



# Spokane County Detention Services 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.

## Repeat DUI Offender Discovering Clarity Through MRT

Shaphan Holland is presently serving a Spokane Co. District Court sentence for his fourth DUI conviction. Yet after his first DUI, he thought he understood the changes he'd need to make so it never happened again. "I understood that I had to make sure I never drank and drove again. My intention was sincere, but it didn't work because once I had a drink, it was impossible for me to resist the impulse to drive."

For his fourth DUI, Judge Donna Wilson sentenced Shaphan to 364 days. "I arrived in jail last November to begin the incarceration portion of my sentence. Luckily, I was transferred to Geiger Corrections Center, where I was able to enter into a Treatment group led by Chemical Dependency Counselor Diane White. Diane is from New Horizon Care Centers. I completed all 12 steps of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) program during my time at Geiger, and our Treatment group also studied 'Relapse Prevention' and 'Commitment To Change.' Instead of not drinking and driving, now I know I just can't drink at all."



Shaphan, while on EHM, meets weekly with Geiger Case Manager Ron Cunningham (pictured) to review his work and treatment schedules, review schedule compliance, check monitoring equipment and submit payment for daily monitoring fees. Only those who've demonstrated a willingness to comply with court-ordered conditions are considered for Geiger EHM.

He'd been in Treatment twice before, but this time has a greater understanding of the reasons he was unable to stop drinking and driving. **"I was pretty lucky because Geiger had Treatment services on-site, and the group I was in had a really great dynamic. We were all serious about the changes we needed to make, and there was nothing Diane wouldn't do to support us and help us understand everything about the MRT curriculum."**

Shaphan was released from Geiger confinement on April 5 with a monitoring bracelet attached to his ankle. He also carries a portable breathalyzer unit the must blow into when instructed, and he's responsible for maintaining his monitoring equipment.

Working full-time for a landscape and snow removal company, Shaphan is indebted to his parents and his employer for helping with transportation and providing support. "The support I've received from everybody has been huge, and it's helped me stay on track. My schedule is about to become even more hectic, because aside from working and making my check-in appointments with Geiger Case Manager Ron Cunningham, I'll be joining out-patient DUI Treatment next week. Judge Wilson ordered me to continue alcohol Treatment while I'm on EHM, which for me runs until July 12. I'm also going back to court in a couple weeks for treatment review."

Asked if he believes he'd have collected a fourth DUI had he been through MRT after one of his previous convictions, Shaphan wasn't sure. **"I'm ready to succeed in this now. For whatever reason, now I understand the level of commitment and determination that are required to completely abstain."**

While Shaphan admits that abiding by tight EHM schedules, relying on others for lots of help and being confined at home when he's not at work or Treatment is not easy, he knows first-hand that it's a lot better than the alternative. "EHM is no fun, but it is still better than being in jail by quite a bit."

## Geiger Program Grads Express Gratitude, Optimism



Judith Gilmore, Fulcrum Institute, advocates for offender reform opportunities, inspires positive change and forges community partnerships to end victimization.

While the positive change programs offered inmates at Geiger are specifically tailored to stop victimization, reduce recidivism and address criminogenic behavior, sometimes they do a lot more than that.

The personal testimonies delivered at Geiger's 43rd Breaking Barriers Graduation showed that the appreciation inmates feel often rises above educational programming chemical dependence treatment to a personal level.

"Michael," originally from Orange County, California, expressed his thanks to Geiger Education Director Becca Butterfield and to Fulcrum Institute instructor Justin Van Elsberg. **"I strive to be a living example of Ms. Butterfield's 'reality control model.' The behavior control methods we learned from her should be taught in high school."**

Another Breaking Barriers graduate, Ricardo, had high praise for Corrections Officer Zac Crawford. Zac, besides providing security coverage for Geiger programs, assists other programs staff and instructs classes. Ricardo explained that he'd drive to Spokane from Quincy every weekend to visit his young daughter. "One weekend I had a bump in the road, and ended up in jail. I thank God every day for sending me to Geiger. Justin and Zac have helped me re-open my eyes."

Another graduate penned a thank you note to Ms. Butterfield, stating he will forever be in her debt. **"I learned things to help me restructure my life."**

Graduation Keynote speaker was Judith Gilmore, community resource analyst for Fulcrum Institute Dispute Resolution Clinic, which partners with Geiger to provide re-entry education instruction and curriculum development. She reminded offenders that hope is a good thing, and no good thing ever dies. "Your graduation is a beginning, not an end. When you leave Geiger, you are not alone if you take advantage of the assistance that's available and resources you've been learning about. It can be a great beginning."

## Geiger Work Crews Transform Convention Center Into Hoops Heaven

Geiger Corrections Center maintains 7 Inmate Work Crews each staffed with 7 to 10 offenders and led by a Geiger Corrections Officer. These work crews only assist non-profit organizations and governmental agencies.

