



TURNING POINT

The Newsletter of Missouri CURE
Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants

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From the Board

by Hedy Harden

Missouri CURE – 20 Years Strong!

Missouri CURE celebrated its 20 year anniversary at a conference in Columbia MO on September 18. We are happy to welcome Becky Williams back as our Secretary. We now have a new address and a toll-free phone number (see masthead).

Dolores Owen officially kicked off our fundraiser by displaying a beautiful flag afghan, her third such creation. She presented the first one to former Illinois Governor Ryan at his home,

honoring his commutation of prisoners' death sentences. She presented her second crocheted flag to National CURE founders Charlie and Pauline Sullivan during a national board meeting in Leavenworth Kansas. Dolores not only donated the afghan for Missouri CURE's fundraiser – she also paid for printing of the raffle tickets.

Our chair Michelle Dodson continues her work with the radio program Jaws of Justice. Jeff Humfeld and Gabi Otto of KKKFI Radio in Kansas City talked about their history in progressive movements. They are mentors at Leavenworth with Rastafarians and with Buddhist groups at Cameron prisons. Jeff spoke of reading a book, *When the Prisoners Ran Walpole*, that inspired him to get involved in criminal justice issues. Jeff's current work with *Jaws of Justice* is one result.

Paula Skillicorn led a lively workshop on the challenges of running an organization and getting people involved. A second workshop was held on interacting with the DOC.

After a delicious lunch, Nelson Hopkins, Sr. talked about his background and how Missouri CURE has given hope to prisoners throughout the years. He spoke of the importance of the newsletter. Hopkins' business, Pardon & Parole Negotiations LLC, helps



Some of the attendees at Missouri CURE's annual conference. Sitting (L-R): Nelson Hopkins Sr., Maria Rubin and Hedy Harden. Standing (L-R): Jeff Humfeld, Dolores Owen, Paula Skillicorn, Michelle Dodson, Becky Williams, Gabi Otto and Gerry Hartwigsen.

prepare prisoners to go before the parole board and get a successful outcome. Nelson believes that a person can change and holds prisoners to a standard that will guarantee their success on the outside.

Senator Jolie Justus will be pre-filing a bill in December. If passed, "Nelson's Law" will allow prisoners to petition the court for early release based on their participation in programs and hard work they've done to improve themselves. Restitution will be a large part of the legislation he's proposing. Nelson's greatest concern is that there is going to have to be a retraining of the DOC staff and the probation and parole staff, because a new mind-set toward prisoners is needed to implement the changes proposed in his legislation.

He talked about the still-unsolved murder last December of his son Nelson Jr. and how it has influenced him to change his direction. Instead of representing individuals, he will be speaking at prisons and in public where he can reach more people. Nelson also has published a series of self-help guidebooks which he started writing while still in prison.

Autumn 2010

Missouri CURE Officers:

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- Hedy (Edna) Harden, Vice Chair*
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Paula presented a visual demonstration of how family members are isolated, partly because each person is mainly concerned about issues relating to her/his own loved one.

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The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison

by Hedy Harden

David Tripp, whose article about Missouri prisoners in Brazoria TX appeared in our last issue, was recently arrested and jailed for non-payment of child support. He has been unable to work since being seriously injured in July.

According to DOC Director George Lombardi, nonpayment of support was one of the top 5 offenses for which Missourians were imprisoned in FY09.

States with increasing deficits are seeking to pad their coffers by assessing additional charges to parolees in the form of fees and fines, for which nonpayment can land them back in prison. Criminal justice debt not only damages credit but interferes with other commitments, such as child support obligations.

Missourians on probation and parole paid almost \$10 million in FY09 in restitution alone. This is in addition to an intervention fee of \$30 per month plus court costs and fines, victim compensation and child support.

The ACLU and the Brennan Center for Justice have reported that “Poor defendants are being jailed at increasingly alarming rates for failing to pay legal debts they can never hope to afford.” The reports reveal that states throughout the country are targeting poor people – who have already served their prison sentences – for re-incarceration because of nonpayment of court-mandated fees and fines.

