

Women's Commission

ON ALCOHOL
AND DRUG ISSUES
— OREGON

PO BOX 2106 · SALEM, OR 97308

WWW.WCADIO.ORG

SUMMER 2008

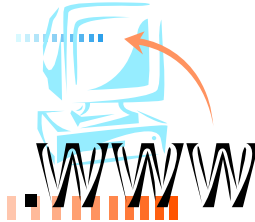
Open Invitation to Join WCADIO

WCADIO's Mission is to increase public awareness of women's alcohol and drug abuse issues and to promote services related to women throughout the State of Oregon. This means to **ALL** women who are affected by their own alcohol or drug use or that of their family or friends.

Your Support Is Needed Your Voice Will Be Heard!

— See our website for application —

THIS IS A NOTE TO ALL WCADIO MEMBERS! Please read and respond!



WCADIO has a website that we hope all of you will visit and notify your Staff to access. In addition to information regarding our organization there are and will be links to sites and articles that you may find interesting in reference to Women and Girls.

Please note the web address: **www.wcadio.org**

For those of you who would like to receive this Newsletter by email in PDF format, please send Judy Francis (judyofrancis@gmail.com) your request and the email address you wish us to have on file. You may also include other staff members that you wish to receive the newsletter. You can also access the newsletter on the website.

Calendar

- ♦ WCADIO Board Meeting, July 25, 2008, 1pm, at NARA.
- ♦ Northwest Institute of Addiction Studies, July 30-Aug. 1, 2008, at Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, OR. Lisa Najavits will present a workshop on PTSD and Substance Abuse called Seeking Safety.
- ♦ 3rd National Conference on Women, Addiction and Recovery, Sept. 15-17, 2008 at Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel & Marina, Tampa, Florida. Sponsored by the U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services.
- ♦ Women's Treatment Standards Meeting, October 20, 2008, 9am-4pm, DHS room 137, Salem, Oregon. Contact Diane Lia.

Notes from WCADIO President Ann Uhler

I was asked to join a panel on Women and Treatment at the National Institute of Drug Abuse Blending Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in early June. I joined panel members, Shelly Greenfield, M.D. M.P.H. and Theresa Winhusen, Ph.D. They presented their recent research results involving women and treatment which can be seen by going to the following website <http://www.sei2003.com/nida/blendingcinci/topics.htm> and scrolling down to session 22.

I want to note that Shelly's research is historic in the field of Women and Substance Abuse Treatment. Her research is the first time that clients were randomly assigned to a gender specific group or a mixed gender group. The results were significant in showing that women do better in gender specific groups in treatment than in mixed gender groups. Her study was small and she hopes to receive a grant using a larger and more diverse population.

After 34 years of being involved with women in substance abuse treatment it was a great pleasure to be on a panel with Shelly demonstrating what most of us have intuitively known about gender specific treatment for women.

I did a brief presentation summarizing my interviews with 10 women, adolescent girls and women and children programs in Oregon in regards to their implementation of evidence based practices.

As you know, it is required by the state that 75% of public funded programs use evidence based practices by the 2009-11 biennium. I found that all 10 programs were using EBP's but needed more money to assure fidelity in the practice.

The Women's Commission Board will discuss this at the next meeting and figure out what we can do to help this process, along with planning for any advocacy for women's treatment in the next legislative session. ❖

WIMPS VS. LUMPS

Oregon voters could send moms to prison

— by Susan Nielsen

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People in Oregon will likely face dueling anti-crime measures on their November ballots. When they do, they'll need to decide whether they're "wimps" or "lumps." I'm with the wimps — if only because the lump camp is so punitive to kids along with crooks.

The Oregon Legislature is poised to refer a crime-fighting bill to voters. This legislation, Senate Bill 1087, is a lighter alternative to an initiative filed by Republican activist Kevin Mannix that would impose strict mandatory minimum prison sentences for burglary, identity theft and other nonviolent property and drug crimes.

Mannix toyed with backing the Legislature's bill but changed his mind. By Valentine's Day, he mocked this legislative compromise as the "WIMPS" approach (Won't Impose Mandatory Prison Sentences) and cheerfully passed out fliers in Salem explaining why. If that name sticks, it's only fair that the Mannix initiative get its own cynical nickname. I'll suggest LUMP, to reflect one of its worst unintended consequences: Locking Up Mothers in Prison.

Today, women make up less than 8 percent of Oregon's prison population, and they represent a similarly small percentage of the criminals who are convicted of violent crimes. Because of this, women have been far less affected than men by Measure 11, Mannix's 1994 initiative that set

mandatory minimum prison sentences for violent crimes. Nonviolent crime, by contrast, is more of an equal-opportunity business.

Women represent roughly 25 percent of the offenders who'd be eligible for tough prison sentences under Mannix's new initiative, according to an analysis by the state Criminal Justice Commission. In 2006, for example, women in Oregon committed about 10 percent of the eligible first-degree burglaries and fully 44 percent of the eligible identity thefts. Just like the men, these women would face up to three years in prison for a first offense.

Please understand, I'm all for equal rights, including the right to serve time in an ugly pink jumpsuit if you burglarize my house or steal my identity. But there's a fatal flaw with multiyear mandatory prison sentences that could snag hundreds of Oregon women (and hundreds of mothers) each year, even after plea bargaining. The penalty is too harsh for the kids who get left behind when Mom goes to prison. These are the kids who would end up in foster care or get bounced around at relatives' houses. They're the ones who'd come to think it's normal to be behind bars. They're also the ones who'd grow up to burglarize your children's houses and steal their identities.

