



Women's Commission

ON ALCOHOL
AND DRUG ISSUES
— OREGON

PO BOX 14495 · PORTLAND, OR 97293

WWW.WCADIO.ORG

WINTER/SPRING 2012



In Memory of...

The Women's Commission
Remembers a Dear Friend, a
Member, and a Leader for
Addicted Women

Jacqueline L. Wallace



Jacqueline L Wallace left us on November 29, 2011 to join the love of her life, Tom Wallace. This dynamic spit-fire of a woman was born in 1925, raised four children and then married Tom "the love of her life." Jacque and Tom got sober in 1978 and he died suddenly in 1982.

After recovering from Tom's untimely death, Jacque dedicated the rest of her life to assisting women find appropriate services to both begin and sustain their recovery from alcoholism.

Jacque came to Portland in the mid-80's but returned to the Seattle area to be near her adult children in the early 90's.

Jacque was a WCADIO board member when she lived and worked in Portland.

She touched many, many lives. 

The Top 5 Facts About Women in Our Criminal Justice System — Many Face Difficulties During and After Incarceration

Women are now incarcerated at nearly double the rate of men in this country.

By [Julie Ajinkya](#) | March 7, 2012

As we celebrate International Women's Day and pay tribute to the amazing feats that women have accomplished globally, we should also take note of the work that remains to be done in making sure that women do not suffer disproportionately due to their gender.

For instance, women are now incarcerated at nearly [double](#) the rate of men in this country, yet they receive little attention in criminal justice reform measures. This population has gender-specific needs that differ from men in prison, primarily owing to the fact that they are often the primary caregivers of their children before incarceration and are disproportionately victimized by emotional, physical, and sexual abuse in their past. Instead of investing in counseling treatment for such traumatic pasts and rehabilitative treatment for substance addiction, the criminal justice system continues to detain women at extraordinary rates for primarily nonviolent drug-related offenses.

WCADIO Board



Officers

President **Ginger Martin**
OR Dept. of Corrections
Phone: 503/945-9062
Email: ginger.martin@doc.state.or.us

Newsletter Editor **Judy Francis**
Phone: 208/659-2765
Email: judyofrancis@gmail.com

Treasurer **Mary Monnat**
LifeWorks NW
Phone: 503/617-3822

Secretary **Rita Sullivan**
On-Track
Phone: 541/944-2816

Board Members: Kris Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Beverly DuBosch, Diane Lia, Jackie Mercer, Ann Uhler, Gwen Griffith (Legal Issues)

Below we outline the top five facts about women in our country's criminal justice system.

1. The number of women incarcerated has grown by more than [800 percent](#) over the last three decades and women of color are locked up far more often.

There are now more than [200,000](#) women behind bars and [more than 1 million on probation](#). Two-thirds are incarcerated for nonviolent offenses, many of these drug-related crimes. Women of color are disproportionately affected: African American women are [three times more likely](#) than white women to be incarcerated, while Hispanic women are 69 percent more likely than white women to be incarcerated.

2. Many women enter the criminal justice system with a disturbing history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

(See Justice System... continued on page 2)

Justice System...

(Continued from front page)

A reported [85 to 90 percent](#) of women who are either currently incarcerated or under the control of the justice system in the United States have a history of domestic and sexual abuse. Risk factors contributing to women's criminal behavior include substance abuse, mental illness, and spousal abuse. It is estimated that up to [80 percent](#) of women prisoners suffer from substance addiction. While it would be much more cost effective to treat these women than imprison them or pay for foster placement for their children, they are refused such rehabilitative measures—measures that could facilitate their integration back into society as productive members.

3. Many [girls](#) also enter the juvenile justice system with a disturbing history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

Girls are disproportionately arrested for running away, accounting for [59 percent](#) of runaways, though they are often fleeing violent home situations. Instead of receiving counseling and mental health services, however, they are subject to humiliation and dehumanizing treatment in prisons. Girls are also more likely than boys to be [sexually victimized](#) while serving time in a facility.

