

Area 72 Corrections Quarterly (June 20, 2026)

Chair Report

Aimee been attending Monroe meetings and working with Young People's Committee to investigate corrections correspondence program for juvenile's facility to link up with other youth. Been talking to other areas if they have other juvenile programs in their regions. Getting ready to, through international corrections committee, 3 facilities for LGBTQ+ meeting (Ohio). Learn about other facilities and how they're running those meetings (online presence?). Goal for today: ad hoc committee report in regard to starting up sponsorship program for persons in custody.

Aimee to attend National Corrections Conference in Salt Lake City. Bid to bring it to Area 92. Committee has decided to try and bring the next conference to Area 72. Less expensive to fly into Seattle vs. Eastern WA. Might hold more attraction than Tri-Cities. Gotten permission from Purdy and Monroe to hold outside AA meetings during the conference. Bussing people to those facilities at set time for large AA meeting. Third time presenting to get the bid here (beat by FL last year).

Literature Report

Looked into what our total is right now. Do not have number back yet, but guessing about \$2500 for the next 6 months left for literature budget. Be mindful of how much we're ordering. Case of Daily Reflection is now \$1000 (40 books). Lit prices are up.

Pre-Release Report

Q2 2026: remind everyone pre-release program used to be the Bridge Program. Persons in custody within 6 months of their release, fill out form and send in. Release address on forms; David links them up with someone in AA. Plan so when they get released, take them to 3-4 different meetings and introduce newly released to the sobriety community. Integrate into AA society. 9 total last quarter. Flurry of them in the last couple weeks. 2 of 9 are Area 92 (eastern WA). 3-4 women released, participating in the program more. One of issues is that people send in the form and then released in 10ish days. Hard to connect on short notice. If they haven't done it before, need to get set up on DOC system. Asked for report when someone released and met with outside person. 75%-90% of the time, they meet. Some people get out and just disappear, but program largely successful.

How to bring recently released to district? David connects District Corrections Chair to the inmate. How to get people involved in program? Volunteer list form; pre-release form for inside member and one for people on the outside that want to participate.

As chair for district, can we contact directly? How do we get the information of the people being released? DOC is not involved in the Bridge Program at all. Form David receives is directly from persons in custody. When taking meetings inside, AAs push the program / inform persons in custody. Initiated by them. Goes to Puget Sound Central Service Office, scanned and then sent to David, David distributes to corrections chairs. How to find people in jail house meetings? Most is for people in prison. Few jail house meetings we have we do provide forms for them, but most of the time, give a schedule to them.

How long does it take for volunteers to be cleared ahead of time? Volunteers that go inside cannot participate in the Bridge Program. Because those that go inside have DOC clearance, cannot "mingle" with anyone released for 2 years. All volunteers are from the outside that are not cleared to go into the institutions. To onboard, takes a few hours for them to get setup in the DOC email system. Greater Seattle Intergroup committee has done a little bit with Securus. (Securus is the name of the email program where inside/outside people communicate). Natalie and Jennifer to present later for Area 72 to do a sponsorship program. Concerns over anonymity. Not as limiting for information as we originally thought it was.

Is program just for DOC prisons or also for local city/county? Yes, for everyone, but 90% of participants are DOC people.

Speaker: Chuck will be here at 11AM.

District Committee Reports

D39: Bothell, South Mill Creek. first time here so still learning. Some information about the committee has been shared in home group.

D24: Lynnwood. Not much to report.

D38: Kirkland. Currently take meetings to Kirkland Jail. Last report moved times of meetings around, and half of the meetings were being canceled, due to staffing issues. Since new time 6:30, only once every 2 months unable to get a meeting. 3-6 attendees. Lt. and Sergeants support the program.

Dale: past corrections chair, active in D3 volunteers. Monroe Correctional Complex. Attend meetings MSU and TRU. Quite a bit of activity in there with persons in custody interested in staying sober.

D3: Monroe, Snohomish, Lake Stevens, Gold Bar, Sultan, Essex. Kevin new alt-chair, formerly in custody. Inspired and try to share message to people still in custody.

D36: North Bend to Duvall. Inability to get back into Echo Glenn Children's. Able to sponsor and go to meetings. Youth Facility in Snoqualmie. Trying to stay active on ad hoc committee for sponsorship programs like Cali does. Going to National Corrections Conference.