Sgt. Jason Robison, Geiger Work Crew supervisor, reports the winter months were busy. "We were pleased to again help with the set-up and tear-down of the popular Winter Glow displays in Riverfront Park over the holiday season. Unlike the winter of 2014-15, we did quite a bit of snow removal this past winter, helping shovel out STA bus stops and other pedestrian traffic areas."

Once the snow was gone, Work Crews began litter pick-up along highways and secondary roads. Sgt. Robison mentioned Geiger Work Crews again this year will be helping the City of Spokane with garbage detail and graffiti removal along the I-90 freeway overpass areas. "We're also doing litter pick-up again with Washington State Department of Ecology. We'll continue assisting the Inland Northwest Railway Museum with their site development in Reardan. They only have a little bit of equipment remaining at the County Fairgrounds, which was their previous museum site. We'll help them move the remaining equipment to their new site."

A new event included on the Work Crew calendar this winter was the Washington State Middle School Basketball championships, held mid-March. The tournament attracted 230 teams (boys and girls, grades 5 through 8) playing over 500 basketball games in Spokane. Work Crew managed to fit 12 full-size basketball courts onto the Spokane Convention Center's main exhibition floor.

No sooner had Work Crew put away the Convention Center basketball courts than it was time to start setup for the annual Pacific Northwest Qualifier Volleyball tournament. The competition spanned 2 weekends and featured over 650 girls' volleyball teams (ages 12-18) from throughout the region. Work Crew set up 21 PNQ courts at the Spokane Convention Center and another 18 at EWU.



Geiger Corrections Center Work Crews are shown here flipping the Convention Center from 12 full-size basketball courts ← into 18 regulation volleyball courts →



## Superior Court Pilot Program Providing H.O.P.E. For Better Parenting

Criminal offenders not only jeopardize their own lives and future, their behavior causes huge problems for their dependent minor children. Child Protective Services has the authority to investigate and assess the child's home and care, should it receive information that there may be concerns. When abuse or neglect is determined, removal of the child from the parents and placement in an alternate setting is the reality.

With an inmate population averaging about 300, many Geiger inmates are involved in the Child Dependency cases. A class to teach inmates about CPS, the child dependency system and their rights as parents began at Geiger in January. It's led by Heather Cantamessa, who's experienced the process first-hand. The informational class is being offered at Geiger as part of a pilot program—Parents For Parents— through Spokane County Superior Court.

### Dependency Court Is Not Family Law Court

Heather stated that when she and Geiger Programs Officer Ray Gawenit were first explaining the purpose of the class to the inmates, many didn't know the difference between Family Law and Dependency Court. "That's a typical example of how confusing the entire court system can be sometimes."

Inmates typically are involved in two general types of court proceedings involving children. Family Law deals with parental custody and child support issues arising typically between divorced or divorcing parents. The court establishes a parenting plan that specifies what portion of financial support each parent bears, plus a child sharing schedule. All divorced parents are familiar with this process. Dependency Court, however, involves issues of child abuse, neglect and parental custody.

The informational class Heather presents at Geiger is called Helping Other Parents Engage (H.O.P.E.). Heather knows very well how demoralizing and confusing Dependency Court can be. As a former offender who kicked addiction and remained determined to regain her kids, she emphasized there's increasing evidence that it's better to keep the family together with cooperative assistance and guidance, than it is to break it apart.

Through the H.O.P.E. class, Heather explains how the Dependency Court process works and offers encouragement to offenders learning the judicial and bureaucratic hurdles involved in regaining custody. "I have all the motivation in the world to do this, because I remember sitting in a cell not knowing where my kids were or whether I'd ever see them again. I felt helpless and hopeless. It's traumatic for everybody involved, including the offender. The court system is daunting and difficult to understand, so a lot of these parents are completely unaware that they have the right to legal counsel and child visitation privileges. The entire child welfare system can be so confusing that some lose all hope out of despair, further imperiling them to criminogenic influences. I still remember how I felt, and it drives me to help others. The acronym for 'Helping Other Parents Engage' has real meaning, because for some of these people, hope is all that's left."

Heather and her co-worker, Ambrosia Eberhardt, are called "Veteran Parent Coordinators," because they've been through it successfully. **"There's quite a bit of research on family reunification, and it's encouraging for offenders. Not only does reunification reduce criminal recidivism, it's also been shown to reduce juvenile delinquency."**

Heather is working to expand the reach of the H.O.P.E. program. "We're exploring how to structure a program for DOC, and we'd like to begin working with Spokane area chemical dependency clinics, too. We want offenders working toward reunification even before they're out of Treatment or released from jail. We have a toll-free hotline they can call for help with anything related to their custody case."

## Courts Utilizing Geiger Jail Alternatives: EHM, Community Service, Work Release

Geiger Corrections Centers' alternative incarceration programs are showing growth as Judges hold offenders accountable for their crimes in other ways than making them sit in a cell.

Geiger's Electronic Home Monitoring program currently has 25 offenders either being actively monitored or waiting to begin their EHM time. Offenders must have demonstrated a willingness to comply with restrictions, have a stable residence and strictly adhere to their work or school schedule. Participants of the EHM program must be authorized by the court and approved by Geiger case managers.

