

# Safety Solutions Summary

## I. INTRODUCTION

### **Change Past Due**

There are numerous reasons why our criminal-justice is not attaining the results we want. I will focus on the solutions. Even though most of the dated information below is not current, recent statistics and related concepts still apply today.

Figures from a June 1999 article in Atlantic Monthly reminds us that more than 40% of prison inmates are released in any given year. In 1995, 463,284 were released; 600,000 were projected for 2000, 887,000 in 2005, and about 1.2 million in 2010 will be released. This doesn't include the hundreds of thousands being released from jails. According to the Oregonian (Associated Press) of August 26, 2002, one of every 32 Americans are either in jail, prison, on parole or probation at the end of 2001. That may well be an awful lot of potential rage coming out of prison to haunt our future. Are we content to accept that about 3/4 of these inmates will re-offend - and the average number of crimes each being five - or are we going to change a failing system to better protect society and help these men and women develop a responsible lifestyle? Would you rather have an untreated sex offender or other ex-felon as a neighbor, or would you prefer to have them rehabilitated?

The U.S. incarcerates more people per capital than any other nation. When a felon is released from prison, he may be one of the 74% who re-offend within five years, according to a FBI study. What we have done for the last 200 plus years has not worked and the safety of society is at risk. Budget emphasis is geared to prison building and management over improving schools, taking care of the homeless, crime prevention, etc. More and more young people are added to the criminal rank. Families of these felons are negatively affected, as well as society.

In Oregon about 4000 (2003) felons are released each year. Consider that about 74% re-offend. This means that about 3000 will re-offend with each having committed an average of 5 crimes each. Wouldn't it make more sense to establish ways so that less than 5% re-offend? That's about 1000 crimes versus 15,000 crimes for those not rehabilitated.

There are ways to meet this challenge. Taking a caring and more sensible approach rather than focusing on punishment is the answer.

We also need to be concerned that our average high school graduate only attains a fifth grade second month reading and math level. The U.S. at one time ranked number one in the world and has slipped to about number 23. We want students who are prepared for the market place and successful parenthood. Young people need to have skills and a high value of themselves.

Even though some articles and statistics are outdated, the principles herein are proven effective.

### **You Can Make a Difference**

Most of us have a tendency to think that our efforts are really not important when it comes to the "big picture" about voting, offering our ideas and time, etc. This isn't so, according to the laws of the Universe. Do you recall the story of the Hundredth Monkey? On a certain Island, monkeys didn't typically wash their food before eating it. Then one day one monkey discovered the techniques of washing his dirt or sand-covered food in water. Some of his fellow monkeys saw this one monkey do this and began following his example.

Apparently, after about the 100th monkey developed this habit, something seemingly strange happened. On another island, monkeys began doing the same. Why? There exists around us a "thought atmosphere" that affects others. Scientists believe that this thought process of cleaning food

was spread to others by this natural process. (*Life Tide* by biologist Lyall Watson (1979), referenced in *Unlimited Power* by Anthony Robbins (1986))

Our thoughts and their resulting actions DO affect others. One person does make a difference, and just as important, those thoughts and actions create results. There seems to be a critical mass point in time where our thoughts take form. I invite your help in making a difference by studying these materials and doing what YOU CAN to join our efforts.



## II. PRISON CHANGES NEEDED

The growth of our country's prison population is out of hand. It has doubled in the last decade. Building more prisons is not the answer, especially when there are more sensible (and "centsible") alternatives.

Arthur Hailey, author of *The Moneychangers* writes: "Given any time at all, prison could only degrade and worsen him; could only increase his hatred of the system which had sent him there; could only reduce the possibility of his becoming ever, a useful, law-abiding citizen. And the longer his sentence, the less likelihood there was any moral salvage." He was right. For non-violent offenders, about 67% of inmates according to American Friends Service Committee (1997), incarceration is expensive overkill with serious consequences:

1. It increases the chances they will commit more crimes when they leave prison.
2. It wastes tax dollars and puts more burdens on them.
3. It means fewer prison cells for violent offenders.
4. It lessens opportunities to repay the victims.
5. It increases family welfare costs for many offenders.
6. It increases the possibilities that the children of the felon will follow in their parent's footsteps.

Many states sentence non-violent offenders to community service and restitution programs coupled with strict supervision. These offenders can still support themselves and their families, instead of society paying the costs. This has great appeal. The victims receive something for their losses. The community may get "free labor" for community projects and parks, reducing other budget costs. This non-violent offender is spared the destructive experience of prison and is able to make real amends. They can also receive possible needed treatment to correct their thought and behavior problems, helping them to become more responsible. Who are the non-violent offenders? This list can include substance abusers, if their crime didn't involve violence, white collar criminals, sex offenders if they are controllable, traffic offenders, and more.

To further consider the topic of non-violent crime, I recommend *Gunning For Justice*, and *How To Win An Argument Every Time* by Gerry Spence, attorney; *Crime and Its Victims, and Convicted: New Hope For Ending America's Crime Crisis* by Chuck Colson and Daniel Van Ness (free from Justice Fellowship); and *Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do* by Peter McWilliams.

Programs that bring victims and offenders together are remarkably successful. A trained mediator describes the crime to the court, its affects on the victim, and attempts to structure a sentence proposal for the Judge. Most victims and offenders want to participate. Listed here are organizations with proven successes for community programs and restoration. We must turn to these proven successful models to show us HOW:

Type in these names on the internet for great information:

Justice Fellowship International; Prison Fellowship; Inner Change Program

An excellent website source for community resources throughout the United States on Victim/Offender and Restorative Justice Programs is found by typing : *victim/offender restorative justice* on your search engine.

Another great source for Restorative Justice is the Human Kindness Foundation, PO Box 61619, Durham, NC 27715. Phone: 919-304-2220; [www.humankindness.org](http://www.humankindness.org)

I highly recommend getting on their mailing list and giving support to their efforts. Please read this letter from them.

## **Can We Do Better Than Our Present Prison System?**

by Bo Lozoff, Director

The primary work of Human Kindness Foundation is to offer spiritual support to people regardless of their circumstances. However, because we have been in so many prisons -- I personally have visited around 500 institutions -- we feel a responsibility to offer this brief statement into the widespread debate over crime and punishment, especially in the U.S.A. (most of the following can be applied to other countries as well).

### **The Mess We're In Now**

America locks up more of its population than any other nation on Earth, a rate five times greater than most industrialized nations. **In 1970 there were fewer than 200,000 prisoners in the U.S.A. Now, forty-some years later, California alone has more than that.** There are over two million across the country. The states are spending an average of \$100 million per year on new prisons. Prisoners currently sleep on floors, in tents, in converted broom closets and gymnasiums, or in double or triple bunks in cells that were designed for one inmate. For the most part, prisons are barbaric, terrifying places. Crime victims derive no benefit from this misery. We offer convicts no opportunities to learn compassion or take responsibility for what they have done, nor make restitution or offer atonement to their victims in any practical ways.

Approximately 240,000 brutal rapes occur in our prison system each year. Most of the victims are young, nonviolent male inmates, many of them teenaged first offenders. They are traumatized beyond imagination. American teenager Michael Fay's caning in Singapore was child's play compared to the reception he would have had in nearly any state prison in America. Contrary to political sloganeering, we are not soft on criminals. We are irresponsibly vicious. Nearly 70% of all US prisoners are serving time for nonviolent offenses. Please let that sink in, because it's probably not the image you've received from the media. We've been led to imagine a legion of heartless monsters plotting to get out and hurt us again. The truth is, most prison inmates are confused, disorganized, and often pathetic individuals who would love to turn their lives around if given a realistic chance. Unfortunately, many of those nonviolent offenders will no longer be nonviolent by the time they leave prison. **Prisons are not scaring offenders away from crime; they are incapacitating them so they are hardly fit for anything else.** In other words, the criminal justice system that we're paying for so dearly simply isn't working and yet we keep on throwing more money into it. How do we start fixing what's broken? Here are a few places to begin:

### **Compassion versus Rage**

There are simple universal laws of human life that cannot be violated without paying a painful price. **Every great spiritual, philosophic and religious tradition has emphasized compassion, reconciliation, forgiveness and responsibility.** These are not suggestions, they are instructions. If we follow them we will thrive, if not we will suffer. The socially-sanctioned hatred and rage that we express toward criminals in modern times violates these timeless instructions. We are breaking a fundamental spiritual law, and the price we are paying for it is increased crime, violence, depravity, hopelessness, and of course, more hatred and rage.

Our children inherit these destructive attitudes. Teen suicide has doubled and teen homicide has tripled in recent decades. Many children carry weapons to school. **Our children are absorbing the**

**message that it's okay to despise and harm people whom they perceive as enemies.** That is not a mature or civilized philosophy. We are crossing a dangerous threshold of violence and ill-will. We have already crossed it in many movies and TV shows. Even at home around the dinner-table, children may hear words like "scumbag" and "animal" to describe criminals. They may hear jokes or celebratory remarks about the execution of a human being. Children cannot unlearn such views and behavioral patterns overnight.

**We must change our attitudes toward those who wrong us.** That doesn't mean we allow people to hurt us or rob us or harm our communities. After all, we don't allow our children to do cruel or immoral things as they are growing up, but when they do, we don't hate them for it. We don't punish them so viciously that they can hardly function for the rest of their lives. We don't throw them out of our home and tell them to fend for themselves forever. Yet that is what we do in our criminal justice system. By venting our rage and hatred, we make things worse. We make people worse. We take many confused, mostly selfish young men and women, and we create bitter, violent career criminals out of them.

We must also bear in mind that many of the greatest saints and sages of all religions were once criminals, drunkards, prostitutes and even killers. St. Paul was once Saul of Tarsus, a vicious bigot and killer of Christians. Religious history is filled with such redeemed, transformed sages. As we give up our belief in redemption and transformation, we are crossing another line, one of narrow-mindedness, which will render us poorer indeed. Some of the potential sages and activists of our times may be languishing in prison cells right now. We must seek to maximize rather than destroy such potential.

### **Drugs Are a Public Health Problem, Not a Criminal Justice Problem**

Nonviolent drug addicts are clogging our nation's prisons. Around sixty percent of federal prison inmates are doing time for drug offenses, up from 18% in 1980. All this incarceration is doing nothing to solve the drug problem. Many wardens, judges, and other officials know this, but it has become political suicide to admit it publicly. We must insist upon a mature dialogue about the drug problem. Keep in mind that the high-level drug dealers aren't cluttering up our prisons; they're too rich and smart to get caught. They hire addicts or kids, sometimes as young as eleven or twelve, to take most of the risks.

We need to address these issues in ourselves, our families, our communities. And we must press for changes in drug laws - not to legalize all drugs, because it's not that simple. But we do have to decriminalize their use, treating the problem as the public-health issue it is. Without drug offenders, our prisons would have more than enough room to hold dangerous criminals. As a result, we wouldn't need to build a single new prison, saving us \$5 billion a year. If we spent a fraction of that on rehabilitation centers and community revitalization programs, we'd begin to put drug dealers out of business in the only way that will last: by drying up their market.

### **Separate Violent and Nonviolent Offenders Right from the Start**

It's inconceivable that we routinely dump nonviolent offenders into prison cells with violent ones, even in local jails and holding tanks. What are we thinking? I know one fellow who was arrested for participating in a Quaker peace vigil and was jailed in lieu of paying a ten-dollar fine. In a forty-eight-hour period, he was savagely raped and traded back and forth among more than fifty violent prisoners. He has since passed away, but he never recovered emotionally. For nearly twenty-five years, his entire life centered around the decision of one jail superintendent to place him in a violent cellblock in order to "teach him a lesson" about political protest.

Most nonviolent offenders do in fact learn a lesson: how to be violent. Ironically, we spend between \$20,000 and \$50,000 per year, per inmate, teaching them this. For less than that we could be sending every nonviolent offender to college. We need to offer conflict-resolution trainings such as the

"Alternatives to Violence" programs currently being conducted by and for convicts around the country. Such trainings should be required for all prisoners and staff.

None of us, including prison staff, should accept violence as a fact of prison life, and it would be easy not to. We could designate certain facilities as zero-violence areas and allow inmates to live there as long as they don't commit - or even threaten to commit - a single violent act. The great majority of prisoners would sign up for such a place, I can assure you. Only about 10% of the prison population sets the brutal tone for most institutions, and they are able to do that because the administration gives no support to the vast majority of inmates who just want to do their time, improve themselves in some way, and get out alive.

