

OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONS OMBUDS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Sept. 2023

What's new with the OCO?

Solitary Confinement Project

The WA Legislature tasked the OCO with preparing a report on incarcerated persons who have been in solitary confinement or any other form of restrictive housing **more than 120 days in total during their period of incarceration** or have been in solitary confinement or any other form of restrictive housing **more than 45 days in the prior fiscal year (July -June 2023)**.

This report is due by June 30, 2024, and we will provide updates on our progress throughout the year in future newsletters and quarterly updates.

If you would like to be interviewed for the project, please let us know by either calling the hotline and asking for an interview or sending us a letter with the subject line Solitary Confinement Project.

Recent OCO documents uploaded to your tablet (FYI App):

- June 2023 Monthly Outcome Report (MOR)
- July 2023 Monthly Outcome Report (MOR)
- September 2023 Monthly Newsletter
- OCO 2nd Quarter Data (April 2023 – July 2023)



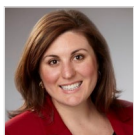
Facility Visits

10 facility visits in July

7/6=WSP
7/7=WSP
7/13=MCC
7/19=SCCC
7/20=AHCC
7/27=WSP
7/27=CRCC
7/28=WSP
7/30=SCCC
7/31=WCC

9 facility visits in August

8/1=MCC-TRU
8/10=WCC
8/11=SCC
8/16=WCC
8/21=CCCC
8/23=MCC-SOU & TRU
8/29=MCCCW
8/30=AHCC
8/31=CRCC



Director's Corner

a message from
Caitlin Robertson, PhD

Hello! I am very happy to share with you our first OCO Monthly Newsletter. Our hope is that these updates are helpful. Do you have ideas about what we should share? Please tell me – I'm listening.

We spent this summer working on our strategic plan and we are very proud of our new vision, mission, and values.

OCO Vision

The Office of the Corrections Ombuds envisions a more humane and transparent Washington corrections system.

OCO Mission

The Office of the Corrections Ombuds is on a mission to provide opportunities for people impacted by incarceration to raise issues and resolve conflicts. We work to reduce harm in the Washington corrections system by negotiating outcomes, recommending positive change, and reporting individual and systemic concerns.

OCO Values

Integrity: We believe in honesty, transparency, and authenticity.

Respect: We are a compassionate, kind, and consistent organization. We value our collective humanity and dignity.

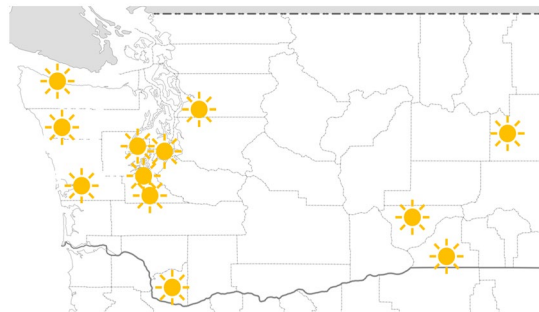
Collaboration: We work together to deliver objective communications and negotiations to positively impact the community we serve.

Equity: We recognize the importance of diversity and lived experience. We aim to provide equitable services to all people impacted by incarceration.

Courage: We are bold and persistent problem solvers. We work to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of incarcerated individuals. We remain optimistic that our work empowers and makes a difference.

The OCO's Forecast...

What to expect from us in the future



Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.
- Justice Louise Brandeis (1914)

OCO staff travelled to Walla Walla, WA to present our 2nd quarter updates directly to people living at WSP and community members on the outside. For two full days, we met with incarcerated individuals and facility leadership.

Our 3rd quarter update meeting will be on October 6, 2023, inside the Clallam Bay Corrections Center. We will meet with Tier Representatives.

Prior to the meeting, OCO staff will be on-site during September to introduce ourselves and answer your questions.

OCO Confidential Hotline Hours

Call us: (360) 664-4749

Mon: 1:00-3:00 pm

Tue: 1:00-3:00 pm; 5:30-8:00 pm

Wed: 5:30-8:00 pm

Thurs: 1:00-3:00 pm

Write to us: Office of the Corrections Ombuds

P.O. Box 40009

Olympia, WA 98504

Correspondence with the OCO is confidential and is not monitored by the DOC. RCW 43.06C.060