The ACLU report, “In for a Penny: The Rise of America’s New Debtors’ Prisons,” and the Brennan Center report, “The Hidden Cost of Criminal Justice Debt” were released October 4.

“Incarcerating people simply because they cannot afford to pay their legal debts is not only unconstitutional,” said Eric Balaban, senior staff attorney with the ACLU National Prison Project, but “also has a devastating impact upon men and women, whose only crime is that they are poor.”

David’s mother, Dolores Owen, tells

of taking off work early and traveling to Liberty MO to get David out of jail.

“I had to have \$300.00 there by 4 pm. It was about 10 minutes till 4 when I got there. I’d been told to pay at the courthouse. I went to the building in the town square that says COURTHOUSE and found I had to go to another building a block and a half from there – where they actually hold court.

“I went downstairs and paid with a check—they don’t accept cash. They copied the check, put it in an envelope, and we sealed it and put it into the locked box marked ‘Family Support’.

They wrote the court date and time on the copy of the check and told me to take it over to the jail and they would process him out.

“I went to the jail, showed them the copy of the check, and told them I was there to get my son out. The officer looked at the copy and said, ‘What is this? I’ve never

seen anything like this before! We can’t release him with this!’ Then he said, ‘We’ll get someone down here who

might know what to do.’ He called me back up to their window and said, ‘We’re processing him out, but it could take up to 4 hours, so you might as well go and kill some time. He can use the phone and call you when he’s released, or you can call us back to check on the status.’

“I went to eat—it was almost 4:30 by then. At about 5:15 my friend Mark called and said, ‘David is looking for you—he’s out.’ It had only been an hour. I was thinking, God knows where the hell he might have wandered off to, thinking that no one would pick him up. No one bothered to tell him to call ME. So I called the jail while driving back. I was told David had been

released and was gone.

“When I got there, David was sitting on the steps outside, waiting for someone to come get him. He had no clue what was going on, because no one bothered to tell him anything. It was about 7 pm when we finally got home.”

Although the aim is adding to state revenue, the practice of incarcerating indigent people for nonpayment of legal debts actually costs states and counties far more than they could hope to gain.

Vanita Gupta, Deputy Legal Director for the ACLU, says, “We are undermining the integrity of our criminal justice system and creating a two-tiered system of justice in which the poorest among us are punished more harshly than those with means, at a great cost to taxpayers.”

People of color, already disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system, are impacted even more by this practice. It creates additional barriers to people who have survived prison and are trying to rebuild their lives after release. Many states suspend driving privileges for missed debt payments, making it impossible for ex-offenders to

work. This in turn can lead to a new conviction for driving with a suspended license. The Brennan Center studies found that often states require people to pay off these debts before regaining the right to vote.

Unable to pay criminal justice debts, ex-offenders are increasingly being forced into circumstances that lead back to prison.

Neither David nor his mother can afford to pay the mounting fees when he goes to court on December 2.

Consumers are dealing with tremendous debt in our present economy. Often what happens to offenders today happens to those in society tomorrow. If debtors’ prisons were reinstated for the general public, perhaps the majority of us would be behind bars. ❖



“Incarcerating people simply because they cannot afford to pay their legal debts is not only unconstitutional...(but) also has a devastating impact upon men and women whose only crime is that they are poor.”

Punishment – at What Cost?

by Jon Marc Taylor

Missouri is breaking new ground by providing judges with the cost of sentencing options before they pass judgment on offenders. For instance, the calculated cost of one 30-year sentence exceeds half a million in today's dollars. Information provided to the judges also includes likely recidivism rates, which are calculated demographically for each option.

Not everyone is happy about this development. Jack Banas, prosecuting attorney for St. Charles County, says, "I don't think it has any purpose in a process of balancing justice."

The so-called "land of the free" houses one-fourth of the world's prisoners at an annual tab of \$60 billion, but Banas complains that "justice doesn't come down to dollars and cents."

Kristy Ridings, a St. Louis area defense attorney, likes the idea. "It gives us more argument to look at alternative sentences," she says. "There are resources in the community that are not only more effective, but cheaper."

