



Missouri CURE
P.O. Box 1212
Fenton, MO 63026

missouricure@hotmail.com

We're on the web:
www.missouricure.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brad Bond
Al Hanson
Rhonda Nunn
Charles Quincy Troupe
Dan Viets

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Howser, Chairperson
Angela Adams, Vice Chairperson
Becky Williams, Secretary
Irma Miller, Treasurer

COORDINATORS

Death Row Issues - Paula
FAMM - Kristy
Media - Brenda
Medical - Colleen
MOSOP - Angela
Parole - Georgia
Re-Entry - Tammy
Restorative Justice - Tonya
Spiritual - Loretta

FAMILY REPS

DATE TO RENEW

AROUND TOWN

Contact Missouri CURE for more details

- March 7: Criminal Justice Task Force
Kansas City: 7pm at St. Luke's United Church of Christ at 727 N. Main, Independence
For more information contact Sara Boyd at 816-453-2499
- March 9: MASW (Missouri Association for Social Welfare) ADVOCACY DAY!!!
Jefferson City: 10:00am - 1:30pm at House Hearing Room 5 in the basement of the Capitol. Missouri CURE and FAMM will be in attendance.
For more information, contact Diana Moore at 1-888-634-2901
- March 15: Candlelight vigils protesting the execution of Stanley Hall. Details insides.
- March 17: FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums)
St. Louis: 6-8 pm at 3017 Park Avenue
- March 19: FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums)
Kansas City: 1pm at Pentecostal Church of God in Christ
For more information contact Melvin Strong at 816-763-4367
- March 24: WMCADP (Western Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)
Kansas City: 7pm at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church at 2310 E. Linwood Blvd.
For more information contact Cathleen Burnett at 816-756-0911
- March 17: EMCADP (Eastern Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)
St. Louis: 7pm at ACLU at 4557 LaClede Avenue.
For more information contact Mary Mifflin at 314-385-8344
- April 28: WMCADP Fundraiser (see inset)
- April 30- May 1: KAIROS OUTSIDE

A WMCADP Fundraiser
"The Exonerated"
at the

Unicorn Theater
Thursday, April 28th
at 8:00 p.m.

See what
The New York
Times calls
*"the best play
of the year."*

Tickets are available
at the WMCADP
office for \$30.00.

**SPACE IS LIMITED
GET YOUR
TICKETS NOW!**

*Ticket Price includes
an invitation to
a dessert reception*



Missouri CURE

News & Notes

March 2005

NEW DIRECTOR FOR DOC

~ By Paula Skillicorn

Last month, I had an opportunity to meet with the new Department of Corrections director, Larry Crawford, at his office in Jefferson City. Mr. Crawford graciously agreed to meet with me to discuss Missouri CURE and our desire to be more involved in decisions, especially those that involve visiting and the new transition program.

As CURE's representative, I discussed Missouri Cure's role in representing inmates, their families and friends and pointed out that we have been involved in several positive efforts with the DOC under the past two directors. I noted that we believe it is important that Missouri remain in the forefront of correctional policies in this country, and raised my own concern about Gov. Matt Blunt's recent actions and his comment that prisons are penal institutions. This, as we all know, is a throwback to criminal justice philosophies of many decades ago, when prisons were, indeed, penitentiaries. Modern criminal justice philosophies acknowledge the fact that 97% of Missouri inmates eventually will be released and that correctional centers are charged with preparing those men and women for productive, non-criminal lives on the outside.

Mr. Crawford said he supports the transition program and the need for positive activities for offenders. As for the recent removal of video games, he does not oppose offenders having video games, but sees no reason that those games should be violent and anti-social in nature.

I asked that Missouri CURE have regular meetings with DOC administrators to provide unique insight into issues. I also asked that we be included on committees, suggested we need a liaison group to improve family/DOC relations, and pointed out that that the changes in 2001 were beneficial, but prisons again are doing their own thing when it comes to visiting policies.

Mr. Crawford said he is still learning about the system and that he plans to visit each institution. I asked him to meet with inmates during those visits to discuss positive programs. When he mentioned budget cuts, I explained that inmates at PCC developed and currently run several positive programs themselves. Offenders with a volunteer in corrections as a sponsor can run most programs. Since these programs do not cut into the budget, there should be no reason to eliminate them or prevent development of more.

Mr. Crawford said he could not immediately give me an answer on Missouri CURE's involvement in DOC committees or policies. Overall, he seems approachable (his staff calls him open-minded). He said he supports the new transition programs and understands the need to help offenders re-enter society successfully. He volunteered that he opposes long sentences (at least in many cases). However, he does support limiting or denying visits between children and sex offenders who have molested children.

He said that when he finds a replacement for George Lombardi, he might ask that person liaison with us and handle some of our concerns. The point of this meeting was to familiarize Mr. Crawford with our organization, share with him our mission, and establish a more effective venue in which to address our concerns. This was not a meeting to hash out specific concerns. Our hope is that we can establish a regular dialogue with Mr. Crawford and other administrators and work with them to resolve problems and continue positive changes in Missouri prisons.

ATTENTION! When joining Missouri Cure you will receive a state newsletter every three to four months. You will be put on National Cure's mailing list and you will receive a quarterly newsletter. To renew your subscription with Missouri Cure you must send payment directly to Missouri Cure. If payment is received by National Cure, it will be considered a donation.

CURE is **NOT** a service organization; CURE has **NO** legal services.
CURE is an all-volunteer non-profit criminal justice advocacy organization.

Inside this issue:

Candlelight Vigil	2
FAMM	2
News	2
Medical	3
Out and About	3
Membership	3
Around Town	4