

MOSES



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity
for Criminal Justice Reform

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Voices Speak Out at Protest, but Governor Remains Silent

by Gil Halsted

The numbers tell the sad story. Twenty-five percent of the people incarcerated in Wisconsin prisons and 1,500 correctional staff have contracted COVID-19. Still Gov. Evers remains silent in response to persistent calls, emails, and a daily vigil at the Governor's mansion that began on Oct. 19.

On Nov. 24, dozens of members of EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing), MOSES, and the statewide WISDOM network gathered in the rain and sleet at the Mansion in an effort to amplify our demands for action. The media turned out in force, and for four hours we blocked the entrance and exit to the mansion with our cars and our bodies. We prevented the mail from being delivered, but there has still been no response from the Governor.

At the press conference, Niki Wilichowski*, an EXPO member who was released from prison a year ago, reminded the Governor that she and many other formerly and currently incarcerated women helped get out the vote for the Governor two years ago. They worked for him because he had promised to take affirmative



steps to reduce the prison population and reform the state's harsh parole revocation policies. He has acted on none of those promises.

Ron Alexander, whose son contracted COVID-19 at the Jackson Correctional Institution, called it a tragedy that

the Governor has refused to publicly acknowledge the spread of the virus in the prisons.

WISDOM director David Liners asked why the Governor won't even discuss taking steps that governors in Kentucky, Maryland, New Mexico, Virginia, and Washington have already taken.

They have used their executive authority to commute sentences to move elderly and ill people out of the prisons, and to release many very-low-risk people so that those who remain in the prisons can have a chance to stay healthy.

Still, the response from the Wisconsin Governor has been a stony silence. Plans are under way to continue the vigil and reiterate more forcefully our demand for action.

*Niki tells her story on page 6 of this issue. ■

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 Sandra Brown,
 Designated Vice President
 Eugene Crisler' EL,
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 Cindy Lovell, Secretary
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 Racial Justice for All Children
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MOSES Caucus

Faith Leaders Caucus
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Organizer's Corner

By Mark Rice, MOSES Community Organizer

My work over the past few months has been focused primarily on advancing the IVE (Integrated Voter Engagement) program of MOSES. The State Assembly Candidate Listening Session on Oct. 6 was an important part of the IVE program. This event went well. The MOSES Events Operational Team coordinated this event. We partnered with the ACLU, EXPO, and the FREE Campaign. The content shared from the ACLU/Human Rights Watch report on mass supervision was excellent. The testimonies shared by directly impacted people were powerful. Candidates Francesca Hong, Jimmy Anderson, Phillip Anderson, and Samuel Anderson showed up and expressed their support for our vision for change. Crimeless revocations, transitional jobs, housing, and treatment alternatives to incarceration were the issues that were lifted up.

Four candidates who participated in MOSES events and committed to advancing the issue agenda of MOSES will be representing the Madison area in the upcoming legislative session. Kelda Roys and Melissa Sargent will be serving as state senators, and Francesca Hong and Jimmy

Anderson will be serving as members of the state Assembly. I am looking forward to continuing to build relationships with them and working with them to advance policy changes that will build safer, stronger, and healthier communities in the coming years.

The MOSES IVE program likely had an impact on increasing participation in the political process in Madison. Over 2,000 people viewed the MOSES candidate forums. Our team had consistently been dropping literature in neighborhoods since July. In addition, we hired an additional phone banker over the last two weeks who gave our phone bank operation a huge boost. Nikki Klotter made over 5,000 calls in the final two weeks before the election.

Barbie Jackson and Sandra Brown both participated in the Gamaliel National Weeklong Training in November. I served as their sponsor. I am very excited about this. I believe that participating in the weeklong training will help them both take their leadership to another level and will be very beneficial for MOSES. I hope that many more MOSES leaders will participate in weeklong and local one-day trainings in 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 608-843-0171 or ricemark@gmail.com. ■



Statewide Task Forces

WISDOM conference calls (605) 468-8012

- Conditions of Confinement: Dec. 8 at 4:00 pm (code 423950)

Join a WISDOM conference call:

- Call (605) 468-8012
- Enter the code after the beep
- State your name and that you are from MOSES after the greeting
- Listen, learn, and contribute as you wish

WISDOM Zoom calls

- Old Law: Dec. 12 at 8:30 am
- Prison Prevention: Dec. 8 at 6:00 pm
- Post-Release: Dec. 17 at 7:30 pm

Join a WISDOM Zoom call:

- contact David Liners to request connection information.
david.liners1@gmail.com

Mark your calendars for the Big Share 2021 on March 2

This will be the third year that MOSES is participating in Community Shares of Wisconsin's annual online day of giving, the Big Share. Creative minds are already planning the 2021 MOSES video. Mark your calendars now, and look for more information on the MOSES website in February.