Currently provided online at a judge's request, the economic sentencing information may soon become part of Missouri defendants' presentencing reports.

Justice Michael A. Wolff of the Missouri Supreme Court is also chairman of the state's sentencing advisory commission. Wolff says that judges across the state have increasingly requested such information.

Once the judge's clerk inputs the

individual offender's information – conviction code, criminal history, and other background data, the computer program provides tailored sentencing options for that person. For each option – probation, parole and incarceration – the computer displays the cost of the recommended time frames and the likelihood of recidivism. This information is computed based on the statistical compiling of hundreds of thousands of cases tabulated over the previous decade and compared to similar offender profiles.

"The court system should consider all data, including cost, when trying to decide the best way to use its resources for sentencing," Judge Wolff comments. "If community-based alternatives show to be more successful and cost less, judges should consider them."

Predictably, not everyone agrees. "Justice isn't subject to a mathematical formula," says St. Louis County Prosecutor Robert McCullough. He argues that the sentencing cost analysis is a blatant attempt to manipulate judges to sentence fewer offenders to incarceration. "There is no average case," he says.

Cathy Kelly of the overworked and understaffed Missouri Public Defender System believes such information is vital in these times of severe economic stress. Says Kelly, "The State is going bankrupt, and...we're spending millions and millions on prison sentences that have proven not to work."

Kelly advocates for alternative sentencing options, particularly for non-violent and minor drug offenses, as a more humane and cost-efficient way to address society's need for punishment coupled with the best return outcomes. She said "Sometimes alternative sentences are needed to get them out of the cycle as opposed to throwing them in a cell and throwing money at the problem."

Meanwhile McCullough threatens he and other prosecutors may push for abolition of the state's sentencing advisory commission at the next legislative session.

But William Ray Price Jr., Chief Justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, warned earlier this year that the entire justice system would be threatened if inputs continued unchanged and budget cuts persisted. "Perhaps the biggest waste of resources in all of state government," Price said, "is the over-incarceration of nonviolent offenders and our mishandling of drug and alcohol offenders."

At Crossroads Correctional Center, prisoner Branch #4003 of the NAACP will submit a resolution at next year's national convention calling for all states to implement a similar system for providing presentencing option analysis.

According to Robert Rooks, the NAACP National Director of Criminal Justice, Branch #4003 has "put forth some of the most cutting edge, well-researched and well-documented... criminal justice resolutions in recent years." He called the men "some of the most dynamic, passionate and knowledgeable criminal justice advocacy group (members) in the country."

Once becoming a part of the NAACP criminal justice platform, the resolution would educate branches throughout the country and stimulate them to lobby their legislatures to enact similar policies of providing judges with pre-sentencing cost analysis options.

Editor's Note: Realistically speaking, the price of imprisonment is far more than the monetary cost to the state and its taxpayers. Who can measure the cost of so many lives wasted, families bereft, and the loss to society of the creativity and contributions of these men and women languishing behind bars? There are better ways to solve the problem of crime than throwing away people.

Providing judges with a look at the price of their decisions is one way to inject a dose of reality into the process. Yet most elected officials today are afraid to talk about the major systemic changes needed because of the continuing tough-on-crime rhetoric, especially in an election year. ❖



MO CURE Meeting

The next meeting of Missouri CURE will be held December 4 at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 3421 Clark Lane in Columbia MO; phone (573) 814-3305. The raffle drawing will also be held at that time for winner of the flag afghan. We hope to see you there.

When the Prisoners Ran Walpole

by Jamie Bissonette

A book review by Hedy Harden

Nearly 40 years ago, history was made at a maximum security prison in Massachusetts. This is the true story of how prisoners won control of the Walpole prison after a walk-out by guards. More than 1300 outside citizens came into the prison in shifts during this period as part of an observer panel to witness the events unfolding.

Prisoners — black, white and Latino — had united into a labor union, the National Prisoners Reform Association (NPRA), which secured authorization to conduct collective bargaining with the prison administration.

