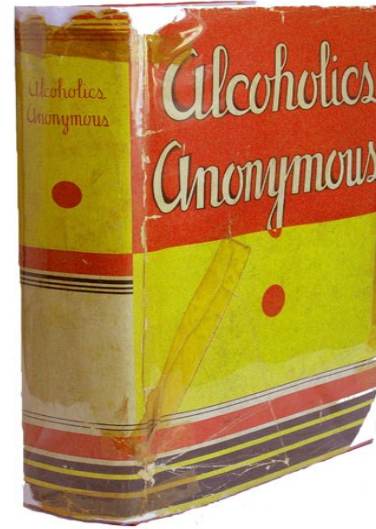
Eileen mentioned that several inmates attending treatment at the time the program was suspended were still at Geiger when group counseling resumed. "The Geiger Case Managers taught MRT while treatment was suspended, helping keep the group motivated and focused on positive change. The treatment inmates also worked in Celebrate Recovery, AA and AA Big Book Study Group."

Work Crews Tame Late On-Set Winter

Geiger Work Crews kept busy during December and January with an absence of snow, allowing continued garbage control along county right-of-ways. "However, we've been on hold the past several weeks, as winter finally arrived in February," Work Crew Sgt. Jason Robison commented. "Typically by Valentine's day we've started spring projects."

After finishing with early March snow removal, they resumed the downtown I-90 corridor beautification project and litter patrol. Mid-March brings setup and teardown of Pacific Northwest Qualifier volleyball courts at the Convention Center and EWU, continued work at the Fairgrounds and Indians Stadium, with Bloomsday, Hoopfest and the Lands Council Aquifer Protection projects coming up.

Happy Birthday To Dr. Bob Smith's Big Book For Saving Lives



Alcoholics Anonymous "Big Book" is credited by recovering offender Vincent Cruz (see cover story) as his stronghold in developing and maintaining a clean and sober mindset. "Dr. Bob Smith's book, for me, is a guide to life and redemption," Vincent attests. "It works for alcoholics and for drug addicts. Dr. Bob says service to others is the key to sobriety, and I'm always looking for ways to help whether I'm at work, at the Fulcrum facility or just talking to somebody on the bus." Dr. Bob's Big Book was first published in 1939. The Library of Congress tabbed it as one of 88 books that shaped America. The 30 millionth copy was printed in 2010. Dr. Bob fought alcoholism his entire adult life. At age 56 he had his last drink and formed AA with stockbroker Bill Wilson. Dr. Bob was a colorectal surgeon who remained abstinent from 1935 until his death in 1950—from colon cancer. On April 10, 2014 the book will have been in continuous print for 75 years!

Mentors Help Offenders Deploy Re-Entry Skills—cont. from page one

Vincent did his time, noting he was able to "clique up" with a group of Native Americans. "I found a connection with them, as my daughter is Native American and I admire their truthful nature and quest for spiritual growth. Even so, I had to establish myself as a hard worker who kept my word."

While in prison the first time, Vincent spent almost his entire sentence working for positive change. "I dove into drug treatment with a passion. It was an intensive 18-month program that began each day at 5 a.m. with a full schedule until lights out. But it takes more than just wanting it to happen. When I finally got out of prison, I had the drive and desire, but it's not as easy as I had imagined. I spent too much time imagining, and not enough time working to make it happen. I didn't manage my stress or time wisely; my family members were still using, and I slid back into unhealthy behaviors and drug use. I needed guidance and skills that I didn't have."

Vincent was eventually sentenced to prison again, then released last October. "I've been vigilant about positive personal change this time. I have strict new boundaries and rules, particularly in dealing with my family. I know that I'm an addict. I can't come home after work and have a beer, because I won't stop at one. I was one year clean and sober on Dec. 27, 2013."

Vincent has little desire to socialize with offenders he knew from his criminal life. "I do see them around town occasionally, and they'll comment that I'm wearing slacks and a tie. I'll ask if there's any way I can help them, and if they begin talking about crime and drugs, I tell them I'm a year sober and can't wait until they are, too. It's never an adversarial conversation."

Vincent has obtained an apartment through a cooperative program operated by SNAP and Spokane County Community Services. "It's not always easy for felons to get a nice place, and I located this one by complete accident. It's in a good neighborhood close to bus and shopping, which is great for my young daughter. She's 9 years old now and back in my custody, so she'll have a better home environment than in the past."

Mentors Are The Program Glue

Fulcrum Institute has 185 re-entry offenders in their mentoring program at present, Mandy noted. "We have 63 volunteer mentors, and we match each offender to the one we think will be the best fit. The mentoring program is available to all post-release Geiger offenders attending in-custody programs, or those completing the Work Source Spokane re-entry orientation."

Mandy stated one typical obstacle for re-entering offenders is finding job interview clothing. "We had been informally soliciting clothing donations and browsing the thrift shop racks with our own money. Then Mary Luna here at Fulcrum received a chunk of cash from SNAP to reimburse the money we'd spent personally, but instead we decided to use that money to buy even more clothing for the Fulcrum 'Re-Entry Closet.' We cherry picked the local thrift shops for their best business clothes. When an offender needs clothes for work or an interview, we are ready."

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