### **Join and Support the Restorative Justice Movement**

For decades our justice system has been run according to the tenets of "retributive justice," a model based on exile and hatred. "Restorative justice" holds that when a crime occurs, there's an injury to the community, and that injury needs to be healed. **Restorative justice tries to bring the offender back into the community, if at all possible, rather than closing him out.** Instead of "Get the hell out of here!" restorative justice says "Hey, get back in here! What are you doing that for? Don't you know we need you as one of the good people in this community? What would your mama think?" It's an entirely opposite approach.

I'm not saying that every offender is ready to be transformed into a good neighbor. Advocates of restorative justice are not naive. Sadly, prisons may be a necessary part - a very small part - of a restorative justice system. And even then, prisons can be humane environments that maximize opportunities for the inmates to become decent and caring human beings.

What can you do? **First of all, if you become the victim of a crime, insist upon meeting your assailant. Insist upon being involved with the process of his or her restoration.** Join or create a VORP (Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program) in your community. Tour your local jail or prison to see firsthand what your taxes pay for. Go in with a church or civic group to meet inmates. Become a pen pal to a prisoner who is seeking to change his/her life. Talk to your friends and colleagues about employing ex-cons (in nationwide surveys, most employers admit they won't hire a person with a criminal record, so where are they supposed to work?). Reclaim your power and your responsibility, because the retributive system you have deferred to is not serving your best interests. Please take the issue of crime and punishment personally. It is an issue that affects you and your family and your descendants for generations to come.

**We must realize that we are all a part of this problem. If you vote, if you pay taxes, if you are afraid to walk alone at night, you are already involved.** And so we have a choice to be involved solely in negative, destructive ways, such as home security systems, car alarms, personal weapons, etc., or in constructive ways that might actually change the problems. We all must make real changes - not just political ones, but also in our personal attitudes and lifestyles. America will not thrive, nor will we and our children be happy, by becoming a nation behind bars. (end of letter)

### **MORE ON PRISON REFORM**

Even though many of the above sources suggest ideas for prison reform, let's consider some additional concepts. Keep in mind that what we have done these last 200 years or so has not really been effective. We pay millions for prison building plus upwards of \$30,000 per year to incarcerate each inmate. After release in Oregon 53% re-offend within 3 years, about 74% in 5 years, and then we pay again! Let's consider a new brand of rehabilitation while the inmate is in prison.

Some will say, "We have tried this before---". This is not even close to being accurate as I later describe rehabilitation. Others will say "Why should we educate, provide therapy, teach vocational skills, etc.? They should be punished." As we have seen, punishment hasn't been effective. If our institutions were designed for rehabilitation and monitored for inmate changes, we could see a

difference. It can cost less per inmate than our present prisons, if these proposals are implemented. The result will be better educated persons with higher values, higher self-esteem, and tools to succeed. Even IF the cost was higher while in prison, there would be almost no re-offenses, thus saving astronomically more than the extra cost. All felons should have the chance to take part in these programs. If they choose not to take part in the rehab program, keep them in prison for the entire length of their prison term. A reformed inmate could be released in two years or so, depending on their demonstrated progress.

There is no need for us to keep paying for incarceration when they are no longer a danger. The places where inmates take part in these intensive rehab programs might be called Rehabilitation Centers. As in mental hospitals, there would be no need for correctional officers. Typical correction officers operate from a psychological place of control and power whether they realize it or not. This has a very adverse affect on inmates. Having no guards contributes much to a supportive environment. The professional staff would be responsible for order. In a rare case of violent behavior, a staff person's body alarm will signal other staff members to the incident area. As a force of 6-10 people, they surround and close in on the offender. This has proven effective in many places and eliminates the need to pay for extra correctional officers who in reality use a similar system.

If you are tired of having billions of dollars going into crime rather than education programs, consider these ideas to reduce the re-offense rate while taking the burden off tax payers and better insuring everyone's safety.

### **Punishment**

Punishment has not worked in our society, otherwise 3/4 of released felons wouldn't re-offend. Many of the incarcerated increase their anger and mistrust because of their prison experiences. Having fear of being caught, for some of the released felons, is not the answer to "correcting" them. Rather than a punitive approach, consider a caring one.

According to a Christian Science Sentinel article of March 4, 2002, a Gallup poll says that 82% of Americans claim to be Christian. That being so, let's focus on love and forgiveness instead of punishment, as the New Testament teaches. We need to avoid, if possible, leaving families of the felons behind to try to make it on their own. Many of these families end up on welfare. Many of the children develop anti-social behavior and also turn to crime. Let's show we care about these felons, their families and their success after release, and ultimately our own safety and welfare.

Yes, there have been attempts at rehab in prisons, but little rehabilitation has occurred as we can see from the high re-offense rates. Classes in prisons are attended because they are required, may be interesting, or perhaps some "pay" is involved. However, what is lacking is pre-assessing inmates for their needs, and monitoring their behaviors for required change in a personalized program. Passing a course should not be based just on attendance. Using the principles as I suggest, and demonstrating change is what is needed. An inmate cannot be passing these classes without these requirements.

Consider the costs of imprisonment only. In 1998 Oregon (according to Justice Fellowship) was costing \$74,000/year per inmate. This is about three times the cost of developing rehab programs using the principles I recommend. In 1998, an inmate who was to be released in 2089 (if he lived that long) would cost taxpayers close to \$7 million. Why not direct the inmate to becoming a responsible citizen for perhaps \$200,000 so that he can contribute to society?

A 1996 Ann Rand study looked at the cost of punitive solutions as opposed to intervention costs for youthful offenders. It concluded that graduation incentives, parental training, and supervision of offenders were all more cost effective than incarceration.

Some citizens may think it wrong to "send these felons to school" instead of punishing them. For most people, taking a close look at one's behaviors and then going through changes, is MUCH more difficult than "just doing time". Why not spend less money (compared to present prisons) and develop responsible persons with self-esteem and better skills, so they can succeed after release?



## **Prison Work and Vocational Programs**

Most inmates have not had positive work experiences in society. Many young men and women have had no experience at all. "Idleness is the most serious problem in virtually every penal institution," says Norman Carlson, former director of Federal Bureau of Prisons. At least half the nation's prisoners are idle every working day. Oregon law (2002) requires inmates to work 40 hour weeks, yet little is done to promote good work habits and to put them to work at meaningful jobs as the law requires, including working a full work week. Being scheduled to work but doing nothing for hours, creates bad work ethics and habits, and gives time for inmates to get into trouble. Schedule work as it is needed only. When the work is done, let him go back to his housing, recreation, study and hopefully some rehab activities of some type.

Enough work can be developed for all inmates. There are manual and clerical jobs for running the institution. There is the possibility of unlimited kinds of industries that can be developed that will earn money for the D.O.C. as well as the inmates. When these industries are based on state jobs, the load on tax payers can be lessened. Most, if not all of these jobs can be vocational training opportunities and could include: Landscape maintenance, steward training, small engine mechanics, auto mechanics, electrical, agriculture (growing food for the institution(s), animal husbandry (dairy and meat), plumbing, painting, computer skills, welding, building maintenance, paralegal, and more.

Some people in private enterprises have a concern that prison industries lessen job opportunities in the communities. Realize that these felons were once able to earn wages in society. They have only shifted their location. In the past, the concern was that prisons had cheaper labor. This is not a concern if they are paid wages with portions of their earning going for victim, court, family, incarceration costs, and release funds.

Work in prisons needs vocational guidelines. The prison or rehab center will benefit because most labor includes those who want to work or train, not someone who is forced to do something he doesn't like. The quality of work will be higher because the interest and dedication is there.

Inmates being involved in work opportunities will be assessed for their talents and interests. They will be assigned work that will give them experience in the area that they may pursue after release.

Each vocational class would offer instruction for a few hours a week by a qualified instructor. When a course is completed, the inmate would be certified. Hopefully, the instructor can help the inmate arrange a job contact in the community of release.

It is often hard for a released felon to be accepted by employers for work because of his crime record. Inmates need to be shown how easy it is to develop their own businesses as well as developing resumes, etc. Home centered businesses are beneficial in many ways.

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## **Education in Prison**

The mastery of basic skills is needed for success. A person feels better about himself when he is confident of his skills. All prison inmates need to be pre-assessed to assure they have mastery of the basic G.E.D. skills. Even if they are a high school graduate, they should be assessed since the average graduate is only 5th grade level, and many have not used the skills for years.

More students can be pre-evaluated and scheduled for the programs. Instead of the traditional attendance of 5 days in a class, schedule the student only once per week for the class. During this class, the week's assignments are reviewed by the instructor/aide and new assignments are made according to the student's readiness for increased levels.

College courses should also be available to inmates. It has been shown over the years, that when prisons have college courses, the re-offense rate is as low as 3%. This is one of the best investments a state can make. Even if inmates paid for their own courses, they should not pay the cost per credit of current colleges. Inmates would have the ability to pay for the courses when they are paid prison wages that are outlined on the enclosed *Paying for the Costs of Crime*. Technology is such that courses can be completed with the aid of tapes, videos and computers, in addition to a text under the supervision of an instructor or by correspondence. A personalized program of study (as described in the PAL program), assignments and the use of these devices would be available at a minimal cost because the materials can be used by other inmates for the one-time cost. Other overhead costs are reduced to almost nothing.

After being evaluated, students are placed with materials designed to their needs. They will be required to complete a minimum amount of assignments each day. Each assignment will be monitored for quality completion and mastery by the education staff. Inmates not volunteering for the education or other rehab programs will be moved out of the rehab center into a regular prison setting to complete their sentence.

It must be understood and accepted by each inmate that their program is designed to meet their needs. Some will require more courses and time than others. A counselor should review the results of the assessment that took place at the intake center before transferring the inmate to a rehab center. The results of the assessment must be shared with the inmate and potential goals developed.

Some will be concerned that an inmate may "con" their way through a designed program without actually changing. This can be avoided if each class or activity is designed specifically to the inmates needs and carefully monitored for honesty, accuracy and DEMONSTRATED changes and improvements. At such time an instructor or supervisor detects dishonesty, there needs to be an open communication process between the inmate and staff. Opinions must be verified by demonstrable facts.



## **The Rehabilitative Process**

Most prison settings make an attempt to rehabilitate by offering an occasional class such as ABE, GED, ESL, cognitive thinking, anger management, drug and alcohol classes. Inmates presently take these because: (1) they are required to get good time credits, (2) for perhaps some pay value, (3) their friend is taking the class, and in some cases, (4) because the class is fun. Present programs are not personalized, monitored for change and guidance, or evaluated by actual observed changes in behavior, hence the results are high re-offenses. The pre-assessment can give direction to activities that can include class or personal assignments, text study and assessments, hearing tapes, reviewing videos, and having one-on-one discussions with trained inmates, psychiatric technicians, psychologists, psychiatrists or one of several kinds of social workers. To help keep the costs down for these professionals, interns or those training for these professions could fill most of these positions at little or no cost. These folks are usually enthusiastic about their learning process and will gain by their hands-on experiences under the direction of a licensed person.

The counselor or social worker would help direct each inmate's program. He or she would be responsible for developing a program with the inmate, coordinating the programming and keeping a record of all assessments and program activities.

Recall that an inmate is not to be released early to the community unless he DEMONSTRATES positive changes along with course completions. This involves more than class attendance. Assignments must be successfully completed. The instructors will monitor each inmate to assure they understand the material and processes.

A few months before release, the inmate will need to take a pre-release course. In this class the inmate will learn about job interviews, resumes, time management, job planning, starting his own business, and arrange for potential housing in the area of release. S/he may also learn of potential programs and support groups to help them adjust back into society.

A Work Release program is desirable as reported in *From Prison To Home*, published by the Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center, 2100 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20037, (202)833-7200; [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org). This is an exceptional resource that should be reviewed. These have been proven successful and are cost effective. They provide community service and in some cases will develop a job source after release. Being able to report to the institution after work can provide valuable direction and support the transition process.



### **After Release**

Now that the inmate is a "new responsible person", there will be no need for community treatment or restrictions that currently adds much stress and cost to someone trying to begin a life after incarceration.

There should be no need for parole officers. This will be a major savings and eliminate much court activity. In the past, the practice of violating ex-felons because of missed meetings and other petty requirements has served little purpose and only increases costs. Teach these felons while incarcerated with correct guidelines and tools, and then give them a chance to use these tools without unnecessary pressure and cost. With a good pre-release program even those inmates who choose prison over rehabilitation, will have adequate tools if the guidelines presented in these materials are used. Even a prison setting should offer the pre-release and work release programs.