“In the months before they took over running the facility in 1973, prisoners and outside advocates created programs that sent more prisoners home for good. When guards, protesting the changes, finally refused to run the prison, the prisoners stepped ably into the void — and all-out peace ensued.”

Beginning in March 1973, the prisoners ran Walpole democratically, with NO VIOLENCE, for nearly 3 months. Walpole’s murder rate went from being the highest in the country — to zero.

It was the height of the black liberation movement in the United States. In September 1971, prisoners in New York State had declared their humanity in a 3-day takeover at the maximum security prison at Attica. “We are men,” they asserted. “If we cannot live as people, we will at least try to die like men.”

Despite the brutal reprisals that took place when the state stormed Attica, the rebellion inspired prisoners throughout the country, many of whom existed under similar circumstances. Massachusetts prisoners showed solidarity with prisoners in NY State by organizing peaceful demonstrations, followed by a work stoppage.

Conditions of confinement were atrocious. At Walpole, the machine shop temperatures reached 110 degrees. It was the era during which prisons were

using behavior modification by way of experimental drugging of prisoners. By 1972 Walpole was using psychotropic drugs to control prisoners — and creating addicts. By January 1973 more than half the population of Walpole was on psychotropic drugs.

Like Attica, Walpole prison was located in a rural area. All the guards and other staff were white. Black prisoners had formed a group called Black African Nations Toward Unity (BANTU) after learning their own history from Black Panthers who came into the prison as teachers.



Says Ralph Hamm, “I went overnight from the former military man to a participant in the Black

Consciousness movement. I couldn’t read enough. Learning our history started the ball rolling. Our world was turned upside down and then right side up.”

Says Ed Rodman, a young black Episcopal priest supporter, the prisoners “came to understand that when Malcolm X said, ‘by any means necessary,’ he did not necessarily mean for them to pick up a gun. Even more importantly, they came to understand that manhood and courage are measured not by how you die, but by how you live, not by how many people you intimidate, but by how many people you empower.”

A rare convergence of a reform-minded governor, a progressive black commissioner of corrections, a large coalition of activist supporters, and prisoners united in fighting for control of their lives made possible this unique chapter in U.S. prison history.

Republican Governor Francis Sargent was dedicated to prison reform. Having already hired progressive staff, Sargent appointed a black man, John O. Boone, as commissioner of corrections for Massachusetts. Boone, who had

grown up exposed to horrific racism, had come up through the ranks in his criminal justice career and was known as a radical reformer.

Boone believed that prison should function only to deprive prisoners of their liberty, and not to punish them. He believed in community corrections and started a furlough program. Prisoners were encouraged to spend an afternoon or weekend at home, or to attend a child’s graduation. In this way they were able to reconnect to the community. He trusted prisoners to behave responsibly in society, and 97 percent of those furloughed followed the rules. Recidivism in the state fell from 60 percent to 23 percent during his tenure.

Two outstanding prisoners, a black man named Ralph Hamm and a white man named Bobby Dellelo, effectively united the entire population in the knowledge that they were all enslaved as prisoners and must stand together or perish separately.

Hamm and Dellelo met while both were housed at the Bridgewater Segregation Unit, which had become a statewide holding area for prisoners organizing politically.

Conditions in the Bridgewater DSU (Disciplinary Segregation Unit) were appalling. For weeks or months, prisoners were placed in cells where they could neither see nor hear each other. Clothing and personal belongings were routinely withheld. Yard time was severely limited. Bathroom facilities consisted of a chamber pot. Prisoners were drugged, sometimes forcibly.

The wards above the DSU had once housed mentally ill prisoners, also heavily drugged and many incontinent. Some had smeared feces and urine on the walls. These walls had been washed but not sanitized when the wards were closed. When it rained, the walls in DSU cells would run with urine and feces, spreading hepatitis. In this dangerous living situation, the prisoners from Walpole began to unite.

