

NWRRC 1st Quarter Community Newsletter

Director's Message

Natalie Wight - Director

Greetings Community Partners!

As we wrap up this busy winter season, we look forward to many new projects this spring. We enjoyed seeing many of you at the Western Oregon University Criminal Justice career fair last month. It was wonderful to see so many students interested in Oregon law enforcement and community service organizations. The college and high school students were very involved in their communities and excited to start careers where they could continue to help people and keep our neighborhood safe.

The NWRRC is seeing a growing number of job applicants specifically interested in reentry and transitional services. We recently hired several new staff members and promoted Renn Salkind to the position of State Case Management Supervisor. For almost six years, Renn has worked with NWRRC State Program Manager, Joel Robison, to develop a robust Aid & Assist program that helps transition justice-involved residents from all of Oregon's 36 counties. Renn is talented, creative, and an incredibly dedicated case manager—we are so lucky to have her join the management team!

We want to give a special shout out to the awesome staff at Clackamas County Jail who guided us through a facility tour last month. Congrats to Sheriff Brandenburg and Clackamas County on the National NCCHC Pinnacle Award for superior work in correctional mental health care!

We also want to thank the U.S. District of Oregon Federal Court Clerks and Staff for coming out to the NWRRC to tour and learn about our resident placement process and rehabilitation programs. They had so many great questions for our staff, and we appreciate the work they do every day with the Court to protect fairness in the criminal justice system.

Finally, we are excited to add Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling as a new academic partner with our NWRRC Mental Health Counseling Internship Program. We continue to have our wonderful long-standing relationship with Portland State University and now look forward to adding more student interns interested in the challenging work of correctional rehabilitation, transitional support, and reentry services.

It was wonderful getting to see everyone at the November meeting, we look forward to holding our next in-person meeting within the next few months. Hopefully there will be a lot of construction out front as we break ground on the new 6500 square-foot two-story expansion this Spring!

Very Respectfully, Natalie



Resident Employment

Jakub Forrest – Employment Placement Specialist

We continue to support individuals in building meaningful pathways toward employment. While some residents are currently participating in volunteer roles or enrolled in vocational training programs, many are actively preparing to transition into the workforce. We are consistently working to identify second-chance employment opportunities that align with residents' skills and strengths. At the moment, we are 70% employed. Our team remains committed to helping each individual secure sustainable and appropriate employment.

PREA Audit

Mary Lindstrand – Security Director

NWRRC Successfully Concludes 2025 National PREA Audit

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of the Northwest Regional Reentry Center's national PREA audit. The final audit report confirms that NWRRC is in full compliance with every applicable standard, marking an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to resident safety and organizational excellence.

Throughout the audit process, our facility was recognized for its strong culture of safety, supported by dedicated staff, engaged residents, and effective operational practices. Resident feedback highlighted the positive impact NWRRC has had on their lives and the meaningful transformations they have experienced.

We also extend our gratitude to the NWRRC team members who coordinated with the auditor. Their responsiveness and professionalism were instrumental in ensuring a smooth and thorough review.

The final audit report will be posted to the NWRRC website in accordance with PREA requirements. Should you have any questions about the audit or the report, our team remains available to assist.

Health Services Corner

Julie Olin – Health Services Manager

The Health Services Department has grown in the last year. Michael Quattromani joined us as a Health Services Specialist. With an additional staff person, we have been able to assist a larger number of our Federal and State residents with needs related to OHP and health insurance. Michael also assists our State Resident Case Managers and Residents with establishing care, treatment, and services within the community.

We want to send our gratitude and thanks to those community partners who work in the health and medical fields. We appreciate what you do and all that you do for the residents here at NWRRC.

NWRRC Staffing

Jessica Maisel – HR Manager

NWRRC's impact on the community is profound and lasting, supporting countless individuals in rebuilding their lives. Our team makes a meaningful difference every day. Visit our careers page to learn more: <https://nw-rrc.org/careers/>

Now hiring:

- Resident Re-Entry Specialist (Security)
- Facility Maintenance Technician
- Resident Support Specialist (State Program)
- Health Services Specialist

Mental Health – The ACE Study

Daniel Stinea, LPC, CADC III

Over 17,000 Kaiser Permanente members voluntarily participated in an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) study to find out about how stressful or traumatic experiences during childhood affect adult health. After all the identifying information about the patients was removed, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention processed the information the patients provided in their questionnaires, here's what we learned:

Many people experience harsh events in their childhood. 63% of the people who participated in the study had experienced at least one category of childhood trauma. Over 20% experienced 3 or more categories of trauma which we call Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

- 11% experienced emotional abuse.
- 28% experienced physical abuse.
- 21% experienced sexual abuse.
- 15% experienced emotional neglect.
- 10% experienced physical neglect.
- 13% witnessed their mothers being treated violently.
- 27% grew up with someone in the household abusing alcohol and/or drugs.
- 19% grew up with a mentally ill person in the household.
- 23% lost a parent due to separation or divorce.
- 5% grew up with a household member in jail or prison.

For more information about the ACE Study visit www.acestudy.org or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: <http://www.cdc.gov/NCCDPHP/ACE/>

Resident Case Management

Ben Percival – Case Management Supervisor

We do what we can to improve services and incorporate technology to make us more effective at addressing our resident's needs, however we would like to highlight the consistency in the results of residents who process through our program. With the rise and fall in drug use trends, employment opportunities and housing costs, among other things, our residents have been successful in staying clean/sober and releasing with an income source in solid housing. This is a combination of the impressive efforts by the residents and staff going above and beyond to help address resident needs.

The residents have a lot of spare time during the job search process or if they won't be seeking employment due to medical barriers, retirement or other income. We've been having residents find volunteer opportunities in the community to include but not limited to Oregon Food Bank, Blanchet House, Feed the Streets and many others. We've also expanded staffing to allow for a Secure Activities Specialist to run additional in-house activities such as art, games, holiday activities, etc. These things help to build skills and develop our residents into people who will do well and support our mission statement "to support, educate, and encourage our residents, while they do the work necessary towards successful transition".