A released felon under this new rehabilitation approach (not the prison setting) will no longer have a criminal record after demonstrating about 5 years of responsible living in the community. S/he should be allowed to go to any community they wish. This eliminates being forced into an area where a former "circle of friends" may tempt him to go back to the former lifestyle. This also eliminates the possibility of the need for him to live out the expectation "once a criminal, always a criminal."

Presently, it is proper in many cases to recommend treatment of some kind for the releasee. Under this proposed system this would NOT be necessary, thus saving more tax monies. Take the time to understand the CURE theory that follows. It will bring to the community men and women who are now better equipped to succeed and create a safer society while reducing cost burdens for taxpayers. In reality we can "make a new person" by a total rehab process, then a need for follow-up treatment and support groups may not be required because the inmate addressed and changed their former anti-social behavior while incarcerated.



### **III. NEW PROCESSES FOR NEW BEHAVIORS**

What follows is a brief summary of how habits can be changed, and they can be used by everyone. Any person can rid old habits and develop new ones. As suggested previously, a year or more of intensive "re-programming" will occur in a therapeutic setting where the person will focus on this restructuring process twelve to sixteen hours per day.

Have you ever tried to develop a new habit or make some kind of change in your life? Do you remember making a little progress and then slipping back a little into the old habit? Whether we tried to stop smoking, eliminate profane language, or develop good habits such as regular study, better

parenting skills, the experience is usually the same. With PERSISTENCE we eliminated the unwanted behavior or developed one that was desired. We made progress and then slacked off a little. This process discouraged most of us so we abandoned the changing process, at least for awhile. This process repeats itself often and change appears impossible.

We have heard it said that diets don't work. Why? Because the diet doesn't become a lifestyle habit! We know this. This same principle is true whether we are doing an exercise program, religious studies, reading and viewing good material or whatever. Our thinking processes and behavior changes must be consistent and lasting. Sounds simple doesn't it? So what needs to be done to make lasting changes?

Science, in particular quantum physics, now explains the necessity of *perseverance* and *habit*. It is known that every cell of our being has its own intelligence. The accumulative intelligence of all our organs, etc. develops a pattern of behavior in us. If we want to change our behavior permanently, then we must create a new pattern of intelligence, in each part of us. Each part (cell and organ) is affected by our thoughts and feelings. If we want to "become a new being" with different behavior patterns, then we need to do so at least over a year's time.

Why a year? Each of our cells renews itself within hours to about 14 months, depending on the type of cell. As old cells are replaced by new ones, the genetic and intelligence patterns are passed on to the new cells. The messages from thoughts and feelings are also passed on if they have been impressed from generation to generation. It's somewhat like telling a story. The more often we tell it, the easier and more natural it becomes. The new habit is now formed and becomes part of us. Playing a piano or doing gymnastic moves become natural and never are entirely forgotten because the cellular habits are passed on, the whole being "knows" the movements. So it is with any habit - a habit being a process that repeats itself.

One way to think of how our body cells are reprogrammed is to consider an infant growing into an adult. We will probably agree, for instance, that a young adult is the result of the thoughts and programming s/he accumulated over the years. Each cell of this person has a "memory" of all that it has now become. So it is with new cells, as we program them by our thoughts, feelings and behaviors, so they will become. As each new generation of cells and its practical behaviors evolve, so does the collective behavior of that person.

It is suggested, then, that in order to overcome addictions to alcohol, sex, drugs, overeating, etc., we must do intensive restructuring of our being at least for a year, preferably two years. Every waking hour should be focused on making discoveries about ourselves, learning new habits to replace the old ones, and focusing on them continually.

Consider this from Edgar Cayce's *Story of Karma*: "While we all are at different stages of development and may be working on different lessons, we do not make much progress until we can recognize our problems as opportunities. We begin to grow when we face up to the fact that we are responsible for our trials and misery. We are only meeting self. Our present circumstances are the result of previous actions whether long removed or in the recent past. So if we are beset with problems, blame not God, for they are of our own making. Our miseries are the result of destructive or negative thoughts, emotions and actions."

From Wayne Dyer's *The Sky Is the Limit*, "You are responsible for the thoughts you have in your head. You have the capacity to think whatever you choose, and virtually all of your self-defeating attitudes and behaviors originate in the way you elect to think. Your thoughts are your very own personal responsibility, and once you accept this as a fundamental part of your total humanity, you will be on the way toward changing about yourself that which you feel displeased about. Emotions don't just happen. Actions don't simply take place. All of your feelings and behaviors are preceded by mental processes called thoughts, and no one can make you think something you don't want to think. Your corner of freedom, even when others are manipulating or even imprisoning you, is your ability to choose the thoughts which you have within your own mind. And once you understand that your

emotions and behaviors come directly from your thoughts, you will simultaneously understand that the way to attack any personal problem is to attack the thoughts that support your negative emotions and self-defeating behaviors."

We are right now the sum total of all the thoughts in our experience. At times we are affected by "race thought" of other people's thinking. For the most part, however, we are the product of our own thoughts and actions. Think about it. Yes, we can blame others for some of our experiences. Even in those circumstances there was some of our own thinking that either led us to that condition, or was a direct result of our thoughts.

Realizing this, we can assume that if our thought had brought us to this point, our future holds the same results unless we change our thinking. Do you want your life to be different than what you are now experiencing? If so, change your thinking. This may sound easy but we need to really focus on our thoughts. When we catch ourselves in the old patterns, stop. Think immediately on another subject and/or do something else. The "*doing*" is extremely important, especially something you enjoy.

Habits are formed by repeating our thoughts and actions. When those behaviors you don't want come to mind, immediately switch to the thoughts that will lead to different actions. Develop new habits by new patterns of thinking and you will see new behaviors that will soon become automatic. This process applies to all forms of addictions as well as lesser habits. Let's go a step further in our understanding.

Each cell has its own lifespan, being replaced by new cells within days, weeks or slightly more than a year, depending on which cells we are referring to. Each cell as it is replaced has the ability to take a completely new intelligence or consciousness, thereby changing its behaviors. From Deepak Chopra's *Ageless Body, Timeless Mind* we learn that by changing the impulses and patterns, we will change. Can you see the potential here? As we develop new patterns of thought, eventually our entire being is renewed to become an entire new person.

In essence, what is being stated here is that even addictions such as alcohol, drugs, deviant sex, over-eating, etc. can in a real sense be CURED! This is not to say a person can't make the same mistakes as before, if we choose. However, the emotional and thinking pattern is not a natural tendency any longer. We are truly renewed.

### **SUMMARY OF THE CHANGING PROCESS**

1. Recognize shortcomings and their destructive behaviors.
2. See the need for change.
3. Accept yourself as okay, forgiving self for mistakes. There is no value holding onto guilt. Use it for identifying the problem and then move on.
4. Realize WE ARE WHAT WE HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT AND EXPERIENCED, AND WE WILL BECOME WHAT WE NOW THINK ABOUT AND EXPERIENCE.
5. Identify those thoughts that lead to unwanted behaviors.
6. Stop the unwanted thoughts when they appear, and replace them with different ones. Know what these "danger signals" are, and plan to have positive, joyful thoughts to replace them.
7. List the danger signals and the new thought images next to them. FEEL positive about the new thoughts and put them into action. ENJOY it.
8. Meditate on seeing these new behaviors with enthusiasm.
9. Make a habit of new positive behaviors. Even if awkward or challenging, work to develop the new habits.
10. Develop skills and knowledge to build self-esteem. Overcome fear with understanding.
11. Practice, practice, practice. Live these new habits with JOY!

The above thought and cellular memory process is NEEDED, as stated, in an intensive year or more of persistence. As individuals or institutions we must understand that this process is NEEDED if we are to overcome addictions and bad habits. No other known process works. May we have the courage to persist in doing what we know MUST be done.

#### IV. AN INTRODUCTION RELATING TO SEX OFFENDERS

One of the most feared and misunderstood behaviors in society is regarding sex abuse, rape, and other sexual deviant behaviors. Read the next three pages about whether treatment works before continuing. Statistics show treated offenders re-offending at 10.9% using present methods. My experience, sources and research now claims that these folks - and other unwanted behaviors - can be cured.

##### **Sex Offenders: Does Treatment Work?**

Pose this question on a search engine. The website will greatly inform persons looking for solutions to curbing the social cancer of child sex abuse. Some of the presented materials outline the need to personalize treatment for offenders. This supports what I offer in these materials. Preferably this personal approach to treatment will occur in a facility designed for sex offenders. It is my claim that treated properly, these folks will attain less than 5% re-offense rate. It is key to remember a statement made from an *Oklahoma Prison sex offender treatment* website which states, "It's quite different from what you hear. You hear that once a sex offender always a sex offender, so every sex offender will re-offend," Carter said. "But research shows that's not true." I strongly urge everyone to read the following statement from BACHNET.

***Our mission is to provide every family and community with innovative abuse prevention, intervention and deterrence strategies and solutions. Our current focus is on sexual abuse. We here at Be A Child's Hero Network (BACHNET) believe that Sexual Abuse can be prevented. Sexual Abuse destroys the lives of thousands of innocent children everyday. We at BACHNET believe that every person can Be A Child's Hero by learning about sexual abuse. Every person can help to prevent or stop sexual abuse. Be a part of the solution and learn about sexual abuse and the sex offenders who abuse and get your questions answered A complete list of all articles on this site can be found at <http://www.beachildshero.com/soarticles.htm>. Learn more about our goals and purposes go to the [Contact US](#) page.***



#### **PRESENT "THERAPY" FOR SEX OFFENDERS**

Society in general has formed the attitude that sex offenders cannot be cured. Even though their re-offending rate (18.5%) is about one-fourth that of other felons (74%), society is panicky and doesn't know what to do. Crimes against children, especially, are detested. Sex crimes in the media gain attention and sire more emotions than most crimes.

As soon as a sex crime is reported, it is immediately focused upon. Most always the accused offender has charges brought against him/her. (Since most offenders are males, the male gender will be used in this material.) The perpetrator's family and community over- reacts by automatically assuming guilt. This attitude could but will not be addressed here since we are focusing on curing those who DO act out inappropriately. The assumption here is that the accused DOES have a problem.

So what is done to the offender? He may be put into a community treatment program. In this case, he may get about three hours of "treatment" per week. This usually will not overcome the thinking patterns that allowed the perpetrator to justify his acts because new behaviors aren't replacing the former ones.

A second alternative has been to send him to prison. This does more harm than good. You may be thinking, "Good? Who cares about the offender, right? Lock up the so and so. Get him out of society so he doesn't hurt anyone else." Remember, he will be released some day. In a prison environment, he will be threatened and harassed. In some ways he needs to experience the rejection for his wrongs. However, rejection was a primary feeling that helped lead him to turn to vulnerable children or to attack an adult. The offender needs to become aware of what he has done, but not in prison. Even the courts agree. There is a federal case (*Ohlinger v Watson 652 F2d 777*) that in essence says that prison is cruel and unusual punishment and they have a constitutional right to individual treatment. Other legal cites support this also.

Ian Macindoe (retired), former consultant to the Minnesota Dept. of Corrections, warns "The brutalizing and callousness produces an atmosphere of the fortress institution, the con code and the esteem-destroying attitudes towards sex offenders make it impossible to establish the necessary therapeutic atmosphere in prison. I take it as an incontrovertible fact that prison is degrading, anti-therapeutic, psychologically and psych-socially destructive and damaging, to be avoided at all cost if treatment is to be effective. To believe otherwise is sheer folly."

Robert Lango, Director of Oregon State Hospital says that prison increases sex offender pathology - worse than before incarceration. Inmates become more violent, angry, and have worse fantasies.

We are already aware that present attempts to rehabilitate have not resulted in what we want. In Oregon, there is no treatment for sex offenders in prison as this new Century begins. After they serve their prison term, they are released to society and sometimes directed towards a community program. Perhaps the hope of the system is that he will not re-offend because of their not wanting to go back to prison. We must realize that these offenders act out because of a variety of reasons related to their past experiences and thinking. They need a program of intensive therapy as outlined in these materials.

Many counties have large buildings that can be converted to hospital type settings where education and a wide range of treatment activities can be offered. There are successful resident programs for sex offenders, such as Atascadero State Hospital in California. Contact them and perhaps the John Hopkins Hospital in Maryland for treatment models.

I don't believe that an "attack" approach should be used to break a person down. Do what is needed to help the person realize what harm has been done, help them to understand the process that led them to justify their actions, and then move on. Focus on thinking and behavior changes.