See *Walpole*—page 5

Reform Juvenile Justice

by Tracy McClard

I created FORJ-MO (Families and Friends Organizing For the Reform of Juvenile Justice) after my son Jonathan took his life in an adult prison. He was barely 17. FORJ-MO is the first parent-led juvenile justice reform organization in Missouri. We work closely with the Campaign for Youth Justice in Washington DC and the Burns Institute in CA as well as other groups across the nation. FORJ is dedicated to putting an end to trying, sentencing and incarcerating our children as adults.

We have a two-fold purpose. One is directed toward supporting and educating families who currently have children involved in the justice system. The

other is for policy change. We will push the age of adulthood in Missouri to 18, fully implement Missouri's Dual Jurisdiction program, and pull children that have been certified as adults awaiting trial out of adult jails. FORJ-MO parents are part of the National Parent Caucus, a group of parents who are in the forefront of policy change in Washington DC. Any parent can be a part of the caucus. We have monthly calls, usually during the first week of

each month, at 4:00 pm CST.

FORJ-MO meetings are held from 6:00-7:00 pm the first Tuesday of each month at Crossroads Fellowship in Jackson MO. I fully intend to spread FORJ across Missouri, so people can attend a meeting close to home. For more information or to contact me, please call 573-837-7346 or e-mail forjmo@gmail.com. For recent activities and upcoming events please see our website: www.forj-mo.org. You can also read Southeast Missourian articles by typing my name into their search engine. ❖



Walpole—from page 4

“Between Bobby and me,” recalls Hamm, “it was never about race. It was about coming together as two equal men.”

Meanwhile activist groups and individuals on the outside formed the Ad Hoc Committee on Prison Reform, which included ex-prisoners. Phyllis Ryan was a principal organizer, and Ed Rodman was the coalition's chair.

During the months when the NPRA was running the prison, Solomon Burke, an older black prisoner, created a remedial learning program.



“Brown understood the needs of his peers and developed a meaningful, practical curriculum. The men could learn to read, write and do math, but the learning process started with examining their own experience.

“The students had many barriers to overcome; the majority had not finished grade school, let alone high school. Because many of them had spent their

adolescence in custody, they had many negative associations with learning.”

Educational materials were provided by a Harvard students' community-service organization. Observers provided typewriters and microscopes.

Hamm recalls: “There was this guy in our block – he could not read... All the brothers took turns working with him. It was slow, but he learned to read. That was a remarkable achievement. For me, this is where it is at. I had the job of keeping order in the prison, but I really love teaching. I would walk by a bunch of guys playing ‘killer chess’ and I would throw a book on the board, scattering the pieces. They would say, ‘Why’d you do that?’ I’d reply, ‘Read it and find out.’ Later we took what we learned and created the Adult Basic Education Program.”

The prisoners also built a swing set for children to play on while visiting.

This book is about more than prison reform. It unabashedly advocates abolition of prisons.

According to Dellelo, prisons are self-perpetuating. Instead they should be self-disintegrating, preparing offenders to take their places in society.

Despite the courageous leadership of Hamm and Dellelo, despite the proven ability of the prisoners at Walpole to peacefully manage their own day-to-day lives, and despite the valiant

efforts of outside groups and individuals, the “experiment” ended with state police takeover, reprisals, and the loss of bargaining rights. Unfortunately, as with all hard-won reforms, a new administration can come in and reverse the gains.

Racism in the larger community had been whipped up following court-ordered desegregation, and white parents were attacking black students being bused to schools in Charlestown. The Boston Herald-American fanned the flames of racism with incendiary editorials. They also took the side of guards in trying to get rid of Boone, the first black corrections commissioner. Ultimately they succeeded.

Slavery is still legal in prison. The prison system itself, envisioned as a “reform” by Quakers more than 200 years ago, is a failed experiment.

From hanging, dismembering, and public whipping, society has devised many types of torture to punish those who break its rules. The penitentiary was meant to be more humane.

But is it? ❖

No one is free when others are oppressed.

*Welcome
Missouri CURE
Advisory Board!*

For Imprisoned Parents:**Keeping in Touch with Your Child's School**

Children need to know that their parents believe education is important. The very best thing you can do is to be interested in your child's school life. It may not be easy, but keep trying – it will make a difference! Call or write to your child and ask about school.