4. Pregnant prisoners are often shackled during labor and delivery, risking the health of the mother and child.

While court cases have ruled that shackling women prisoners to their beds during labor and delivery is inhumane and [unconstitutional](#), the practice continues in many state facilities. Women in prison are also routinely denied basic reproductive health [services](#), such as pregnancy testing, prenatal care, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and access to abortion services.

5. Women face further [discrimination](#) after release from prison.

After being released from prison, many women face barriers in effectively re-entering society and providing for themselves and their children. Women of color, who are disproportionately poor, find themselves restricted from governmental assistance [programs](#), such as housing, employment, education, and subsistence benefits. Many states even impose statutory bans on people with certain convictions working in certain industries such as nursing, child care, and home health care—three fields in which many poor women and women of color happen to be disproportionately concentrated.

Despite the fact that crime has continued to decline in this country, our incarceration rates for nonviolent drug offenses have spiraled out of control, and nowhere is this clearer than in the population of women—women of color in particular. The treatment of women in our criminal justice system, and the large-scale abandonment of children that it generates, are serious issues for all of us to contend with as we think about the role of women in today's society. ❖

— Julie Ajinkya is a Policy Analyst with the [Progress 2050](#) project at the Center for American Progress.

Oregon Taxpayers are paying a high price as well. Women are a part of a largely unnoticed but expensive trend in Oregon—the increase in the incarceration of nonviolent criminals. And this development has sent women to prison much faster than men. In the past 10 years, the number of men in Oregon's prison system increased by 28 percent. During that same period, the number of female inmates grew by 86 percent.

Last year, Gov. John Kitzhaber formed the Oregon Commission

on Public Safety to study how to rein in corrections costs. The commission found the prison population had increased much faster than Oregon's population during the past 30 years.

What the Commission has yet to confront is how females are the fastest-growing segment of the prison population, and that imprisoning women, when you consider all the costs, is more expensive than imprisoning men. Females require more staff, medicine, programs and time—with counselors, visitors and caseworkers—than men. In addition, more than 75 percent of Oregon's female prisoners are mothers, which often mean the state has to take care of their kids. Sometimes, it means the state pays to deliver their babies.

And this and other issues is why the Women's Commission exists and continues to keep women's issues in the forefront.

Congratulations New Directions!

New Directions Northwest, Inc. of Baker City, Oregon, celebrated the opening of the New Recovery Village on January 10, 2012.

A community block grant was awarded in 2008 only a few short months before the bottom fell out of the Nation's economy. The Board of Directors and **Bart Murray**, CEO concluded the only wise thing to do in light of certain impending budget cuts was to put a hold on further progress on the project.

In 2010, the project continued and it was a busy time for New Directions. Bart retired in 2011 but remained on the scene as liaison between the agency and the contractor.

Many thanks go to Bart and his staff for their support of addicted women and their children and for the support to the Women's Commission.

Legislative Update

State Budget for A&D

REDUCTIONS: Although there were reductions in many areas, A&D services escaped any reductions.

CHILD CARE FUNDING: The WCADIO Board members joined other advocates in supporting increased funding for child care for parents who received Medicaid and or TANF funding. The legislature made no reductions in TANF dollars and added \$9 million more for additional job placement, child care and transportation services for welfare recipients. This funding is very important for women and their children in treatment and to help maintain recovery. This is the time to thank your representatives for their action in supporting this needed funding.

CORRECTIONS FUNDING FOR A&D TREATMENT: The legislature did not make any reductions in A&D treatment services in the Corrections Budget. This action benefits the many women in prison who have addiction problems. WACADIO supported this action also.

Note: The above info was submitted by **Ann Uhler** as of March 9, 2012, and could possibly change.