Another mistake we make is in connection to the present "Megans Law". Requiring a released offender to register is not beneficial, especially when it involves informing the community about where he lives, etc. This usually contributes to causing the ex-offender to feel rejected with resulting lower self-esteem. This was probably a major factor that led to his crime(s) before. In addition, his community has another reason to be fearful which has all kinds of negative possibilities. Having a federal-wide data base of sex offenders is enough for schools, day care centers, elder care centers, and youth organizations to use for screening job applicants. A single federal resource is needed in order to research offenders moving from state-to-state.

Educate our public about how to recognize and deal with inappropriate behaviors. Teach youngsters what to do when they are approached or touched in a way that is uncomfortable. About 85% of sex crimes are by family members and close friends. Another 10% are acquaintances of the victims. Only 5% or less are predatory. Knowing this, focus on prevention, centered around inappropriate behavior of those people.

Every stranger is not to be mistrusted or feared. As humans, we need the touch of others. Help children to learn what is okay and what to do when they are uncomfortable. Most of the time, just saying, "I don't like to be touched there" or "Please stop touching me" is enough to stop the unwanted behavior and helps prevent victim guilt.

Sometimes adults begin to recognize that they have a tendency towards acting sexually in an improper way, and they want help rather than hurting someone and/or going to prison. Our present laws require teachers, mental health persons, etc. to give the names of these folks to the police. There is no present way for the person to get help other than perhaps a library book or close friend. Professional help isn't available. We need to alter these laws. These people need to feel free to get professional help. If they need to be locked up because of hurting people, then this may be necessary. At that point, an intensive program as I am suggesting needs to be considered. Are you or someone you know been a victim of sex abuse? If so, consider putting energy into seeking treatment along the lines I suggest in this materials. It's easy to feel victimized, angry, and revengeful. These feelings, although justified, do no good for anyone. Please join me in my efforts and experience a sense of peace as a result.

### **Some Treatment Changes**

Are you seeing what is happening? Sex offenders are not getting an intense, effective program. They need this! A program geared to their personal needs in a special place designed for them is NEEDED. They don't need guards to create stress and power struggles. The staff to administer and operate the program costs less compared to prison, especially if one considers the alternative costs of untreated persons in terms of funds expended and more victims. An effective program will have a large variety of educational, self-esteem building and therapeutic activities. An inmate should be involved in these activities for 8 to 12 hours per day.

A sex offender should be required to complete a program successfully before being released to the community, preferably in a work release program. This involves active participation, monitoring behavior changes, and assessments that are openly assessed by the staff and inmate. When an inmate (patient) is deemed safe for society and there are positive release plans made, he should be released. Society should not have to pay for further incarceration.

Those who refuse to take a productive part in therapy should not be released till their full sentence is up but they should be required to take some of the classes anyway without being coerced, as is presently done in many prisons. Just like a parent or teacher, the system should keep trying to direct them to what is best for them and society. Even the offender who is unwilling and/or in complete denial will sooner or later see the value in the program. Ultimately, the choice is up to the felon. However, society should not have to keep paying for the mistakes they may choose to make. If they choose to stay locked up the rest of their prison term, that is their choice. We all need to take responsibility for our choices. Will everyone released after treatment be cured? No. No one can guarantee that any of us will never hurt anyone. However, we will now have men and women who have an awareness of what they have done, can see possible "danger signals" in their life and know how to replace dangerous behaviors with better ones. They will feel better about themselves, have better skills for success and be better able to contribute to society in a positive lifestyle.

Where does punishment fit into this picture? It is well-established that punishment in itself has no real value except deterrence for a few to re-offend. Punishment usually creates resentments and anger. Even the "correctional" system offers little rehabilitation in their prisons. When a sex offender realizes, at least partially, the harm he has to his victim(s), family and friends, don't you think this is punishment in itself? The stigma that is attached to that person by society as a "free" person can be very critical and will probably follow him the rest of his life, no matter how responsible he becomes. Also, having to pay restitution to the victim(s), and perhaps the criminal justice system, is very appropriate "punishment". He will literally pay for his crime.

Preferably, the first time offender will be able to do his treatment outside "on the streets". He can be under house arrest and/or be closely supervised while he works to support his family and the costs related to his mistake. Requirements for intensive therapy would occur. If he is clearly a danger to himself and/or others, then of course he needs incarceration and direct supervision.

When incarceration is required, a facility just for sex offenders is needed. The staff of psychiatric technicians, psychologists, and other specialists trained in sex offender treatment is all that is needed for security.

A full program of education, self-esteem building classes, sex education, therapy, recreation, group sessions, and staff one-on-ones is needed. Each inmate in this residential program will work a few hours a day to maintain facility needs such as kitchen, laundry, maintenance, clerks, and other positions in a vocational training atmosphere which will provide the inmate with some funds for writing supplies and personal needs. Many counties have large buildings that can be converted into a residential center without the usual cost for security as in prisons. If an inmate requires prison type security there needs to be a prison wholly for sex offenders that will offer the more intensive treatment. If they realize that their early release hinges on their involvement and progress in a treatment program, more efforts will be made. Our system needs to be one of support and encouragement. We **MUST** work together to rehabilitate. There are also many judicial procedures and laws that need to be changed in our courts. Some are suggested in these materials.

Because of fear and lack of information, irrational requirements for released sex offenders are being implemented. Recall that what I suggest is that less than 5% will re-offend, following my recommendations and other proven programs.

Those who would have completed a program as suggested in these materials definitely don't need the cost and hassles for continued supervision after release. The idea of informing the community and neighborhoods of a released sex offender is counter productive. It creates potential danger to the welfare of the offender and his family. It helps him feel rejected which was probably a contributing factor to his criminal behavior. The community becomes more fearful of not only that person but of others who may "be lurking in the neighborhood for another victim". There is already too much distrust and fear instilled in society and young people that creates further problems.

Among the list of unnecessary release requirements is that sex offenders regularly take polygraphs at their expense. The procedure is costly to an already encumbered parolee and the results are not consistently conclusive. It is one of several ways to violate a parolee and get him back into the "prison building industry" and is not necessary in the first place.

What society needs is an understanding of what situations to avoid and how to cope with unwanted behavior. We don't need to create unnecessary fears, hate and improper actions. Become aware of HOW to prevent sex abuse and effective ways to treat and prevent re-offense of perpetrators. Progress begins with understanding and results in taking effective action.

Review "*How Should We Deal With Sex Offenders*" by typing this into the Google search engine. I also strongly recommend reading the article "No Easy Answers: Sex Offender Laws in the U.S.", a report by the Human Rights Watch. Again, type in *No Easy Answers* onto the Google search engine.



## V. FOR PRISONERS AND/OR THEIR FAMILIES

Even though prison officials and officers may not intentionally do so, inmate rights and opportunities are often violated. ***What I can do as a prisoner?***

1. Follow the rules as much as possible. Get involved in programs that will be a benefit.

2. At such time you have exhausted all your administrative remedies to resolve the problem, write those involved. Tell them that you would like to resolve the problem in order to avoid possible litigation.
3. If (#2) doesn't work, use your law library resources to assist you in the next step. Talking to a legal assistant may help. Confidentiality is a pre-requisite for a legal assistant to be hired.
4. Help see that your library or law library has a community resource system. This can be a large binder divided into counties or a filing system. Each county should contain resource materials to help with parole plans, or for release to the community. Who is in charge to keep this updated? When you learn of a new resource, contact this person with your new information.
5. If your prison has a regular newsletter for inmates, make sure a binder or file of all the issues is available to inmates for reference. Your law library is a logical source for this, or perhaps the library.
6. Encourage the Dept. of Corrections to develop work release and pre-release programs, as well as a fund for release. Regularly send money to a savings or other source for start-up funds after release.
7. Take a responsible role in self-improvement programs. If there is an AA, SA, or NA program available for your needs in prison or in the community, search out their support and direction. The LNA manual I Works, How and Why (1993) in its 12 steps has principles that can apply to other addictions as well. As the book points out, it doesn't matter what background or understanding of the term "God" means. Coupled with the principles of the "cure theory" in this packet, we will reach our desired goals.
8. Let prison officials know you want to re-enter society as a responsible person. Let them know that you and your family support the enclosed solutions.
9. Ask your family to take an active part in criminal justice reform. Our ideas for change will only take place when enough people raise their voices on a persistent basis.
10. Use your library. The library system is loaded with good books for self-improvement. Study them for future success. Cassette tapes and videos are often available.
11. Learn about your talents and how to develop them.

"If I keep thinking the way I have, I will get the same results. I have the potential to become anything I focus upon. If it is to be, it is up to me!"

### **Legal Tips for the Incarcerated**

Were you talked into a plea bargain you didn't understand? Did your attorney fully investigate your case and prepare for trial? Are you getting the legal help you need in prison to effectively litigate your conviction processes, and take care of related family legal matters? Are you getting your constitutional rights in prison? Here are a few tips based on the experience of many felons whose state has two separate processes to obtain their due process related to their conviction.

### **Direct Appeal**

Your appointed attorney works for you. Fully understand what types of pre-trial and trial court errors can be presented. If possible, do research on your own to support what you believe were court errors (not facts or ineffective counsel claims). Insist on seeing his/her blue brief before it is filed. If it gets filed without your approval, consider doing a Pro se Supplemental Brief with the help of prison legal assistants to litigate over-looked claims.

Trial attorneys, appeal and post conviction appointed attorneys seldom include all they can as issues. See that this is done whether they want to or not. Carefully cite your sentencing and trial transcripts for references as required. You are entitled to a free copy of the transcripts but your attorney has preference for its use. If a copy can't be made, ask to have the transcripts loaned for your use.

Since 1995 it is a necessity to federalize the claims in your briefs, etc. Trial attorneys should have done this when they made motions, and their failing to do this may be brought up in Post Conviction. Federalizing is required as you exhaust your state remedies, in order to later do a Federal Habeas Corpus. In essence, federalizing is stating that your U.S. Constitutional rights under a particular amendment were violated. This "overlooked" requirement must be done!

If you have an opportunity to read this before your trial or pretrial processes, know that your attorney should meet certain standards of performance. Insist that s/he do so. Ask to get a copy of the following: *Qualification Standards for Court Appointed Counsel to represent persons at state expense, Exhibit C, Principles and Standards for Counsel in Criminal, Delinquency and Civil Commitment Cases; Performance Standards, Chapter 2; Specific Standards for Representation in Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency Cases from the Oregon Rules of Court.* At a later Post Conviction stage, the above standards will be of help.

### **Post Conviction**

Appointed attorneys typically fail to answer letters, do discovery processes that are required, file complete Petitions or list all your possible claims. If your claims are not at least in your paper work, they cannot be brought up later in the Federal Habeas. Insist that your attorney works for you. If they don't, get rid of them. Realize that the Post Conviction uses many of the civil rules of procedure. Use them for discovery to prove your claims. If necessary, file pro se. Working closely with your legal assistants, you often will do far more to help your case.

### **Grievances and Tort Claims**

Develop an extensive paper trail to prove your points and to show damage. Go through the proper steps with legal assistant help. Once you start to resolve an issue, be persistent. In order to win in a federal court, it may require hundreds of hours of research and work. If you have legitimate issues and are following court rules with good evidence, you should eventually win.

Far too often, personal property is confiscated by prison officers. Medical needs, glasses, purchased items and more is taken. It is easy to file a Small Claims in your local circuit court. Even if you have no funds, you can still file. If you win the value of your claim, you will be reimbursed for all your costs. You don't need an attorney (and aren't allowed one) and your law library should have the forms and legal assistance. Develop the "paper trail" and proof for your claim. Present the claim in a Tort Claim to the DOC. If the DOC sees you have a valid claim, they are less likely to go to the trouble and expense to defend the claim.

### **Mandatory Minimums**

Some states unfortunately have Mandatory Minimum sentencing guidelines which too often results in many inmates having no incentives to "program" since they don't receive earned good time. Many develop worse criminal behaviors and resentment towards authority and the "system". Families are often destroyed. Citizens are being short sighted if they believe these sentences are the answer. Close to 95% of these felons will be released, and under current results about 74% will re-offend with 5 years. Most are angrier and have inadequate skills for success. What we can do:

1. Write legislators, friends and newspapers about the detrimental effect of mandatory minimum sentencing.
2. Affiliate with FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums). Give them support and ask how you can assist them, knowing that some states are making changes to curb this error.
3. Suggest to FAMM and the community that these sentencing "guidelines" can be replaced with a proven-effective program that WILL lower recidivism while lowering costs to society.
4. Review updates on FAMM website. Great information is available almost daily. Review your state FAMM activities, such as *Oregon FAMM* on a Google search engine.

## **VI. AND FURTHER---**

Up to this point in these materials you have been exposed to proven concepts to rehabilitate and help inmates become more responsible. The focus has been on a community and new prison approach that will greatly reduce criminal re-offenses and produce success while reducing cost to society.