- ✓ Ask open-ended questions (where the child answers more than just yes or no) such as "Tell me what you are studying in science this week."
- ✓ Encourage your child to go to school every day.
- ✓ Find out what your child's favorite and not-so-favorite subjects are. Tell them what yours were.
- ✓ Are you taking classes now? Tell your child about your experiences so they know school is important and that learning is a life-long process.



- ✓ You might want to ask the school to mail your child's report cards and some of your child's work to you. You could write the teacher yourself or ask your child's caregiver to give your address to the school. If it is easier, you could ask the caregiver to get extra copies and then have the caregiver mail them to you.

Note: One mom mails their daughter's spelling words to dad on Monday; then he quizzes their daughter over the words when he calls on Thursday night.

- ✓ It is your right to keep the school from knowing where you are, but it is your responsibility to stay involved with your child.

Send or do things for your child that can help them with reading and writing.

- ✓ Make an audio recording of you reading a book to your child. They can read along and play it over and over.
- ✓ Find out what books your older child is reading in class (other than their textbooks). Read the book too and then talk or write to your child about it.
- ✓ Write a short story or a poem for your child. Ask them to write one for you.

Don't be afraid to ask for information from your child's school. Be polite, especially if it takes a little time to get the information.

For additional information or assistance in contacting your child's school, please visit with the Chaplain, Case Manager or Institutional Activity Coordinator.

Practical Parenting Partnerships, 520 Dix Rd, Suite C, JCMO 65109 phone 573-761-7770, web www.pppctr.org

Helmig Found Innocent after 17 years in prison

Senior Judge Warren McElwain has ruled that Dale Helmig has "established his innocence by clear and convincing evidence."

Dale had lived with his mother until her murder in 1993. In March 1994 police arrested him for the murder. He was found guilty in 1996 and sentenced to life without parole.

Prosecuting attorney Kenny Hulshof withheld evidence in the case and presented false testimony at Helmig's trial, according to attorney and UMKC law professor Sean O'Brien.

Helmig was convicted with no physical evidence, mainly on the basis of

a Missouri state trooper's testimony.

The former trooper and a county sheriff have since retracted their trial testimony.

Important alibi evidence was suppressed, and Helmig's trial lawyer had made no case for his client's innocence.



Helmig received habeas corpus relief due to the efforts of O'Brien, the Midwestern Innocence Project, and students from

both UMKC and Missouri University after years of struggle. The case had been featured nationally on America's Most Wanted as well as in a series of Post-Dispatch articles in 2005.

Judge McElwain wrote that Helmig was "victim of a manifest injustice."

On November 2, Attorney General Chris Koster announced that he will appeal McElwain's decision. Helmig's attorneys have requested he be released from prison as soon as possible.

Josh Kezer, who served 15 years in prison for murder of a college student, was released this year after a judge ruled in February that he was wrongly convicted. Hulshof had withheld key evidence in that case as well and misrepresented the facts in closing arguments. A former U.S. Congressman, Hulshof used his credentials to win six House terms and the Republican nomination for governor. ❖

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Choose from one of the following titles:

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- 3) **Seal, Erase, or Clear Your Criminal Record: Five Things You Must Do To Have Your Criminal Record Forgiven & Forgotten**
- 4) **How To Manage Your Own Case: Make The Attorney Work For You**

We offer self-help materials that provide step-by-step guidance through the process of applying for a sentence reduction, governor's pardon, or clearing a criminal record.

As a year-end special, we are offering our self-help guidebooks with a bonus purchase incentive. With each verified purchase of a guidebook, we will provide the named offender with a free, custom-drafted "Early Parole Projection Analysis."

Offenders planning for an early release from incarceration use the

analysis for parole hearings, executive clemency applications, and motion for sentence reductions to the court..