Update on Echo Glenn? Previous woman doing substance abuse program got us into the facility. Handed off to the next contact after changing positions but not getting responses from the new contact. Is Echo Glenn just women's facility? Co-ed facility.

D4: Skagit County. TRU in Monroe, strong program attending Juvenile Detention Center in Skagit once/week. Used to be able to go into the jail here but shut down after COVID; won't even talk to us. Always working to get more involvement.

D34: newer to position. Know a lot about state and jail system but gets a lot of questions from people that have been in the system before. Many Aas want to serve those coming out of jail/prison. Wants to learn more about Bridge Program.

D46: Island County and everything west of Snohomish Channel. Going into Island County Jail, good participation on men and women side. Only get 1-2 men per week. Women get 2-3. Carrying the message. Island County Jail Lt. asked us to participate with imbedded substance abuse treatment program. 90-day in-house program. Little to no information, other than reading what he sent. Intense programs utilizing recovery through counseling and therapy. Meets a couple times a day. Wants us to come in and participate. Talk to counselor about what she expects from us and how we can be of service. Attends Twin Rivers. 10-12 persons in custody and 3 outside volunteers.

D55: Clallam County Jail, Olympic Corrections Center, Clallam Bay Corrections. Volunteering in Olympic and the Bay. Never miss a meeting, sometimes no takers. 16-18 meetings a month. Open 2 more meetings in Clallam Bay Center. Most memorable meetings 4 incarcerated individuals and 3 volunteers.

D27: Filling in for D27. Chair down and may not be returning. New to position. 2 facilities in Longview area. Small group but dedicated going into 2 facilities. Restructuring with meetings and chair rotating.

D11: Whatcom County. Continue to take meetings into Downtown Jail, Juvenile Detention, Jail Works Center (work release program). Well attending with men's and women's meetings. 4 meetings/week. Frequently getting message out.

D42: Shoreline, Lake Forest Park. No facilities in district but willing to help anywhere we can. On ad hoc committee for Securus.

D43: Kitsap Peninsula. Able to get into the jail. Men's meeting limited. Able to get literature in but able to support WCCW. District shared with Pierce County WCCW Purdy. Group there called Insiders Group.

D36: Interested in presentation for ad hoc committee. Doesn't personally go in but 15 years did King County Jail. Coordinator for King County Jail, former chair Greater Seattle Intergroup.

Seattle Intergroup: Trying to get lit into facilities and find ways to spend funding. If anyone needs books in Seattle area. King County Juvenile, King County Jail, Score Jail, Kent City, Fed Detention in SeaTac, and Work Release Facilities. Regional Justice Center on hold. Score facility trying to get more men cleared – only 1 male volunteer – trouble getting people cleared. Bob F passed away: memorial July 26th. Beloved member of the committee and will be missed greatly. Corrections website can facilitate the pre-release program. Correspondence program through GSO. Clearing house for information, happy to talk to anyone at the break with questions.

Speaker: Chuck

Aimee met at National Corrections Conference in Nashville. Years of service in corrections, invitation to speak.

Sober 1997, does correctional work. Sponsor introduced him to corrections. 17-years old went to prison. Got in trouble again and went to prison again. Experiences in prison allows Chuck to communicate effectively with other persons in corrections. Prison founded in 1846 – 81 men there. Many serious about their recovery. Worked steps with guys in parole in the Houston area. Home group is the oldest in HOU – founded 1949. Purpose in life to go back to prisons and help those in corrections.

Got back into the prisons in 1998. Need volunteers for prisons. "Only difference between us and the people in corrections is we didn't get caught." Attended Canada Conference. Reads 86-88 every morning, Daily Reflections, talk to sponsor every day. Been doing prison work since he got sober. Got involved in corrections to keep busy. Amends to mother: reconnected in sobriety to mother and brother. "Anyone told you that they love you today?" Share love, experience, and hope.

Questions for Chuck:

Persons in corrections contact Chuck – give them his phone number and they call when they're out. Policy in WA: cannot contact those in corrections. To get around giving out our phone numbers, give them the Houston Intergroup numbers. Less strict rules in Houston. Chuck doesn't broadcast out to the guards and decision makers that he's in contact with

those in corrections. Build trust with those in corrections and then can't work with the volunteers? Big list of volunteers to keep them in touch. Chuck doesn't agree with the policy about not seeing persons in corrections when they get out. Don't get yourself in trouble but do what you can.