Earlier I suggested getting material from Justice Fellowship. They have information, for example, about a Brazil prison that gets less than 5% recidivism (as compared to 74% in the U.S.). The previous pages outlined some of the principles that are used in the Brazil prison, plus my own ideas that are based upon years of study and experience that will further prevent re-offenses.

What follows is a variety of concerns related to the criminal justice system. My hope is that the validity of these suggestions will be apparent, and responsible person will implement steps for improvement.

### **Empty Prisons for the Homeless**

Close to 67% of convictions are for non-violent crimes. There are better alternatives for most of these felons than prison. Some are innocent. Most of the other inmates can be rehabilitated, and I would say all are, if they want to work to make changes. What would we do with the empty prisons?

One use that comes to mind is to develop a community for the homeless. Prisons are designed with kitchen and dining facilities, housing, meeting rooms, libraries, medical facilities and much more. Grounds around these places have good recreation facilities and are available to develop horticulture.

The homeless can receive counseling, medical care, education, vocational training and assist in maintaining the facility. The facilities and programs can be temporary for people in transition or permanent for others. Many of these folks have mental challenges and here they can receive the care and direction they need. As I suggested for the prison rehab centers, these folks can work at vocational type jobs that will not only prepare them for the community but can provide income to pay for their "homeless program."

### **The Grand Jury Process**

The Grand Jury process for those being charged with crimes is a one-sided kangaroo court without a judicial process. The defendant cannot attend and cannot offer a defense. One-sided information is provided by a biased (often politically motivated) prosecutor and accusing witnesses. A major intent of this process is to determine if there is enough evidence to charge a person with a crime. This has already been pre-determined by a law enforcement officer and probably a Judge. From their experience, they already have determined the probable guilt, so why the Grand Jury process? In essence these are "secret courts" which are in violation to the U.S. Constitution.

If this process cannot be eliminated, I recommend the following so as to insure a due process as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution:

1. Include a Judge to oversee the procedure because of his legal background, and who is usually less swayed by fear and prejudice exhibited by citizens.
2. The Judge can better determine probable cause than grand jury members.
3. The Judge can better sense truth of witnesses due to experience.
4. Proceedings should be recorded and be available for future legal procedures.
5. The defendant should have the right to attend, possibly testify, and witness the proceedings for accuracy, truth, and to what he is accused of.

### **Some Other Legal Concerns**

(1) Clarity is needed in the sexual abuse statutes of Oregon. Because a victim is under 14 years of age, a crime shouldn't automatically fall under Sex Abuse I. The nature of the criminal act or attempt should be the determining factor. Certainly, if an act had occurred as described in Sex Abuse II or III, the charge should so state. Also, it is hard to understand how sexual intercourse with a minor can be a Class A misdemeanor when a sexual contact or touch is a felony. Perhaps, the sexual touching of a minor under the age of 14 could be called Lewd and Lascivious Conduct, as in California and other states. This would avoid the vagueness and be descriptive in its description.

(2) More convicted persons can be placed on house arrest or on probation to wear ankle bracelets instead of the more costly prison. The cost for this in Oregon in 2004 is \$15 per day (less cost than incarcerating) and is paid by the offender. This allows him to support his family while working, and possibly take community treatment.

(3) Sometimes an incarcerated inmate appears in court by "appearing" by telephone or some times over TV. This is a real handicap for all involved. It is impossible to offer exhibits. The facial and body languages often presented by the inmate litigant would not be evident unless physically present. The delayed time on TV creates a distorted and often hard to understand proceeding. He would also miss much of the court proceedings. In other words, he is unable to give it his best unless he appears in person, which really is being denied full due process of law.

(4) Criminal suspects are usually interviewed prior to potential court hearings when they are a suspect. Too often the interview is inaccurately reported in the police report. These interviews should be recorded for proof of Miranda rights being given and for accuracy.

(5) Victims of crime such as child sex abuse victims, seldom if ever see the victim assistance funds that is taken from inmate pay. Where are these funds? Likewise, victims aren't told how to obtain these funds or how to obtain sufficient assistance to address the psychological effects related to harm done as a victim. Legislators need to address this need as one of several ways to stop the cycle of crime that may result from being a victim.

### **Free the Innocent**

Approximately 11% of convicted felons are actually innocent of their charges. Presently in Oregon a wrongly convicted person may spend 7 years or more in prison because present laws require that s/he must go through a Direct Appeal and Post Conviction process and their appeals.

When a defendant has been wrongfully convicted because of denied constitutional rights, he should have immediate judicial scrutiny in a State Habeas Corpus procedure. The current practice in Oregon and other states is to wait three or more years for an appeal is a burden to taxpayers and the courts. It causes a great deal of damage to the wrongfully convicted felon and his family. It's bad enough that the rest of his life be tainted because of the charges. The longer this person remains in prison, the greater likelihood of a very expensive Civil Suit - more unnecessary costs. Most damaging, court appointed attorneys are seldom prepared as they should be, and don't do the preparation that is required. Most of them have too many cases, don't get paid enough, and don't take time to work with their client as needed. The habeas corpus is an extraordinary remedy for an extraordinary deprivation, and should be available, especially if the innocence can be seen "on the face of the record" which doesn't require evidentiary hearings.

Generally speaking, a direct appeal to a conviction will take 1 1/2 to 3 years. Following this, a Post conviction may take 1 to 3 years before the false accusations become apparent. This involves more attorneys, court time and paper work. Partial solution: **Combine these two processes into one**, perhaps calling this a Post Conviction Appeal. In this one process, court errors, errors in law,

ineffective assistance of counsel, prosecutorial misconduct, and facts can be offered together. This would also only need one Review by the state's Supreme Court, saving more court time and costs.

### **What we can do:**

1. Contact legislators and sell them on the above suggestions. Get friends and your support group to do the same.
2. Contact law schools. Ask them to have students take on this project for offering to the community. Suggest that they might become non-profit as a group in order to obtain grant funding.
3. Contact present Innocent Projects for suggestions on your internet search engine. Type in *Innocent Project* for more facts and information. Your state innocent project is listed on *Santa Clara Law-Innocence Network*.

### **Teens for Justice**

Teenagers can be a very effective force in creating common sense to our criminal justice system. Many young people's lives have been ruined because the state decided to prosecute and imprison them. These folks are too often victims when their parent is imprisoned. It seems they are considered of less importance when education funding takes a back seat to building the prison industry.

Teenagers can speak out by taking an active part in many of the THINGS WE CAN DO in this packet. They could form groups to let their voice be heard. Teen-run "courts" can be developed to help direct other teens toward more responsible choices. They can express their concerns and ideas to their parents, other caregivers and the news media. This can be valuable training for developing communication skills and even experience for a vocation in mediation, law, etc. They can take an active voice in the education processes in their school and district. They could work with schools, recreation departments and caring adults to develop teen centers and community activities. They will need adult sponsors. This is where you or other interested people in the community can assist.



### **IMPROVE EDUCATION**

Our schools, including the prison education programs, need to develop more **personalized** approaches to their students. At the end of this packet (or on other pages of the website) are descriptions of proven effective guidelines that offer this. The **Personal Assisted Learning** program designs a curriculum to a student's own level and rate of learning, has no need for special education classes, no need for state testing, no need for homework or homework papers to grade, almost no lesson plans are needed, is easy for substitute teachers to use, provides student personal contact with staff at least 6 times per day, guarantees at least four times the present progress in U.S. schools, and is less costly than present school budgets.

### **IN SUMMARY**

Now that you have taken an interest in helping make needed changes in our criminal-justice and/or education systems, become teamed with others. The financial support for your group activities are of your own making. If each person and community takes care of its own expenses, it relieves the burden on one source, thereby increasing chances for survival. Feel free to copy any of this packet and/or making it available on your local web sites. My materials are not for resale.

Communication with me can be done initially by letter. If you have an E-Mail address, please share it with me in your first letter contact. Check the [www.personalassistedlearning.info](http://www.personalassistedlearning.info) website

every few months. There may be new ideas and/or revisions. If you use "snail mail", allow about two weeks for a response. Communication is the key to success. As suggested in the following list of **WHAT WE CAN DO**, there are many ways you can be effective. My hope is that you will join us in our efforts.

If you have suggestions or successes to share, please let me know of them. This must be a team effort to bring about laws and means to improve education, reduce crime rates, reducing costs of crime and education, better insuring the safety of our families, and to develop more caring for each other. My hope and prayer is that you have found positive value in these contents and recognize your value in bringing about overdue changes for the safety and benefit of everyone. May it be so.

## **WHAT WE CAN DO**

What follows is a variety of ideas and projects that you or your group can do that will help promote the concept and changes introduced in these materials. As you experience these and other efforts that work, please let me know about your experiences. Our success will be a result of our working together and persistently following up and encouraging others to take an active role. **KNOW** that your efforts **DO** count!

### **On Education**

1. Contact local districts and suggest there are proven ways to increase their results from 4 to 10 times their current progress. PTA groups, superintendents and board members are key people.
2. As a prisoner, contact the prison's education supervisors to suggest the basics of the Personal Assisted Learning (PAL) principles, stressing the value of personalizing instruction.
3. Direct your own children to achieve the PAL results, either through their own school, by home schooling, by tutoring your own children with the PAL program or getting a learning center in your area to use the program.
4. Write letters to the editor of newspapers and state education administrators to suggest the above results. The news release *PEP as A Solution to Schooling* summarizes many of the proven principles.
5. Study the Better Schools material in the PAL manual. The chapter further details the advantages of schools using the PAL program and how to go about implementing the guidelines, as well as other principles that Dr. S recommends for consideration.
6. Organize a group to regularly attend local school board meetings. Look for opportunities to suggest the concepts in these materials.
7. Work closely with your child's school to assure s/he is progressing and being challenged according to his/her levels and needs.
8. Give support to your local schools, working to make improvements.
9. Develop a group of volunteers to work with your local recreation department and schools to develop an effective and diversified after-school program of youth activities.

### **Criminal-Justice Reform**

1. Write legislators, friends and newspapers about the detrimental effect of Mandatory Minimum Sentencing and the Three Strikes legislation.
2. Affiliate with the FAMM (Families Against Mandatory Minimums) and give them your support.
3. Suggest to FAMM and the community that these detrimental laws can be replaced with a proven-effective program that will lower the re-offense rate while lowering costs to society. Community safety will be greatly improved.

4. When law schools, lawyer friends and others begin to see what is summarized in these materials, ask if the law school could put together a law-based summary to present to legislators for their consideration.
5. Contact Innocent Projects for suggestions on how a Project can be started in your state.
6. Contact legislators about the inefficient and costly need to have both a Direct Appeal process and a Post Conviction process to appeal a conviction, if your state uses this lengthy process. Show how combining these processes will benefit everyone.
7. Write to legislators in your state expressing your concerns and asking for their support to enact changes in our prison and judicial system. Ask if they had studied this reform packet. If not, suggest they contact the web site for their FREE copy and get back to you with their impressions. Ask them what *they plan to do* to bring about needed changes. A list of legislators and their addresses will be in your local library and on the internet.
8. Write the Dept. of Corrections about making changes, expressing support for this packet's concepts. Send a copy, if they request one, or have them view the web site and send you their response.
9. Generate discussions and activity with friends, family and neighbors.
10. Place information related to these materials on your community internet bulletin board.
11. Develop "chat rooms" and "forums" on the internet.
12. Get your local newspaper to print portions of this packet's information or the enclosed Press Releases.
13. Write letters to the editor about specific areas of the packet. Get friends to do the same. Continual exposure to these concepts will inform and get the needed results.
14. Send information to the suggested organizations listed in the materials. Local Neighbor Watch groups should be interested in the safety aspects of a "new system" that reduces recidivism and increases safety for every one.
15. Contact local mental health providers for their support and offer them a copy of the packet or have them contact the web site, and get back to you with their reaction and plans to promote the concepts.
16. Write letters to local Judges and attorneys regarding these materials and ask for their response and support.
17. Form a group of concerned citizens to actively work for reform in the areas of your interest. A "Bulletin Board" announcement may draw interest, as may a local news article.
18. Contact local talk shows to generate interest and/or suggest they contact a person who has used the PAL program or have them contact Dr. S for a phone interview.
19. Use the internet to inform and develop interest in reform activity, including e-mail for support.
20. Email the author, offering your support and time by asking how you can be of further help other than what is suggested.
21. Find people who may influence others by giving talks or contacting people in key positions.
22. Understand and let others know that punishment for criminal activity has seldom worked. We must see the value in caring enough to help felons make needed changes so that they, their families, and society can benefit from their being treated and developing skills..
23. Contact a CORE (retired executives) in your county for retired attorneys or Judges. They may help sponsor or monitor teen courts developed through the school, court ,or juvenile systems.
24. Responsibly speak out to develop support and organize to express how you feel about your concerns for justice, education, and social needs.
25. Contact legislators about developing a rehab focused system, including a separate center for sex offender treatment.