How Counselors Can Advocate for Additional Funds for Treatment and Recovery Services

According to the 2008 Oregon Speaks: Community Addiction Services Investment Strategy untreated substance abuse costs Oregon \$5.93 billion each year. This represents approximately 4 percent of Oregon's gross state product in 2006, or \$1,600 per person including \$813 million for health care, \$4.15 billion in lost earnings, and \$967 million in other costs such as law enforcement, criminal justice, and social welfare expenditures. As many as 258,045 Oregonians suffer from substance abuse or dependence, yet only 60,000 people in Oregon access publicly funded treatment annually (NSDUH, 2006).

Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." One such group Counselors can **educate** is the Oregon State Representatives <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/>.

Once you have found your representative and senator contact information:

1. Make an appointment to see them. Meet your representative in person but if that is inconvenient schedule a

meeting over the phone. Your Legislative representatives are interested in learning more about their constituents and how they can help you.

2. Be prepared ahead of time and to frame your discussion in ways that can influence the outcome.
3. Practice what you want to discuss with friends, family and colleagues. Feel comfortable and confident prior to the meeting.
4. Share your professional history and explain why you wanted to meet. In other words, what is your goal for the meeting?

Below are examples of talking points that may help in your discussion. This information came from a presentation created by Addiction and Mental Health Division.

- The National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) agree that alcohol and other
(See Counselors... continued on back page)



WCADIO Board Meetings

April 27
July 27
October 26

*Dates are subject to change
Check with a board member for location*

WCADIO Celebrates 25 Years!

We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year! Come to the NWIAS Conference this summer and help us celebrate! Become a member to support our ongoing representation of women services.



Woman of the Year Nominations

Don't forget to nominate someone for Counselor of the Year in Women's Services. Send your nominations to Ginger Martin by June 15. Send email to ginger.martin@doc.state.or.us

Are You a Member of WCADIO...?

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

**Open Invitation
to Join WCADIO**

**Your Support Is Needed
Your Voice Will Be Heard!**

— See website for membership application —

WCADIO's Mission

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 ALL women who are affected by their own alcohol or drug use or that of their family or friends.

Visit us at wcadio.org

This newsletter published by Alquemie Publishing Ink Phone: 541/937-2611, Fax: 541/937-4286, Email: npassist@msn.com

Counselors...

(Continued from page 3)

drug addiction is a chronic brain disorders. Like other chronic diseases treatment is an ongoing process. It may take numerous placements in residential or outpatient treatment for the client to maintain their sobriety in recovery.

- Each year in Oregon alcohol consumption leads to:
 - ✧ 1,400 alcohol-related deaths,
 - ✧ 243,000 persons with alcohol and drug dependence
 - ✧ 5,100 violent crimes due to alcohol use by the perpetrator or victim,
 - ✧ 41,000 offenses related to driving under the influence and liquor law violations
- Annual impact of drug use in Oregon:

- ✧ 570 deaths
- ✧ 107,000 persons with drug abuse or dependence disorders,
- ✧ 39,000 property crimes, and
- ✧ More than 24,000 drug law offenses

- Discuss: prescription drug misuse, particularly related to opioid pain medications, is a growing concern among addiction treatment providers and stakeholders in Oregon.
- Explain: the difference between treatment and recovery services and explain why clients may need both to stay in recovery.
- Show: how addiction treatment is a solution to cutting health care costs. An analysis of a sample of Oregon Health Plan enrollees who accessed addiction services showed an average drop of \$3,603 per

person in physical health care one year after entry in outpatient services compared to the previous year billed costs.

- Point out: treatment and recovery services help decrease crime, increases employment, and helps families stay together.
- Help your representative understand that additional funds may be the only things standing in the way of people actually living or dying.
- Share successes in treatment and recovery (without violating confidentiality). As counselors you know that sharing stories is one way to connect with your audience.
- Finish your discussion by reiterating your goal and ask your representative what he or she can do to help meet your goal! Remember, your representative works for you. You are their boss! ❖