

# NWRRC 2nd Quarter Community Newsletter

## Director's Message

Natalie Wight - Director

Greetings Community Partners:

We were hoping to have our next community meeting in person, but the good news is that the construction on the NWRRC expansion has begun!

For the past 60 years, the Northwest Regional Reentry Center has been serving the citizens of Oregon and the greater Northwest by providing trusted transitional programs and housing to support our criminal justice systems. This summer, we continue our commitment to this mission through our growing partnership with the Oregon Health Authority. Although the construction on the new wing has only just begun, we know the expanded program space, meeting rooms and residential accommodations will provide an even more supportive environment for our residents and staff. The dedicated team at NWRRC looks forward to spending the next year honing our resident programs so that we can continue to provide our high-quality services in a safe reentry setting.

We are also pleased to announce that one of our long-time staff members, Kenny Tolley, has been promoted to Security Manager. Kenny has an unwavering commitment to the organization and brings almost 10 years of leadership and expertise to the management team. Kenny is beloved by the staff, and we look forward to adding his creative ideas to our newest training programs. Most of you have known Kenny as our trusty Day Shift Lead, so please give him big congratulations next time you see him!

We hope everyone is going out to enjoy this wonderful weather and all the activities our beautiful Northwest has to offer.

Very Respectfully, Natalie

## NWRRC Accountability

Jim Speciale – Accountability Manager

A positive perspective on accountability in a reentry center is that it helps residents build trust, responsibility, and confidence as they transition toward independent living.

Accountability is not simply about following rules or facing consequences. In a supportive environment, accountability encourages personal growth by helping individuals recognize how their choices affect themselves and others. When residents take responsibility for their actions, attend required programs, maintain sobriety, complete chores, and communicate honestly, they contribute to a safe and respectful community.

Accountability helps individuals recognize their strengths, learn from mistakes, and continue moving forward toward their personal goals and a healthier future.

## Construction Updates

Jeff Spencer – Operations Director

Construction Begins!

The first of two phases has begun to expand NWRRC. The first phase is to relocate the facility's domestic waterline from the east side of the facility to the west side. This requirement has been directed by the City of Portland as legacy water supply lines along NE 82nd Avenue will be abandoned. Relocating the waterline, is about a 60-day project and is scheduled to be completed in early July.

Phase two of the construction project is scheduled to begin in early July. The project consists of expanding the original building with new construction, adding 28 transitional beds, office spaces, counseling rooms, and a large multi-purpose room. These additional bed spaces will allow NWRRC to provide greater support to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, US Probation and Pretrial Services, along with the Oregon Health Authority. Phase two of the construction project is scheduled to be completed in May 2027.

Photos are of phase one efforts to relocate the domestic waterline.



## Mental Health Corner

Karen Bassett, M.A., QMHPC

As summer begins, we have bid farewell to our MH Intern, Ted Bryan, who was with us from Sept. 2025—June 2026 from Portland State University’s Graduate School of Education & Counseling under my clinical supervision. Our new MH Intern, Sam Linder, began this month and comes to us from Lewis & Clark’s Graduate School of Education & Counseling. He will be honing his counseling skills with us until December 2026 under the clinical supervision of my colleague, Daniel Stinea, LPC, CADC III.

Additionally, Daniel and I both offer clinical supervision to fellow employees who wish to earn their Qualified Mental Health Associates (QMHA) credential through The Mental Health & Addiction Certification Board of Oregon (MHACBO)—a process that usually takes 6 months of weekly supervision sessions for full-time employees. Supervision focuses on the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) aspects of our clients’ treatment programs, which enhances our colleagues’ skills, compassion, and effectiveness with our clients no matter what Dept. they work in.

## We are Hiring

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, and we invite you to join an organization that is making positive change. Visit our careers page to learn more: <https://nw-rrc.org/careers/>

Now hiring:

- Resident Re-Entry Specialist
- Resident Support Specialist

## Employment Bulletin

Michael Garcia – Resource Programs Manager

We wish to recognize our GED/High School Plus education partner, The Rebel Academy, its Board of Directors, Executive Director and Founder, Dr. Lauren Zavrel, Tutors, and students. Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2025-2026! The inaugural commencement ceremony held on June 28<sup>th</sup> was profoundly inspiring. There were 4 High School Plus graduates; one of which was a NWRRC resident. There were 12 GED Graduates; three of which were NWRRC residents. There were 9 runners-up (one test away from earning GED); four of which were NWRRC residents. There are many moving parts to successful reentry into the community. All are necessary to provide a culture and environment that positively impacts the opportunities for successes for all returning citizens and residents. This graduating event is a reason we continue to do what we do.