Going to Death Row: someone there hadn't felt rain in 46 years. Awakened experience to see gentlemen in there. Sometimes, the prison will be in lockdown and can't go in. Some guys in there very talented but unable to use their talents at all.

Been to National Corrections Conferences across the country. Met with corrections AAs all around the country and made connections through those. Opportunity to visit jails/prisons across southeast, California, Toronto. Carry the message.

Ad Hoc Committee Report – IVSS Sponsor Model (Inside Visiting Sponsorship Service)

Jennifer chair. IVSS program research to see if Western WA can take a deeper look at. Karen C online from IVSS California. Weekly meeting since last quarterly. Presentation by Karen to the committee.

PowerPoint

The Need – Why This Matters

- 14K individuals in WA DOC (Dec 2025)
 - o Definite need for program
- 49% of prison residents meet SUD (Substance Abuse Disorder) criteria
- Only 10% with SUD receive clinical treatment

What is the CA DOC IVSS Model?

- Outside AA sponsor is matched with incarcerated member (the sponsee)
- Communication happens primarily via app-based tech (Securus)
- AA coordinator screens all potential sponsees first and vets the relationship
 - o Member of AA (service position)
- Sponsor's personal identity is protected – anonymity is preserved throughout
- Any illegal activity is the only reason the app provider would demand personal info

WA State Prison Landscape

- Prisons in WA: Monroe Correctional Complex, WA Corrections Center, Olympic Corrections Center, Stafford Creek Corrections Center, WA CC for Women (WCCW Purdy), Cedar Creek Corrections Center
 - o Program specifically for prison facilities

Research Findings – Pros & Feasibility

- Clear need confirmed, WA DOC staff affirm this is absolutely needed
- DOC partnership pathway exists
 - o WA DOC interested – CA successes is our roadmap
- No WA-specific barriers found
 - o Committee found no specific WA DOC reason why this could not work
- Less ongoing facility work
 - o Once approved, AA coordinator holds most of the load – reduces constant facilities contact
- Contacts to pass forward – committee has contacts ready for a Phase 2 Development Committee

Challenges & Real Talk

- Facility relationships: turnover, budget shifts, policy changes can disrupt established access without warning. Constant re-relationship building is part of corrections work.
- Anonymity must come first: protecting outside sponsor anonymity and AA as a whole is the #1 priority of program design. Securus app selection must be vetted for this.
- Technology training required: sponsors need to be trained on the app platform. Cost of the app will fall on the volunteer sponsor.
- Coordinator role is substantial: AA Coordinator talks to every potential sponsee before a match is made. This is a real, ongoing commitment requiring suggested rotation planning.
 - o More than 1 coordinator? Possibly one per location?
- App/platform selection is critical: choosing the right platform means balancing anonymity, ease of use, and DOC approval. This needs careful phase 2 vetting.

How It Works – Roles & Technology

- CA Model is primarily online/app-based sponsorship
- Outside sponsor communicates via approved DOC app platform (eg: Securus)
- Sponsee is inside the facility; sponsor on the outside
- Sponsor's real identity is protected – anonymous to the institution
- Phase 2 Development Committee
 - o Inherits committee's contacts and research
 - o Vets and selects comms platform

- Work with established relationships with DOC
- Write new guidelines
- Recruits and trains first coordinator(s)
- AA Coordinator role
 - Screens every potential sponsee
 - Matches with sponsors
 - Train sponsors
 - Ongoing liaison between AA and facility
 - Rotating role with defined term
- Outside Sponsor (Volunteer)
 - Sober AA willing to serve
 - Complete training
 - Covers app costs
 - Use approved app
 - Identity protected through the entire program

Our Recommendation

- Form Phase 2 Committee
- Platform & Anonymity Vetting – select and vet and comms app (DOC compatible)
- Coordinator Recruitment and Training: define role, scope, term limits, rotation
- Transfer contacts and research: findings passed to phase 2
- WA DOC relationship building and leverage existing contacts

Questions for Karen (chair Cali sponsorship program):

- Dialogue between sponsor and sponsee – is that subject to legal investigation?
 - All communications can be monitored, just like letters. That doesn't mean it will be, but it is known by the sponsor/sponsee. Adapt language as to not use trigger words. No indications or instances of people on the inside saying the conversations are monitored.
 - Only protected communication is in-person. 5th and 10th step probably a one-time in-person visit.
- In Cali, how many coordinators and how are they divided up?
 - Chair for entire Northern Cal committee. Each institution has their own coordinator. Substantial position. Have an assisted coordinator / succession path if coordinator needs to rotate out.
- What is the bare minimum starting requirement for sponsors/sponsees?
 - Before sending brochure in, want to get at least 10-15 sponsors signed up, so there is not a long waiting list for inside members.

