

October - December 2024 Monitoring Visits

October

10.3.24 MCCCW: OCO staff met with the facility program manager, visited with incarcerated individuals, and listened to their concerns while providing technical assistance.

10.12.24 MCC: OCO staff visited the Sky River Treatment Center and met with individuals in various units including the close observation area (COA).

10.13.24 CCCC: OCO staff met with tier reps and facility staff about the upcoming quarterly meeting.

10.15.24 WCCW: OCO staff visited with incarcerated individuals in the IMU, close custody, and the Hill. OCO staff also met with DOC staff in the hearings department to follow up on concerns gathered during Open Hours Pilot.

10.16.24 CCCC: OCO staff met with individuals, and students engaged in agility training as part of the introduction to the Construction Trades Apprenticeship Preparation (CTAP) program.

10.18.24 WCC: OCO staff visited the living units and spoke directly with incarcerated individuals in the dayroom. Staff were also provided an unscheduled tour of the SPO outdoor area including the worm farm, garden, and chicken coop.

10.22.24 WCCW: OCO staff visited with incarcerated individuals and DOC staff in the COA.

10.23.24 CCCC: The OCO held their third quarter public meeting in the visiting room. After the presentation, OCO staff and guests met in small groups to answer individual questions.

10.28.24 WCCW: OCO staff visited with individuals in the IMU and COA.

10.28.24 WCC: OCO Director & Deputy Director made an unannounced visit to monitor the body scanner process, reception center, and to meet with mental health staff. OCO staff also visited with incarcerated individuals in a living unit dayroom.

10.29.24 SCCC: OCO staff met with incarcerated individuals in the IMU and G-unit.

10.29.24 WCC: OCO staff met with incarcerated individuals in the IMU.

November

11.12.24 WCC: The OCO Director made an unannounced evening visit to monitor the IMU and the receiving units.

11.20.24 MCC: OCO staff interviewed individuals in various pods in SRTC and the IMU.

11.21.24 SCCC: OCO staff attended the regularly scheduled Black Prisoners Caucus meeting in the chapel.

11.22.24 WCC: OCO staff attended the regularly scheduled Black Prisoners Caucus meeting.

December

12.5.24 WCCW: OCO staff met with health services staff and spoke with incarcerated individuals living in the (COA) and recreation area.

12.6.24 WCCW: The OCO Director and Deputy Director made an unannounced evening visit.

12.8.24 MCC: OCO staff attended the Jewish Cultural event and celebrated the holidays with incarcerated individuals, family and friends of the incarcerated, elected state representatives, and community leaders.

12.9.24 SCCC: OCO staff met with CTAP students, faculty, and staff to learn more about CTAP.

12.10.24 CCCC: OCO staff met with CTAP students, faculty, and staff to learn more about CTAP.

12.11.24 WCCW: OCO staff met with incarcerated individuals in the evening.

12.12.24 WCC: OCO staff met with incarcerated individuals living in Pine Unit and completed cell-front conversations with numerous people living in the IMU. OCO staff also met with DOC staff working in both living units.

12.12.24 WCCW: OCO staff met with individuals in the IMU. OCO staff also interacted with numerous incarcerated individuals and staff throughout the facility.

12.17.24 WCCW: OCO staff met with incarcerated individuals in the IMU and the Washington Way Team.

12.19.24 WCCW: OCO staff met incarcerated individuals and listened to their comments and thoughts about entering the building trades, union participation, and possible careers in the building trades.

12.26.24 WCCW: OCO staff met with individuals in the IMU, COA, and staff members of the Washington Way team.

Reentry Centers

12.30.24 Ahtanum View: OCO staff met with residents and facility staff while touring the reentry center.

The OCO completed visits to every DOC prison and reentry center in 2024.



