

In support of SB 269A

Jayne Downing, Executive Director

Chair Williamson, Vice Chairs Sprenger and Gorsek,
and members of the committee:

My name is Jayne Downing, and for the last 21 years I have been the Executive Director of the Center for Hope & Safety (CHS). CHS serves thousands of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in Marion and Polk Counties each year.

Since 2015, CHS has been providing PREA response services to the four correctional institutions for males in Marion County, the youth correctional facilities (currently MaClaren), and the Marion County Jail. Last August, CHS was asked to begin providing confidential PREA advocacy services to Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF) for women in Wilsonville. For all the institutions combined, we have responded to more than 500 calls, in-person visits, hospital responses, and letters from individuals in custody since we began partnering with the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC).

Specific to CCCF, CHS staff have provided the following types of support:

- Responded to 159 calls or in-person visits to women in custody;
- Responded to 153 calls, emails, or in-person visits with CCCF staff to discuss coordination of in-person visits, tours, and presentations to the women in custody;
- 20 CHS staff members have toured CCCF in preparation to provide in-person advocacy; and
- 102 women attended trainings on domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking presented by CHS staff members.

After our first training at CCCF, we received a note from a woman in custody that read, *"Thank you for the informative meeting in the Prison Chapel. It was very helpful. The word is spreading how thoughtful your organization is. We've learned so much. Thank you."* Just recently, we received the following from another woman at CCCF in response to written correspondence, *"Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. I feel hopeful just having someone to write to about how I'm feeling...please come visit me."*

Our outreach and services continue to grow, in large part because the work of our PREA Advocate, Amanda Cole. Amanda is with me today and I would like to take the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the great work she is doing to make sure all our staff are providing appropriate confidential services to individuals in custody. Amanda is also planning trainings for DOC staff, more training for individuals in custody at the different facilities, and possibly a support group for the women at CCCF.

We believe the strong collaborative relationship we have build with the DOC is making a difference for individuals in custody in Marion County and at CCCF We look forward to reporting to you all next year about the impact of providing PREA response services to women in custody at CCCF. Thank you.

Center for HOPE & SAFETY



Formerly Mid-Valley Women's Crisis Service

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because everyone deserves a life free of violence