Craig Prins, executive director of the state Criminal Justice Commission, says this initiative would significantly increase the female prison population virtually overnight. He worries about tying judges' hands in cases that involve hard-luck situations and at-risk kids. "What this does," he says, "is take away case-by-case discretion."

Mannix says he's aware his initiative would boost the number of

women in the prison system. The Legislature may need to "sand off any rough edges," he says, and get creative with how it houses new prisoners. He riffs about dorms, tent camps and work farms, and he's optimistic the state can figure out how to deal with prisoners and their children. "There are softer ways," he says, "of providing custodial accountability."

If both measures land on the ballot and pass, the one with more votes will prevail. The choice, it seems, will come down to this: Voters can go with the Legislature's "wimpy" approach, which targets repeat offenders, stresses drug treatment over prison and has the support of Oregon's police chiefs and prosecutors; or, they can cast a big, satisfying vote in favor of hard time for every last crook. They can tell the state to start building more prisons, and they can tell those kids to lump it. ❖



Visit us on the web at www.wcadio.org

Are You a Member of WCADIO...?

- WCADIO membership application is located on our website at www.WCADIO.org. We encourage you to join!

Treatment Trends

In 2003,* there were nearly 1.7 million admissions to publicly funded substance abuse treatment programs. Most admissions (23.2 percent) were for alcohol treatment. Marijuana accounted for the largest percentage of illicit drug admissions (15.4 percent), followed by heroin (14.4 percent).

Nearly 62 percent of admissions were White, 23.6 percent were African-American, and 13.3 percent were Hispanic or Latino.

The largest age group entering treatment facilities were 36 to 40 years old (15.6 percent), followed by those 41 to 45 (14.2 percent) and 31 to 35 (13.6 percent).

For other information on treatment trends, visit the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies Web site at www.oas.samhsa.gov or visit the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information at www.health.org.

For information on treatment research findings, visit the NIDA Web site at www.nida.nih.gov/DrugPages/Treatment.html. ❖

— Reprinted from NIDA Info Facts. www.drugabuse.gov.

*Source: 2003 Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS). Office of Applied Studies, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Oregon's Property Crime Initiatives Disproportionately Impact Women

Oregonians will have the choice between two competing measures on the November 4, 2008 ballot. One is Initiative Petition 40 (IP 40) and the other is referred by the legislature (SB 1087). Both measures provide for more severe sentences for certain property and drug crimes and both measures disproportionately affect women.

SB 1087: *the population of women in prison would grow by 30%*

- Longer sentences for serious property offenders and repeat property offenders
- Longer sentences for drug traffickers and manufacturers
- Some offenders who currently receive a probation sentence would receive a prison sentence
- Includes provisions for drug and alcohol treatment in prison and in the community
- Increase prison population by 1,600 non-violent offenders by 2012
- Increases the number of women in prison to a total of 1,300 from a total of 1,000 today
- Adds \$140 million per biennium to DOC operating costs
- There will be additional costs to build one new prison

Initiative Petition 40: *the population of women in prison would grow by 170% to 270%*

- Mandatory minimum prison sentences for those convicted of property and drug crimes
- No provisions for alcohol and drug treatment
- Increases prison population by 4,000 to 6,000 non-violent offenders by 2012
- Increases the number of women in prison to a total of 2,700 to 3,700 from a total of 1,000 today
- Adds \$256 million to \$400 million in costs per biennium to operate new prison beds
- There will be additional costs for new prison construction for two to three new prisons

By Race—Admissions to Publicly Funded Substance Abuse Treatment Programs, 2003	
Percentage of Admissions	Race/Ethnicity
61.8	White
23.6	African-American
13.3	Hispanic or Latino
10.1	Other
2.3	American Indian or Alaska Native
1.1	Asian American, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander
1.1	Unknown race

By Drug—Admissions to Publicly Funded Substance Abuse Treatment Programs, 2003	
Percentage of Admissions	Substance or Drug
23.2	alcohol
18.7	alcohol + another drug
15.4	marijuana
14.4	heroin
9.9	smoked cocaine (crack)
7.7	amphetamines
3.5	other-than-smoked cocaine (e.g., cocaine powder)
3.1	unknown substances
2.9	opiates other than heroin
0.4	tranquilizers
0.2	PCP
0.2	sedatives
0.1	hallucinogens
0.1	inhalants

By Age Group—Admissions to Publicly Funded Substance Abuse Treatment Programs, 2003	
Percentage of Admissions	Age Group
15.6	36 – 40
14.2	41 – 45
13.6	31 – 35
13.3	21 – 25
11.3	26 – 30
9.0	46 – 50
8.5	12 – 17
6.5	18 – 20
4.5	51 – 55
1.8	56 – 60
0.7	61 – 65
0.5	66 or older
0.2	11 or younger
0.2	Unknown age

Announcement

New Directions NW has just received a grant to build a new Women's Residential and Outpatient Building in the same complex with their other services. Congratulations Bart Murray and Staff!





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**3rd National Conference on Women,
 Addiction and Recovery:**

*Inspiring Leadership,
 Changing Lives*

September 15-17, 2008

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 www.samhsa.gov

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Registration Is Now Open!