

Hello, I have 27 years of sobriety and was also incarcerated at CCCF. Alcohol and drugs effect 80% of those who are incarcerated. While incarcerated drug and alcohol treatment is only available to a low percentage of the 14000 within the system. I believe in accountability 100% percent, from the addict to the system. But the reality about addiction is - it isn't going to start with the addict, it will need to start with people who care. Unfortunately in todays society we expect everyone else to deal with difficult people, which is witnessed in our approach to educating trouble youth, people who suffer from mental health and those who break the law.

I have attended Marion Counties 2nd chance initiative, which is collaborative effect to help those who are effected by addiction before they end up in prison. I have also attended a Milwaukie City Council Meeting that referenced 3 mental health facilities that they positioned within their city. Initially there was protest from neighbors and communities members – but the value of people outweighed the fear.

Oregon must not be driven by fear, but needs to reevaluate their engagement with those that are suffering, hurting and struggling – we have become people who know that “hurt people hurt people”, but we have become apathetic about helping those that are causing harm because they are difficult to deal with.

Understaffing from prisons, to county jails, to shelters, to advocacy agencies has placed those who are vulnerable and destructive without any resource or help. Possible the legislation could ask for community involvement to help all Oregon's citizens who are in need.

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