Cost of the analysis without a book purchase is \$150.00. For the holiday season, however, we will waive the cost of the analysis for offenders who purchase one of the listed self-help books. We are donating 25% of the net book sales to Missouri CURE to support their efforts of aiding & assisting the Missouri offender population. You can help yourself, Missouri CURE, and give your family a reason to hope for your early parole from incarceration.

A shorter version is available for \$19.99 plus \$7.99 s/h. All orders will be sent to you certified mail with return receipt requested. For a purchase order and instructions, contact us at:



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*"Building Character...To
Rebuild The Communities"*

Missouri Sex Offender Registry – Change is Coming!

by Becky Williams

On November 10 I attended a meeting in Jefferson City of the Sex Offender Task Force (SOTF) Committee. Members consist primarily of law enforcement – the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Department of Public Safety, Missouri Probation and Parole, and other government agencies.

The focus of this meeting was to review proposed legislation which would bring Missouri into compliance with the federal Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2006 (SORNA).

This legislation would implement a tier system for the Missouri Sex Offender Registry, with Level I being the lowest risk to Level III the highest. Sex offenders would be placed on tiers based on the age of the victim. After 10 years on the registry, Level I could petition the court to be removed; Level II would be able to petition the court after 25 years; and Level III would be on the registry

for life with no option to be removed.

There would be many more require-

ments for those who register and more information available to the public. There would also be restrictions for travel both within and outside the state.

I attended the meeting with several members of Missouri Citizens for Reform (MCR). We were not allowed to speak but only to observe. The meeting lasted around 6 hours and there were 28 pages of proposed changes to the current statutes. If any offender family members would like a copy, I would be happy to e-mail the information.

MCR stresses the fact that this program would cost \$9 million to implement. With so many state budget cuts being made in areas such as education, Missouri does not have the funds to spare for legislation that will do nothing to improve public safety. Offender families can either contact me at Missouri CURE or join MCR to get the latest information.

Currently only four states are in compliance with the federal guidelines. The SOTF committee will be sending its final draft to Governor Jay Nixon on December 1. We need to voice our concerns before this legislation is passed. ❖



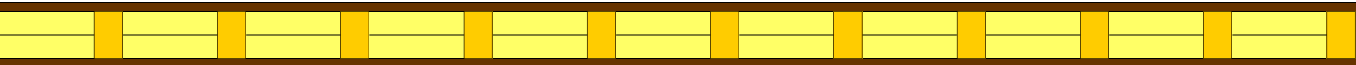
Missouri Citizens for Reform

Missouri Citizens for Reform (MCR) is a grassroots organization seeking to reform the current sex offender laws in Missouri. The group started as a state chapter of a national group, Reform Sex Offender Laws (RSOL).

MCR believes that the current laws unduly punish individuals and their families and violate civil rights.

They also advocate for and support the protection of children and adults from violent offenders.

MCR meets monthly in St. Charles County. If this affects you or your family, contact Missouri Citizens for Reform, P.O. Box 265, St. Peters MO 63376; showmerefom@charter.net; www.missouricitizensforreform.com.



20 Years—from page 1

We discussed the possibility of several groups working together on fund-raising, lobby days, and letter-writing campaigns.

Maureen Flynn-Hart spoke of her work with other families to improve visiting conditions at the federal prison at Leavenworth KS. They have met with some success.

Tammy Gillespie of Missouri Extension in Columbia talked about the 4-H LIFE program and distributed some packages for children with parents in prison.

During our board meeting, we elected officers. Maria gave a treasurer's report, and we talked about the family liaison program. Some prisoner correspondence was introduced and discussed. We also decided to form a Missouri CURE advisory board.



Join Missouri CURE!

Date _____

Name/ID# _____

Facility _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please check the annual membership type:

- Prisoner \$2.00 *
- Individual \$10.00
- Lifetime \$100.00
- Donation \$ _____

* Stamps from prisoners are welcome if permitted by your institution.

CURE is NOT a service organization. We are an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization. CURE has NO legal services. We advocate for criminal justice reform, but cannot take on individual cases.

Missouri CURE

P.O. Box 1245

Cape Girardeau MO 63702-1245



MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES



Together We Stand – Together we CURE!