

OFFICE OF THE CORRECTIONS OMBUDS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCT. 2023

What's new with the OCO?

Restrictive Housing Recommendations

The OCO released a Restrictive Housing Recommendations Report, which included the following DOC updates that we want to make sure you know about:

- DOC Headquarters is working on a new classification model that will bring significant changes and reduce solitary confinement.
- LWOP cases will be reviewed with other restrictive housing cases on a weekly basis.
- Health Services and Classifications will strategize an action plan that addresses medical holds in restrictive housing and creates more support for the incarcerated population.
- Restrictive Housing staff were reminded that maximum custody is the only disqualifying factor for placement in a transfer pod.
- WSP 440.000 was updated to send consumable items to the individual's living unit after it's been inventoried instead of using long-term storage.
- Mission Housing Manager will regularly review all individuals in restrictive housing.

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

- August 2023 Monthly Outcome Report (MOR)
- September 2023 Monthly Outcome Report (MOR)
- OCO 2nd Quarter Data (April 2023 – July 2023)
- Restrictive Housing Recommendations – Final Report
- October Monthly Newsletter



September '23 Facility Visits

9.6.23 LCC – OCO staff met with incarcerated individuals, staff, and visited the secure housing unit.

9.7.23 MCCCW – OCO staff attended the powwow for residents, family, and friends.

9.13.23 CBCC – OCO staff met with Tier Reps and visited the IMU and COA.

9.20.23 SCCC – OCO staff attended the powwow and met with residents. OCO also toured the infirmary, COA, and the medical building.

9.23.23 WCC – OCO staff attended the Hispanic Heritage Month Cultural Event and met with residents, their families, and friends.

9.28.23 WCC – OCO Staff attended the Black Prisoner's Caucus meeting and then met with individuals in Cedar Living unit.



Director's Corner

a message from
Caitlin Robertson, PhD

Happy October! This month the OCO team is busy finalizing our agency's annual report and our first annual report on the DOC's Unexpected Fatality Review Committee. Both reports will be published in November. As we draft the reports, we are reviewing our work through our five values: integrity, respect, collaboration, equity, and courage. After reviewing last year's work, I can confidently say that I know that our work empowers and makes a difference.

I want you to know that at the OCO – you matter. When you call our hotline or write us a letter, we are listening and paying attention to what you are telling us. In the coming months, we will be trying out new OCO Request Forms. Our goal is to provide a form with clear communication that improves your ability to understand how to access our services. If you have ideas about how to make our form better, we are happy to receive your suggestions on the hotline.

Onward!

Robertson



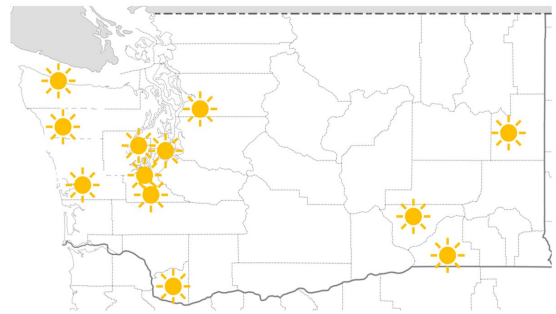
We are honored to receive the 2023 Rainbow Alliance Inclusion Network (RAIN) Outstanding Agency Award. The OCO is one of three state agencies recognized for fostering a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ employees.

RAIN believes that when state agencies have a positive impact on employees, those impacts will also ultimately improve customer service.



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)

The OCO is excited to attend many of the upcoming holiday and cultural events hosted at different facilities across the state. We are prioritizing staff attendance and look forward to engaging with the community we serve.

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:

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