26. Develop a group of people who are homeless or have empathy towards homelessness to work towards the idea of using empty prisons (which will occur if our ideas are implemented) for the homeless.

Organize a group of people who would be in constant contact with their Dept. Of Corrections to see that they do all they can to see that the inmates get all their rights adhered to, and to see that programs are developed for their benefit. This would be a D.O.C. Watch Group.

27. Find out where the victim funds that are required are kept and how they actually get to the victims. The DOC should have this information since they are responsible for taking a percent each month from inmate earnings for this purpose.
28. Become a mentor for a prisoner (preferably with someone who will parole to your area) by becoming a pen pal or visiting them. Help them locate resources for when they are released.
29. Use the principles in these materials for making changes in your own life. Experience that they do work. Help others realize the same benefits.
30. Find out if inmates are actually doing meaningful work and taking *personalized* programs that will help them overcome criminal thinking errors while developing skills and vocations for success.
31. If a local community college or university has classes for mediating, contact them for assisting in getting a mediation process implemented in the pre-trial processes to lessen court procedures, getting due compensation for victims, possible treatment for the perpetrator, and developing a caring approach to the criminal-justice system.
32. Prisoners: Write your local newspapers. Tell them you want to be a responsible person. Help change a system that hasn't worked to one of success through a total rehab program as suggested in these materials. Take an active role in using some of the enclosed suggestions.
33. Contact legislators to support an Ombudsman position for the Dept. of Corrections. This is a contact person for inmates who may be experiencing or having administrative problems. An ombudsman investigates complaints. The salary of such a position would be far less than court costs that too often results from poor negotiations.
34. Contact PSAES. Let us know what interest you have. Help us collect websites to send our messages on *how* to make needed changes.
35. Develop mentoring between inmates and the community to which they will return. Groups like Prison Fellowship (over 26,000 volunteers), the CURE groups, and local church groups may be potential sources.
36. Contact and perhaps speak to senior citizen and neighborhood watch groups about these Practical Safety solutions.
37. Place newspaper and magazine ads with the four questions from my introductory letter and this website for answers.
38. When you have group meetings, take about 20 minutes for everyone to write a group or person about their area of interest.
39. Send the author your e-mail address for quicker responses, easier storage in your "files", and saving us paper and unneeded costs and time.
40. Learn about work release values and encourage the DOC to develop this for inmates so they can work, save money, pay crime related costs, and make a smooth transition to their community.
41. Use these concepts to help you make changes for yourself.
42. Organize a "Friend of Felons" organization in your state. Work to develop the kinds of changes suggested in these materials. An organized effort such as this could have a major impact on legislators and a voting power.
43. Encourage your inmate friend or family member to read the *Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul* (and other *Chicken Soup* books) by Canfield, Hansen and Lagana.

44. Distribute cards and/or flyers in your area about the availability of the solutions offered in these materials. *Personal Assisted Learning* has a chapter that describes ways to do this.
45. Revisit this website periodically for up-dated information and more THINGS YOU CAN DO, which may include some successful ideas you or your group have experienced.
46. If you know someone who has been arrested or is in prison, get him a copy of the standards required of an attorney that is mentioned on page 24.
47. What have you found successful in promoting these Practical Safety concepts? Write us about your successes and suggestions.
48. Prisoners: Submit your ideas for improving your prison (or DOC), how to save money, etc. to your state CURE group.
49. Encourage high school students to bring these reform topics to their civics classes.
50. Encourage middle and high school students to take part in volunteer activities and community services.
51. Children often influence policy and law makers. Help them write about their concerns for safety, rehabilitating their mom or dad in prison, and similar topics.
52. Realizing that our beliefs are formed at the subconscious level and that our conscious thoughts help "program" these beliefs, begin to reprogram any negative thoughts and beliefs so they can be changed. You and I CAN help make the changes outlined in these materials. Review the concepts offered in *Maturity and Becoming* and *Insights And Perspectives On Life*.
53. Donate books to jails, prisons, hospitals, schools and juvenile centers. Inquire of the facility before giving them.
54. Prisoners are unable to download this packet. Mail a copy to those incarcerated.

## **ARTICLES AND RELATED TOPICS**

What follows is a collection of news summaries and topics that support concepts in the PSAES materials. From time to time, some may be replaced and others will be added. Interested persons may wish to check the website from time to time.

### **Homeschooling Popularity**

*(Harpers Index, October 1990)*

According to an *Oregonian* article of August 10, 1999, the benefits of home schooling are many. Students learn at their own pace and focus on subjects that interest the students. Communication and closeness within a family is increased. Learning becomes part of the family life, and a whole philosophy of parenting.

An April 1999 issue of the *Christian Science Monitor*, reports that 1.2 million - or about 2% - of school age children are educated at home, an increase of 15-20 percent a year since 1985.

Traditionally, parents home taught for religious reasons or because kids were getting good grades in school. Emphasis is now more to having greater control over their children's education. Home schooling has been legal nationally since 1993. Evidence shows that home school students perform better than expected. By 8th grade, the average home student performs four grade levels above the national norm, says a study by the *Home School Legal Defense Association*. Personalizing activities to the child is a major advantage.

**Vocabulary of U.S. children (ages 6-14) knew 25,000 words in 1945. In 1990 it had gone down to 10,000 words.**

As reported in the March 30, 1998 *Newsweek* article, "for elementary school students, the effect of homework on achievement is trivial if it exists at all", concludes psychologist Harris Cooper of the University of Missouri, whose analysis of more than 100 studies has stood for 10 years. In lower grades there was a negative relationship between the amount of homework assigned and student attitudes.

Homework that frustrates or angers a child or otherwise makes learning unpleasant "is a quick route to academic dread. Homework becomes a grind to get through, rather than a learning experience." says Lyn Corno of Columbia University's Teacher's College.

For young children, assignments should be short for fast completion. Tears and tantrums are deadly. Creativity, rather than rote memorizing, ought to be the focus.

The schooling experiences are often hated because of the homework requirements. Children must be allowed to be children. There is a time for directed studies, and there must be time for creative play.

### **The Tutoring Age**

As reported in a *Newsweek* poll (March 30, 1998), 42 percent of Americans believe there is a great need for children to receive outside tutoring. Sylvan Learning Systems more or less invented the tutoring business in 1979, and now has about 677 franchised outlets in North America, reaching about 125,000 students and charging up to \$50 an hour. Many learning centers have added their services totaling to almost 7 million kids in grades one to eight. Even some schools are offering extra tutoring.

The essence of tutoring is to meet in small groups, typically three students to one teacher, working on individualized lessons. Generally, experts don't see much benefit to tutoring for normal preschoolers. The old stigma of tutoring has disappeared, and now has an air of seriousness and rigor, like having a personal trainer. Tutoring students below their grade level to those academically above, there is great value to being personally tutored. When one thinks of the value of high self-esteem and success, it is worth whatever it takes to help a child succeed.

An October 1982 *Better Homes and Gardens* article suggests that we begin developing an interest in reading by reading to our children when they are very young, perhaps 2 years old. Don't force them into formal reading instruction until they are ready. When they ask you to read more, what a words is, or how to write their name, these may be clues as to when a child may be ready for a little "schooling" - when their interest is becoming known.

### **Television Use**

Ross Anderson, an exercise physiologist at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, offers some facts. (*The Oregonian*, March 25, 1998) The study involved about 4,000 children. Clearly, the more time children spend watching TV, the fatter they tend to be. Forty-three percent black children, 30% Mexican-American, and 20% whites spend more than 4 hours per day in front of TV. The study's results indicate a serious problem in the United States. Children who watched at least 4 hours daily had about 20% more body fat than those who watched fewer than 2 hours.

A typical child watches 27 hours of TV per week and sees 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence from age 3 to 12. (*US News and World Report*) By age 18, young people have spent 11,000 hours in the classroom and 22,000 watching television. It's imperative that as parents, we limit the number of hours and direct young people to watch programs of value and/or positive entertainment.

Circuits in the auditory cortex of the brain, representing the sounds that form words, are "wired" by the age of one. The more words a child hears by 2, the larger her vocabulary will grow. Talk to your child a lot. If you want her to master a second language, introduce it by the age of 10. (*Newsweek*, February 19, 1996)

It is well known that the early years of schooling are critical. A student who slips behind when reading is being taught has little chance to catch up. (*Business Week*, April 17, 1995) (This doesn't need to happen when the principles offered by PSAES' PAL program is used.)

The July 10, 1996 issue of *USA Today* reported that the best way to teach children to read is to combine sound and meaning of language. To learn to read, researchers suggest that children should learn the alphabet, sound out new words, and know spelling patterns.

A *Reader's Digest* October 1996 article says that a child's I.Q. is influenced by both genes and environment (which includes a child's health and nutrition, as well as family upbringing). Early childhood experiences and stimulation foster brain growth. Talking and eye-to-eye contact is important. Encourage exploration. Genuine praise is important.

*The Center for the Study of Reading and the National Council of Teachers of English*, confirm that reading to children builds vocabulary, stimulates imagination, stretches the attention span, nourishes emotional development, and nourishes the textures and nuances of the English language. In a way, reading aloud is an advertisement for learning to read. This activity can truly be the most important thing you can do for your child. If they are old enough to talk, they are old enough to read.

Even children's story tapes from libraries and various companies can be of value. Position the book so the child can follow along with the tape so association is made between the two. Develop a caring relationship with your child and the reading world at the same time.

### **Preschool Education?**

Over half of youngsters between ages 3 to 5 are enrolled in early childhood education. Recent research has confirmed the value of preschool education for children. Much more of a child's intellectual growth takes place during the preschool years than previously recognized.

A "preschool" describes any full or part-day program for preschool youngsters. A "nursery school" is a part day program before kindergarten. "Day care" includes all full-day programs for preschool age children whether or not there is an educational emphasis. "Developmental" programs aim to enhance a child's overall development - social, physical, emotional, intellectual - at the child's own pace. "Academic" programs emphasize reading, writing, and math skills, hopefully when the child is ready.

Education research shows pre-school training of value to get ahead if the child comes from a deprived home.

Middle class children often have more opportunity to develop socially and intellectually in their own homes. Even those who don't have preschool soon catch up to their peers academically.

Parents can determine whether their home is supportive by asking these questions:

1. Are there other children to play with? Are there adults to relate to besides parents?
2. Does your child get plenty of physical activity?
3. Do you have the time and patience to help develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination?
4. Are there plenty of books, toys, games, and outdoor play areas?
5. Does your child get enough of your personal time?

In addition to developing academic skills, it's important that a child have a healthy outlook towards adults and children, and be curious about the world around them.

One drawback of learning to read and do math early, is that the student may become bored later in a classroom if a later teacher spends too much time teaching non-readers, for example. Of course, the best solution is to involve the child in a personalized program such as PAL.

The best way to evaluate a pre-school is to visit it, even though advertisements and word of mouth may provide leads. The children won't be disturbed if they are interested in what they are doing. Being "homelike", having carpeted areas and having a centered environment is very important. Older

children can feel comfortable in a large space but toddlers are more secure in smaller, self-contained areas. Look for "learning centers" that offer a wide range of activities.

Does the staff bend down and talk to youngsters at their level? Is she able to maintain a tolerable noise level without looking stressful? Is the staff consistently available to each child?

Do staff members or at least the director have a degree in early childhood education? This isn't necessary but indicates knowledge of fundamentals of child development and education.

Check into licensing for the preschool or day care center. This will usually govern space per child, group size, adult to child ratio, health and safety regulations.

Children seem to be more secure and active in small groups. Three groups of 6 youngsters are usually preferable to one group of 18 with 3 adults.

Your community probably has a resource center of information about children services. The Yellow Pages and library may be a place to start for direction.