- How is this funded?
 - o Very little funding involved. Cost of printing brochures, meetings, miles, expenses – reimbursed to the position. Budget for all of Northern Cali about \$3,000.
- Fee for application (Securus)? Pay per account, per sponsee, monthly/annual? Can sponsor multiple people?
 - o Only 1 account subscription. Sub is not to Securus – that app is from DOC. Volunteer sponsor has to pay for cost of anonymous phone number. Securus system is about \$.03 per text, \$.04 per phone call. \$10 on the books is good for about a year. Cost of the provider for anonymous numbers is Sly Number. \$50/year for the Sly Number account. Can have as many conversations and sponsees as needed/wanted.
- In WA, if go into facility as a volunteer, cannot be a visitor. Would that prevent doing sponsorship?
 - o In Cali, can be a volunteer at one prison and then sponsor at another. Would not be able to do that in WA.
- \$50 fee – is that paid for by the sponsor or by the committee?
 - o Sponsor pays – one account works for multiple sponsees.

Cali sponsor program: 253 persons in corrections matched with sponsors.

D22/D55 have material from Karen 2 years ago. Clallam Bay Corrections Center said no. Can be pushed through the tops of DOC? DOC more willing to look at. Already have a dozen volunteers already working with people in corrections.

- Spoke with Scott, deputy secretary of DOC: responded within 24 hours and was very gracious, positive. CC'd two others at DOC as contacts to speak with. How does Area 72 feel about it?
- Would require a heavy commitment from the coordinators.

Is there more that the ad hoc committee can uncover before we present it to Area 72?

Would need the finances from the area to fund it. Any additional research? If the committee were inclined to facilitate this, would there be budget for the program that Area 72 would vote on?

- What does the next step look like before bringing to Area 72 for vote?
 - o What are people willing to do? Exact details for the app, cost, etc. Who can be a sponsor? Guideline packet to DOC.
- Would sponsorship budget be rolled into corrections budget? Who control “purse strings?”

- Would be up to the area as to how it would be done.
- Ask Karen?
- When ready to bring to Area 72, would that be a floor vote brought by corrections?
What would this look like with Area 92?
 - If we have an action plan, would behoove us to bring in Area 92.
 - Issue: people in corrections can move from 72 to 92. What would that transition look like?
 - If someone within a year of release, don't suggest signing up because we cannot transfer a sponsor.
 - Inside sponsorship would not work for every person in the corrections system.
- Last quarterly, 12 prisons in Northern Cali – vast majority of Cali wasn't active to begin with. Karen likely has information on how to handle.
 - Karen northern Cali, AZ doing a version, possibly NV.
 - Some of the materials given to us was applicable to institutions outside of just state prisons.
- Having worked on the NCC Bid Committee, would likely be able to share information easily with Area 92. No reason why a sponsor in Area 72 shouldn't be able to work with a sponsee in 92, assuming DOC supports it.
 - Nothing written in stone on how the program has to look in regards to associating with Area 92 – just needs to be DOC compliant.

Next step: would corrections like the ad hoc committee to move into the next phase of research?

- Motion to ask the current ad hoc committee to move into phase 2 of the research
- Second motion
- All in favor? **Motion passes.**
 - Next phase of development to be submitted for December quarterly.

Ed trying to get movement on getting AA into corrections. Current sheriff of Skagit pushing back on getting AA into facilities. Reach out to CPC about getting in front of judges, lawyers, etc. AA cannot endorse candidates or get involved in politics, but individuals can. Similar situation in Kitsap County where previous contact resigned / stepped down and going to see if the next candidate would be supportive of AA.

Next quarterly: September 19th at Puget Sound CSO.