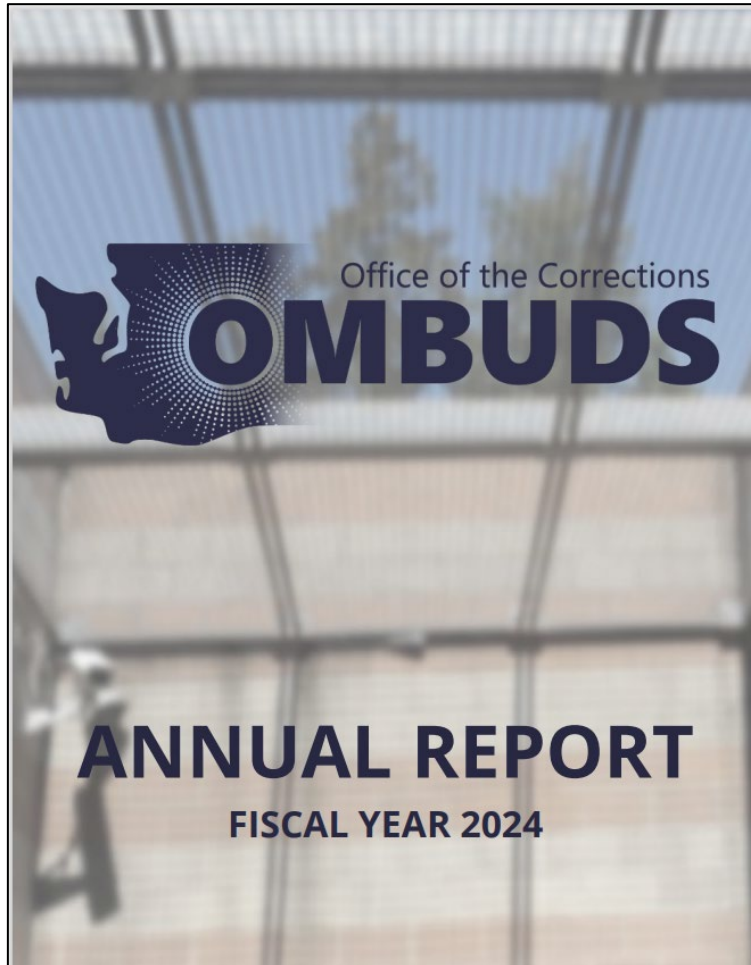
Olympia Reentry Center

OCO Annual Report Fiscal Year 2024

The OCO published its Annual Report for the 2024 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024). Check out these highlights:

- The OCO opened 3,459 cases representing complaints from about 1,826 incarcerated individuals
- The OCO resolved 3,203 complaints during FY24
- The OCO received 4,764 calls, or on average 397 calls per month through our hotline
- The OCO successfully negotiated over 1,300 positive outcomes, ranging from individual concerns to system changes
- The OCO released 12 monthly outcome reports, nine monthly newsletters, provided comments on 14 proposed DOC policy updates, and published four systemic reports

You can read the full report in the FYI App on Securus tablets and in law libraries.



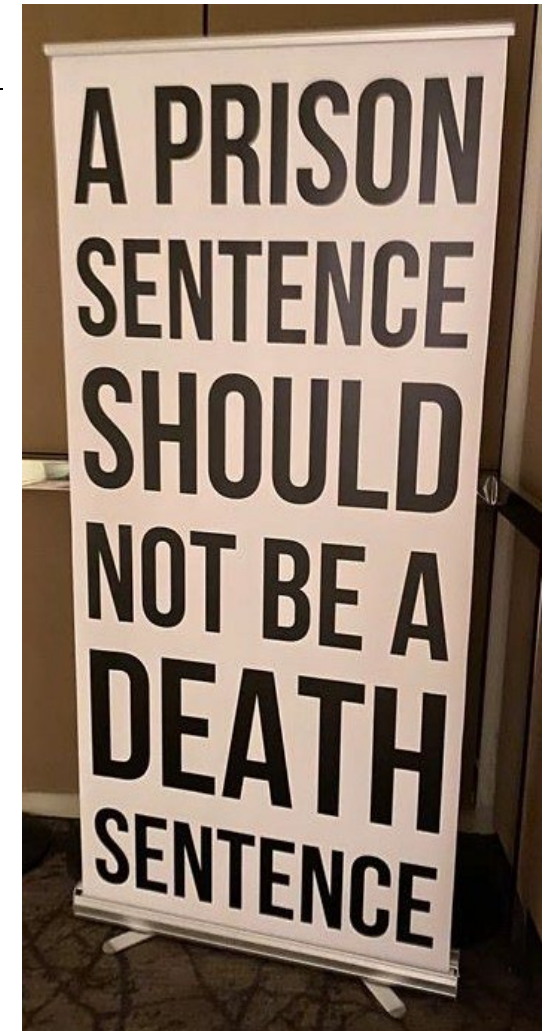
Deaths in Custody Conference

In November 2024, the University of Texas at Austin's Prison and Jail Innovation Lab held the first *Deaths in Custody Conference* and invited the OCO to attend. Unexpected Fatality Review (UFR) committee members from the OCO, Elisabeth Kingsbury and E.V. Webb, joined the two-day conference for, as organizers said, "an opportunity for collective reflection by the country's leading experts on prison and jail conditions on one of the most critical, challenging, and urgent issues in our field." The OCO learned from family members who have lost loved ones inside prisons and jails, researchers, ombuds, oversight organizations, reporters, and human rights advocates including people from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law's Incarceration Transparency project, Fair Fight Initiative, Injustice Watch, the ACLU National Prison Project, The Marshall Project, Solitary Watch, and more.

Topics discussed at the conference included:

- problems with data collection in many jurisdictions
- electronic health records supporting system accountability
- importance of examining circumstances surrounding "near deaths"
- incarcerated peer hospice workers
- suicide prevention strategies
- health impacts of solitary confinement

This important gathering was powerful for everyone who attended. The OCO has committed to incorporating knowledge from the conference into future unexpected fatality reviews.



OCO Assistance Provided – Property

An incarcerated individual expressed concerns about accessing his property while he was in segregation. The OCO verified that the individual's belongings were being held in long-term storage during this time. The OCO worked with DOC staff to ensure that the individual received his address book and a property matrix detailing the items in storage. Additionally, the OCO confirmed that the DOC provided all allowable items for him while he was in segregation.



Submit a Complaint



Confidential Hotline:
(360) 664-4749



Mailing Address:
PO Box 40009
Olympia, WA 98504



Online:
oco.wa.gov/submit-complaint