Washington - Two-thirds of U.S. fourth graders read below their grade level. Only 32 percent of fourth graders read at or above the level of proficiency set by educators. U.S. eighth graders scored barely above average in math and science compared with the rest of the world and lagged far behind Asian nations. (*Christian Science Monitor*, April 10, 2001)

### **Criminal-Justice topics:**

#### Rehabilitation

(*Oregonian* by Molly Ivins, Sept. 2000) In Oregon we're spending more money and imposing harsher punishment and getting worse results. Likewise, Texas' highest rates of death penalty are not helping curb crime. Texas has the highest dropout rate in the U.S. "Too quick reliance on incarceration not only turns out to be bad criminal justice policy, but it also has a devastating impact on minority communities---of poverty, rage, joblessness, family breakdown --- that produce a lot of the crime to begin with." (Stated by columnist William Raspberry) The single greatest predictor of who will wind up in prison is whether his father was in prison.

Inmates with 2 years college education had a 10% re-arrest rate, compared with the national average of 60%, saving taxpayers millions per year. Utah's inmates were paid 40 cents per hour. Those with minimum wage jobs allocated 60% to a victim fund. (*Herald Journal*, Logan, Utah, April 9, 2000)

Inmates at Oregon's Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution make Prison Blues for retail. They earn \$50-\$55 per day. Eighty percent of earnings go to upkeep, taxes, legal fees, restitution, child support, and some is left for personal purchases (*Oregonian* May 9, 1998).

(*Oregonian* by Mark Larabee and Michelle Roberts, Fort Star Telegram, 1005 Congress Ave, Ste 920, Austin TX 78701) Sixteen percent of inmates (about 280,000) are mentally ill -defined as having spent one or more nights in a mental hospital or treatment program. In Oregon 1479 were diagnosed as having severe or persistent mental illness (9,173 housed in DOC). Forty-five percent of 1,109 youth in Oregon Youth Authority have a mental disorder. Jails and prisons are being used as an alternative to community health care.

(*Awaken the Giant Within* by Anthony Robbins, pg. 117) When we do something for the first time, we create a physical connection, a thin neural strand that allows us to re-access that emotion or behavior again in the future. Each time we repeat the behavior, the connection strengthens. We add another strand to our neural connection. With enough repetitions and emotional intensity, we can --- increase this emotional or behavior pattern until we even may feel compelled to consistently feel or act this way. It is scientifically proven that the more we indulge in any pattern of behavior, the stronger the pattern becomes.

Change your habits by not indulging in the behavior over a long period of time. The neural connection will weaken and atrophy. Focus on new neural pathways associated with pleasure, repeating them many times over to develop new behavioral patterns.

## Crime and Statistics

Seventy to eighty percent of prisoners have alcohol and drug problems related to their criminality. In Oregon, 45 percent of the problems are severe. Treating inmates for alcohol and drug abuse is a smart investment in public safety. A California Drug and Alcohol Assessment showed that each dollar spent for treatment saved \$7.14 in future costs. Crime dropped by two thirds in the year after treatment among the 15,000 participants studied. The longer they stayed in treatment, the greater was the reduction in criminal activity. When we fail to invest in treatment, we lock the public into unnecessary recurring costs for arrest, arraignment, plea bargaining, trial, pre-sentencing, sentencing, probation, intermediate sanctions, jails and prisons, parole or mandatory supervision. It is a warped policy to put the top effort into addressing problems after they occur. Provide more intensive levels of treatment and community follow-up to improve the ability to reduce crime. (*Oregonian*, October 21, 2000)

Only 5% of North Carolina inmates re-offended in a 3 year period when these offenders obtained college degrees. (Reported by *Journal of Correctional Education*, September 1997) The state of Texas has projected savings from \$11 million up to \$130 million by simply providing educational opportunities to the prison population. (*Fortune News/Winter 2000*)

New York's correction budget saw an increase by 76% in 10 years while the budgets for the State and City University systems shrunk by 29%. Forty-seven percent of New York states' prisoners are brought in for non-violent drug offenses each year. Since 1980 there had been a 107% increase in white drug offenses; 1,615% for Latinos and 1,311% increase for Blacks (*Fortune News/Winter 2000*)

Washington: Nearly 1.5 million American children have a mother or father in federal or state prison. (*Bureau of Justice Statistics*), or one in six as reported in the *Statesman Journal* (Salem, OR) on November 12, 1996.

Some 8,000,000 in the world are incarcerated, 1/4 in the U.S. (World's highest). About 2/3 are non-violent. Mandatory minimum sentences are a delusion to make the system better. Studies show that executions do not deter further murders. We need to ask ourselves how much sense it makes to continue along the current path. (*Oregonian*, December 23, 1999; *Statesman Journal*, Salem, OR, Dec. 22, 1999.)

Last month we passed a significant milestone: Two million Americans are locked up in our prisons and jails. One out of every 125 Americans is behind bars, at a cost to the taxpayers of \$41 billion each year. And if current trends continue, over two-thirds of those offenders will return to prison after they are released. (*Justice Report by Justice Fellowship*, April 10, 2000) *The Grants Pass Courier* (Oregon) on July 28, 2003 said that Washington reports 2.1 million (one per 143 US residents) are in prison for 2002. Mandatory sentences were responsible for the 2.6% increase over 2001. (Bureau Justice Statistics)

An April 2001 Gallup poll says 82% of Americans describe themselves as Christians. (*Christian Science Sentinel*, March 4, 2002.) (Let's apply the principles to criminals and their families (followers of Jesus teach love and forgiveness, not revenge.)

"This year a record 630,000, an average 1600 per day will walk out of U.S. prisons and be back into society according to the Urban League." Forty percent return to prison in 3 years, the Bureau of Prisons reports (*Christian Science Monitor*, March 25, 2002)

(From *Your Erroneous Zones* by Wayne Dyer) "Most prisons operate on the guilt theory. That is, if a person sits long enough thinking how bad he's been, he will be better for the guilt --- The fact that a strikingly large percentage of inmates return to law-breaking behavior has done nothing to challenge this belief.

Sit in jail and feel bad for what you've done. This policy is so expensive and useless that it defies logical explanation. --- Rather than have civil law breakers help society or repair their debts, they

are reformed through guilt producing incarceration that has no benefit to anyone, least of all the offender. No amount of guilt, however large, will change past behavior."

Adult survivors of various types of abuse are presented in *Wednesday's Children* by Suzanne Somers (1993). Seventy to 80% of prisoners were battered as kids.

The Justice Dept. estimates about 94,000 criminal acts are committed in the U.S. every day. The personal cost is about 20 billion dollars/year, excluding prisons, courts law enforcement and parole systems. (*Awake*, September 22, 1996)

From pg. 494 of Anthony Robbins' *Awaken The Giant Within*, there is about 82% recidivism; 60% have been in prison 2 or more times; 45% three or more times, and 20% for six or more times. His source was Wright, John W. ed., *The Universal Almanac*, Andrews and McMeel, 1989.

One in every 32 adults in U.S. was behind bars, on probation or parole at the end of 2001. A record 6.6 million people are in the nation's correctional system. Almost 4 million were on probation in 2001, 2.8% more than in 2000, 53% being convicted of felonies as per Bureau of Justice. California passed Prop. 36 in 2000 by a 61% vote requiring treatment rather than incarceration for non-violent drug offenders.

Crime rate in Oregon is up as per FBI by 5.7% over the year 2000. The national index increased by 2.1%. (*Albany Democrat Herald*, October 29, 2002)

(*Oregonian* February 17, 2002) Oregon population is 3.6 million.

11,504 are in state prisons

7,346 are in county jails

18,417 are on probation on an average day

10,000 are on parole

Total 47,881

This is approximately one person per 75 that have court convictions and are ex-felons.

(*Statesman* April 7, 2002) Joan Palmetter as women's prison Superintendent in Wilsonville has an interest in rehabilitation. Twenty-five percent of women re-offend in Oregon within 3 years. Nationwide there are 90,688 women inmates, up 500% since 1980. Three-fourths are mothers. Ninety percent of all inmates return to society.

(*Rolling Stone* December 7, 2000 by Dan Baum) There are more people in prison than live in Houston (2,000,000). Twenty-eight percent of drug convictions in 1996 were for possession. Seventy-five percent of state drug offenders in 1997 had no priors for violent crimes. About 1.2 million inmates in the U.S. are non-violent. Comparison of the rates of worldwide incarceration:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. U.S. = 690 per 100,000 population     | 6. China = 110 per 100,000 population  |
| 2. Russia 678 per 100,000 population     | 7. Germany = 95 per 100,000 population |
| 3. Iran = 155 per 100,000 population     | 8. France = 90 per 100,000 population  |
| 4. United Kingdom = 125 per 100,000 pop. | 9. India = 40 per 100,000 population   |
| 5. Brazil = 115 per 100,000 population   | 10. Japan = 40 per 100,000 population  |

Oregon is third in nation for cost per prisoner at \$45,000 per year. (*Oregonian* Dec. 7, 2002)

One-fifth of children in U.S. live in poverty which is 4 times the average of undeveloped countries. (video by Ram Dass *Consciousness and Current Events*, 1993) Twenty-five hundred people under 18 years of age were arrested for murder "last year".



**OFTEN ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. Why should we focus on rehabilitation when felons should be punished for their crimes?
  - A. As statistics prove, punishment doesn't work. Felons like everyone else, are more motivated by caring people than those who are bent on punishment and rejection. Rehabilitation better insures public safety and reduces costs.
2. The Bible teaches "eye for an eye." In other words, shouldn't we punish as God did in the Old Testament?
  - A. I am often amazed at those who claim to be Christian, followers of the teachings of Jesus. Please note, Jesus never taught that God punishes or destroys the wicked. He focused on love and forgiveness. Are we to follow Biblical history of the teachings of a vindictive God, or on the teachings of Jesus? For me, I'd rather express God as Love and get better results.
3. How can you possibly think you are going to make the changes you write about?
  - A. First of all, I'm not going to make the changes. My intent is to be a catalyst for overdue change. Society needs to become aware of what is really happening, the facts, not what the media and fear dwells upon. Secondly, I need you and others who care about our children and others, AND care enough to support the proven concepts I offer.
4. I notice you don't outwardly criticize people or spend much energy on explaining why education and criminal justice is failing. Why?
  - A. Focusing on the mistakes or negatives perpetuates those errors. I want us to focus on positive action and results. Yes, hopefully we learn from our mistakes and the media is too successful on dwelling on those. Let's put energy into solutions and really caring by our actions, instead of finding fault.
5. How is it that you can guarantee a year's progress in reading, spelling and math in just 36 hours of tutoring?
  - A. Experience. When I began teaching in the public system, I saw the need to personalize rather than the traditional lectures and presenting the same material to everyone. After nine years in the public system, I started my private schools and learning centers. Over several years at my own "business", all students attained progress using the same principles offered in the PAL guidelines. As I evolved my services, I focused on the specific levels and needs of each student. I had to. I was teaching several grades, as well as levels.
6. Do you think people are going to read all the pages in your "solutions"?
  - A. Only if they really care about the issues I raise, and if they desire some changes. Most people are complacent and just accept things the way they are. Their busy lifestyles take focus away from the needs of others, and even their own welfare. It can be very challenging to confront "the system" or make personal changes. If they really want change, they will take time to review my "packet" and take further steps. This is my hope and faith. There is good in everyone, and some will "put their shoulder to the wheel" to get the results we want.
7. Why do you wish to spend your energy and funds with all the apparent work during your retirement years?
  - A. I don't consider acts of love as work. I get joy as I give of myself in a way that may benefit others.
8. What is your doctorate in? Why do you feel qualified to offer your various writings?
  - A. It's a Doctor of Philosophy. Gratefully, I've had about 18 years of college courses beyond my BA and many years of life's experiences. I prefer to tell people "It doesn't matter what my degrees are, where I got them, or anything else about myself. What I want you to focus on is the proven ideas I present, not the person." My studies, mistakes, successes, and opportunities have given me the experience that I believe can be useful.
9. How can you guarantee that an inmate released to society will succeed?

A. I can't guarantee success. Anyone is capable of making wrong choices. What I strongly suggest is that the life principles upon which the guidelines are based, do work. The proof is in the results.

10. If your proposals are accepted, there will be some empty prisons. What will we do with them?

A. They can be remodeled into a rehab center. Even if such a facility isn't available, isn't it more sensible (and "centsible") to build a rehab center instead of prisons? A new rehab center will reduce re-offenses while developing men and women who will be better parents and contributors to society. And as stated earlier, the empty prisons could be centers for the homeless.

11. If we pay prisoners to work in prison industries, doesn't this take jobs away from society?

A. For the most part, a prisoner had a job of some sort before prison but now has "a replacement" job behind walls and fences. If these industries or jobs developed around commodities and services that our taxes pay for, we would have a work force that would require a smaller wage, reducing the taxes or allowing taxes to go towards health care, education, etc. Also, a good percent of the inmate wages would go to paying victim and incarceration costs, as well as family support and release funds. In this sense, the work contributes to society while developing good work habits in a vocational and caring atmosphere.