Geiger's Work Release program currently has 13 participants who leave the facility each work day to travel to their jobs, then return to Geiger. Six other offenders are awaiting the start of their court-authorized Work Release sentence. Work Release inmates pay \$15 per day to the county to help defray their incarceration costs. Work Release inmates, like those on EHM, must have demonstrated compliance to be accepted by into the program.

Geiger also offers Supervised Community Service and Partial Confinement Work Crew to the courts as an alternative to traditional jail. Inmates in these programs arrive at Geiger in the morning, spend 8 hours on Work Crew, then return home. Both these programs were created to help offenders complete their court-ordered community service participation. Work Release, EHM and Supervised Community Service offenders are subject to random breathalyzer and urinalysis testing.

## Inmates Respond To GED Test 'Recalibration'

Geiger Corrections Center, among its many education and re-entry preparedness programs, offers General Educational Development (GED) high school equivalency testing. In 2014, the passing score in Washington State was raised to more closely align successful GED completion with Common Core achievement. As expected, the percentage of test takers attaining a passing score in 2015 declined.

Geiger Education Director Rebecca "Becca" Butterfield explained that since the change in 2014, those passing the GED were displaying less need for college remediation coursework than were high school graduates. "So, the national standard passing score has been lowered from 150 to 145. Also, the Social Studies portion of the test is no longer essay-based; only Language Arts is essay-based anymore."

Becca noted that 6 Geiger inmates met the new GED standard in March, and two have passed during the first week of April. "We've also seen an increase in the number of inmates signing up to begin work on their GED. Our GED prep coach, Bob Wise, has 2 classes with a maximum of 12 spots in each class. All the spots are full. The scoring change has energized our entire GED program."

If future trends show a decline in the level of college preparedness demonstrated by GED grads, Becca noted the minimum passing score could be revised upward again.


### Geiger Recidivism Trends For Those Released in 2012

| 2012 Incarceration Group                | Time frame 2012 | Size of group | 1-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.) | 2-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.) | 3-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.) |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| IOP (Substance Treatment)               | 2012            | 69            | 24.6%                                  | 39.1                                   | 44.90%                                 |
| Breaking Barriers                       | 2012            | 139           | 40.3%                                  | 56.4                                   | 57.80%                                 |
| A-2 (Work Crew)                         | July 2012       | 144           | 43.8%                                  | 58.6                                   | 61.81%                                 |
| Fulcrum (attended any class)            | 2012            | 216           | 39.8%                                  | 60.2                                   | 64.35%                                 |
| B-3 (SCJ overflow)-- <b>cntrl group</b> | July 2012       | 142           | 48.6%                                  | 62.5                                   | 66.67%                                 |

### Geiger Recidivism Trends For Those Released in 2013

| 2013 Incarceration Group                | Time frame 2013 | Size of group | 1-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.) | 2-yr Recidivism (felonies & sig misd.) | Geiger recidivism stats don't include out-of-county arrests. They are tabulated only to help assess offender programs and identify arrest trends. |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--|--|---|
| IOP (Substance Treatment)               | 2013            | 79            | 42.9%                                  | 45.70%                                 |   |
| Breaking Barriers                       | 2013            | 138           | 30.4%                                  | 47.83%                                 |   |
| Fulcrum (attended any class)            | 2013            | 590           | 41.2%                                  | 52.89%                                 |   |
| A-2 (Work Crew)                         | July 2013       | 142           | 47.9%                                  | 55.60%                                 |   |
| B-3 (SCJ overflow)-- <b>cntrl group</b> | July 2013       | 167           | 49.1%                                  | 58.70%                                 |   |

### Geiger Recidivism Trends For Those Released In 2014

| 2014 Incarceration Group                | Time frame 2014 | Size of group | 1-yr Recidivism (felonies, sig misd.) |  <p>Geiger's Green Sleeves ecological jobs skills initiative will continue in 2016 with Geiger inmates prepping to receive about 8,000 saplings this spring, which they'll rear to planting size. Next year these trees will be re-planted along Deep, Coulee and Latah creeks to stabilize erosion areas.</p> |
|---|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| IOP (Substance Treatment)               | 2014            | 80            | 22.50%                                |  |
| Breaking Barriers                       | 2014            | 138           | 34.30%                                |  |
| Fulcrum (≥30 hrs coursework)            | 2014            | 78            | 41.03%                                |  |
| A-2 (Work Crew)                         | Sept. 2014      | 127           | 49.61%                                |  |
| B-3 (SCJ overflow)-- <b>cntrl group</b> | Sept. 2014      | 167           | 47.59%                                |  |

Significant misdemeanors exclude DWLS, liability insurance, seat belt, sidewalk sitting, bus conduct, panhandling, **DUI and all theft charges are significant misdemeanors.**

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We're on the web:  
[www.spokanecounty.org/  
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Newsletter questions  
or comments?

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