12. Do you think sex offenders should be registered and notified upon in his/her community?

A. Sex offenders will have "paid for their crime(s)" while being incarcerated, having been looked down upon by his peers, family and friends. S/he may live with guilt the rest of his life. And s/he, like all felons, will literally pay for the costs related to their offenses if my guidelines are accepted. S/he doesn't need further rejection by his community, especially if he has successfully completed a treatment program. Notifying creates more fears in the community and contributes to rejection. There should be a national registry for potential employer's access but that is all that is needed. Children need to know what to do if they are uncomfortable with someone's presence or touches. Society needs to learn what to recognize in certain behaviors to detect potential offenses.

13. If we were to place a felon in a release program for a possible early release, how can we know he is "safe" for society?

A. Statistics do exist that prove this is possible, as with the Prison Fellowship programs in Brazil and the Inner Change programs. Secondly, isn't it more sensible to give a person better skills for success rather than ignoring his needs? Society can only benefit. I would emphasize that I propose a program that constantly is **monitored for change**, not just completion of courses and programs.

14. Do you think community treatment programs are adequate?

A. It depends on the needs and desires of the client. Generally, they will only be effective if the person really wants to change and there is continued support and monitoring between visits. A person "out of control" needs a resident program so as not to be a danger to himself or others. Even though many community programs are effective, they cannot have the same value as a program that daily and hourly works on the needed changes and has the ability to constantly be monitored.

15. Why do we as taxpayers end up paying the costs of crime?

A. We have allowed the quality of schooling and parenting to degenerate. It's also because we have allowed our legislators, etc. to develop a system that hasn't been effective. And unfortunately, we haven't focused on how to prevent crime and how to adequately rehabilitate. We are all responsible for our behaviors. Offenders of law should be held accountable. I would like to see something started as in #11 above. When a felon is released and obtains work, a portion of his earnings would continue to pay his "debt to society" but in a way that would not limit his efforts for success. This would be a reminder after release as to what his choices cost

society, and encourage him to work on himself while incarcerated, especially if there was an incentive for a shortened sentence with a potential expunging of his crime when a new life shows success.

16. Why do you spend so much energy assisting felons?

A. They are people too. They have families with children that need our concern for their success despite the choices of their parent. Presently, society pays for crime. We need a better picture and I believe my education and experiences can help.

17. Why do you offer your education manual and other writings for nothing when you could easily develop a sizeable income?

A. I'm not in the business to make money. I want to share what I believe are successful models based on my research and experiences. Life has given me this and I wish to give to others. If someone feels inclined to contribute to my efforts, the funds will be designated to further marketing of the concepts. By the way, if someone wishes to contribute any amount to our efforts, please write checks to PSAES, not in my name.

18. People often say "You can't change the system" or "It really doesn't affect me". What would be your response?

A. Recall that 97% of felons get released. Would you rather have a rehabilitated felon in your neighborhood or one of the 74% who re-offend? Do you really care about our children being safe and reaching their potential? If you respond to these questions as a caring person, I emphasize and invite you to help us. The guidelines here are proven effective. I ask for your prayers and support, and thank you for your consideration.

### **PAYING FOR THE COSTS OF CRIME**

What follows is a brief summary of the concepts that may be a way to address the costs of crime, placing the responsibility where it belongs - to the offender. In the rehabilitation center setting, the inmate would work or have vocational training, in addition to the related rehab activities. His/her day could be broken down to:

- (a) Inmate working or learning vocational training for 3 hrs./day at \$7/hr (\$420/mo.)
- (b) Education training for 3 hours per day for no pay
- ©Therapy/home study for 2 hours per day for no pay
- (d) Institution maintenance job(s) about 8 hours/week (not vocational jobs) at no pay

Percentages will be deducted for the following each month. The deductions will be determined at the intake center as part of the evaluation process:

Commissary	5% = \$21.00/mo.	\$ 252.00/yr.
Family	10% = \$42.00/mo.	\$ 504.00/yr.
Release fund	1% = \$4.20/mo.	\$ 50.40/yr.
Victim fund	2% = \$8.40/mo.	\$ 100.80/yr.
Legal costs	7% = \$29.40/mo.	\$ 352.80/yr.
Incarceration	75% = \$315.00/mo.	\$3780.00/yr.
Totals	\$420.00/mo.	\$5040.00/yr.

Those categories that may be paid-in-full, will direct the deduction towards the rehab/center costs. Those unpaid debts related to the costs of crime will be taken from future funds after release, with appropriate percentages being deducted from his/her wages. As much as possible, all facility maintenance and vocational work should help build vocational skills. If prison/rehab industries are

developed around state jobs that are supported by taxes, the tax burden on citizens will also be reduced. Further reductions of facility-incarceration costs can be obtained by reducing supplies, electricity, etc., and developing vocational horticulture around food needs. It must be emphasized that the best way to reduce costs comes from crime prevention!

(News Release)

## CRIMINAL-JUSTICE ISN'T WORKING

Personal Assisted Learning in Grants Pass, Oregon is offering unique solutions to our crime solutions. They remind us that the U.S. locks up more people per capital than any other nation. Prison building and citizens paying for crime need not occur. Years of study and experience along with proven models of success, Personal Assisted Learning suggests a whole new approach to this challenge.

Punishment does not work, according to author Neil Stafford. In some cases the fear of prison deters a few released felons from re-offending. For most, prison experiences promote disrespect for authority, develops anger, poor social skills, and often increases the criminal thinking patterns. The few programs presently offered to inmates are not personalized to inmate needs. Most prison courses and training opportunities are utilized or forced upon unwilling men and women.

An FBI study says that close to 3 out of 4 ex-felons will commit new crimes within 5 years after release. Following these proven guidelines, less than 5% will re-offend. The steps may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. A crime is committed.
2. The offender is jailed or released for future litigation.
3. The victim(s) and the offender try to work out a mutual solution to compensate the victim, get possible community treatment for the offender, and possibly avoid incarceration. This mediation process may prevent non-violent criminals (67%) from serving prison time while getting positive results in the community. The offender pays for all court, treatment, and victim costs.
4. A mediation officer summarizes recommendations at the arraignment. The Judge decides to go with the mediated plan agreement, or proceeds further with the legal process.
5. When the felon is found guilty in a trial, he can choose an intensive rehab center or prison after an intensive evaluation process at the Intake Center. Among other program offerings, the rehab center may provide:
  - a. ABE, GED, college courses and degrees
  - b. Vocational courses for pay, with portions going to victims, court costs, family, release funds, commissary, and incarceration costs
  - c. Minimum wage or higher to work at tax-supported industries to reduce state/tax payer costs
  - d. Work release to the community after demonstrating needed changes in rehab program
  - e. Early release after demonstrating a responsible work release and successful demonstration of needed changes in a rehab program while incarcerated
  - f. The incarcerated prison inmate (as opposed to a Rehab Center) will receive work, ABE and GED courses and minimal classes to help a person recognize the need for changes. Inmate pay will go towards victims, court, treatment, and incarceration costs, family support, release funds, and their own commissary needs.
  - g. Rehab treatment programs will be designed to specific inmate needs and monitored for change. The inmate will be completely changed and released after successful completion. This may take one or more years and will depend on the inmate's needs and

desires to demonstrate success. There will be no need for parole after release, saving costs and many problems.

The above unpaid offense related costs will still be the responsibility of the ex-felon. The proposed rehab costs are less than current prison costs. Society is guaranteed a responsible ex-felon by using concepts to cure a person that are outlined in these materials. As a result, court schedules and needs will be lessened. Taxpayers will be relieved of escalating crime costs. Crime rates will drop.

We should ask ourselves, "Would I prefer a sex-offender or other ex-felon living in my neighborhood who isn't truly rehabilitated, or one who is changed and responsible?" Changes in our approach to crime prevention (and an improved education system) requires education and courageous activity by all of us.

### **(News release)**

#### **PEP AS A SOLUTION TO SCHOOLING**

Schools are challenged with state testing, high budgets, classroom control, and less than desired academic results. A Personal Education Program (PEP) is offered as a proven tool to overcome these challenges while offering many other benefits. The PEP is a chart that keeps track of each activity that a student completes each day. The system requires the student to be pre-evaluated in an informal - perhaps 20 minute - evaluation to determine the student's levels in reading, spelling and math. Based on the test results, a curriculum is designed specifically to the student's levels and needs. As each listed activity is completed by the student, the teacher or aide reviews the completed assignment and logs the completion on the PEP. The student, staff and the parent can always know the daily progress of the student.

A student who uses this tool will benefit in several ways. S/he works at the pre-determined levels, progressing at a rate that is required daily and is easily attained. The PEP guarantees contact with staff at least six times each day. Progress is automatic as determined by the prescribed program. All students using this program have attained at least 4 times the progress of U.S. schools, according to Practical Safety And Education Solutions (PSAES).

Other values recommended by PAL is that there is no need for homework and the grading of homework assignments. Lesson planning becomes minimal. There is no need for state testing because ALL students progress at their personalized rate. Separate special education classes shouldn't be needed. Any substitute teacher or person can easily monitor the classroom students as they busily work on their assignments, eliminating concern for lesson planning and classroom control. Schools using this PEP, as described in the PSAES *Personal Assisted Learning* manual, will not only attain the above results. They will discover considerable savings.

The PEP can also be used by home-schoolers and persons wanting to develop learning centers. More information can be obtained at [www.personalassistedlearning.info](http://www.personalassistedlearning.info)

#### **WHICH PICTURE DO YOU PREFER**

Present PRISON (approximate) costs:

Present PROBATION (approximate) costs:

\$63 per day per inmate

**OR**

\$1.87 per day for probation

74% re-offend after release (within 5 years)

24% re-offend with 5 years

Do we really want to cut the costs and effects of crime? Let's select the picture that makes sense ("cents" too). Except for dangerous offenders, place most of the convicted on probation.

Statistics show they are more than three times apt to be successful compared to those released from present prisons. In addition to costing less, the probationer:

1. can work to pay victim and legal costs related to his/her crime
2. can work to support their family to help prevent welfare costs
3. enroll in needed therapy
4. work on maintaining family unity and support for his/her children

Punishment? Has it really worked? Isn't it enough punishment to (1) have a criminal record (2) be less respected by friends, employers, etc. (3) work harder to pay for the mistakes (4) have family challenges increased because of the errors, (5) be rejected for jobs and housing, and (6) be totally responsible for change and growth?

Taking the better solution from above (and the concepts in this packet) is one we need to promote. Put "loving pressure on our attorneys, district attorneys, Judges, and law makers to see this picture as a major alternative to the present "lock em up" approach for those willing to change.

(The last pages of this summary begins on the next page.)  
**RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE OF REFORM EVENTS**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>(1) <u>Crime is committed</u></b><br/> <u>Arrest</u> is made<br/>         (a) jailed or<br/>         (b) released on own recognizance</p>  | <p><b>(2) <u>Mediation Process</u></b><br/>         (victim, perpetrator, and mediation officer)<br/>         Each expresses feelings and considers legal consequences;<br/>         develops recommendations for victim and perpetrator</p>  | <p><b>(3) <u>Arraignment</u></b><br/>         (a) Plea made on charges<br/>         (b) Mediation officer summarizes from previous conference (#3)</p> |
| <p><b>(4) <u>Accused person is</u></b><br/>         (a) jailed for later court processes<br/>         (b) released on own recognizance<br/>         (c) released for victim restitution<br/>         (d) released for treatment at own expense</p>   | <p><b>(5) <u>Non-violent offender</u> is released on probation</b><br/>         to pay restitution, court and treatment costs.<br/> <u>Probation violator</u> is sentenced to:<br/>         (a) voluntary indeterminate rehab center or<br/>         (b) chooses prison till s/he chooses to change and possibly be transferred to rehab center</p> |  |
| <p>e) Record will be expunged after and <u>demonstrated</u> changes (perhaps 5 years)</p>  |   |  |
| <p><b>(6) Trial processes determine guilt. Convicted felon goes to Dept. of Corrections Intake Center. The evaluation and screening process may offer the felon two choices (if s/he qualifies):</b><br/>         (a) rehab center for release upon successful completion by demonstrating changes<br/>         (b) Prison - stays for length of sentence and pays for costs after release and while in prison guidelines. This includes a work release program.</p> | <p><b>(7) Felon is released to society</b><br/>         (a) no need for parole or treatment<br/>         (b) volunteers for support groups<br/>         (c) works to continue payments to victim, court, D.O.C. and/or mental health program</p>  |  |



**FOR MY USE**