Dane County Moves Toward a Community Justice Center

By Alison Mix

Ninety-six percent of those in jail will not go to prison. For this reason, it is critical that the Dane County Jail be seen as a catchment center, an opportunity to connect people with services. As they leave jail, people should receive a “warm handoff” to these services, with a coordinated plan for reentry into the community.

One way to achieve this is by means of a community justice center, a centralized one-stop-shop for services, which would ideally include a “community court.” The Dane County Board has included \$100,000 in its 2021 budget for further study and development of the idea.

Two events in October helped to advance this goal. First, the Criminal Justice Council (CJC) invited former Dane County Sheriff Rick Raemisch and a colleague, Robin Timme, from his consulting firm Falcon, to its monthly meeting on the 22nd. The idea was to engage in a conversation with the Council about how such a justice center could work, given Madison’s particular circumstances.

Integrated system needed

In Dane County, Timme noted, out-patient clinics, especially emergency rooms, are huge fielders of behavioral health crises. Not only do we not have enough psychiatric beds, detox beds, etc., but law enforcement, mobile crisis teams, and other agencies are unable to access those services in a way that can easily and efficiently get someone into the specific plan he or she needs.

In order for that to happen, an integrated system is needed, Timme argued. “What if you made everyone walk through a service area on their way out of the building?” he asked. (Actually, in order for Medicaid to pay, it would have to be a separate building.) “Maybe they just get a bus pass, or maybe they get connected to psychiatric services or can get a substance abuse evaluation. Maybe homelessness gets addressed.”

In order to operationalize this, an interdisciplinary stakeholder group needs to be formed, perhaps a subgroup of the CJC. It should include healthcare people, with perhaps a senior VP for a hospital (money people), because of the huge fiscal savings that will be made possible. Hospitals have large endowments that could contribute to the operating costs. But much of this is cost-neutral. The County could even save \$300,000, said Timme. Advocates, including jail abolitionists, would also be invited. Having them at the table could be

really effective, he said, because “you are decarcerating by doing this.”

If 95% of police officers were trained in crisis intervention, and a community justice center with sufficient beds existed (maybe 25-50 beds would do it for Dane County’s size), the reduction in the number of jail beds needed could be substantial. Dade County, Fla., saw a more than 30% drop in its average daily jail population. Timme noted that operating costs are easier than capital costs because all of these services should be reimbursable.

The capital costs are more of a problem. How do we get \$20 million up front? Hospital systems really want to see the data. He suggested that the CJC talk to people in Bexar County (San Antonio) and Miami Dade, using their hotlines, and find out how they did it. Smaller jurisdictions like Dane County are easier, he said, “because you have relationships.”

The community justice center would be a voluntary, out-of-custody operation, with no restraint component. It would not be staffed by officers.

Red Hook

The second event took place on October 29, when the CJC hosted a virtual Town Hall to talk about an exemplary community justice center that has been running for 20 years in the Brooklyn, NY, neighborhood of Red Hook. A number of CJC members, including District Attorney Ismael Ozanne and Supervisor Shelia Stubbs, traveled to New York in 2015 to study the Red Hook center. At the virtual Town Hall, its presiding judge, Calabrese, and his colleague, Brett Taylor of the Center for Court Innovation, gave an inspiring presentation that showed how Dane County justice could be truly transformed.

The Red Hook presentation noted that courts typically ask only “What happened?” At Red Hook they take a problem-solving approach and ask: “Why did this happen?” To stop recidivism, explained Judge Calabrese, you have to treat the underlying problem, be it job training, mental health issues, substance abuse, or trauma. The community court approach is to identify those problems, address them and then monitor compliance with services. You must make sure people are getting the necessary treatment they need in order to stop them recidivating.

It sounds so simple, yet for decades court systems, including Dane County’s, have recycled people through jail without

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giving them the tools they need to be successful. This is why the United States leads the world in incarcerating its own people. Addressing the problem allows the court to use court-monitored services, both pre-trial and at sentencing, rather than jail.

“For those who want their courts tough on crime, a community court holds people accountable and doesn’t just recycle them through the prison system,” says Calabrese.

“For those who want their courts to deliver justice with compassion, a community court gives people a real chance to get their lives back on track.”

Procedural justice

The idea is to use procedural justice and community engagement to build trust and confidence in justice. What is procedural justice? Research has shown that defendants are more likely to accept decisions by a court, obey the law, and have trust and confidence in justice when they understand the process, believe they were treated with dignity and respect, had a chance to be heard (voice), and believe the decision-making process is neutral and unbiased (neutrality). This approach, this procedural justice, is not only the right thing to do, but it also results in better outcomes.

Part of this is where the judge’s bench is situated. At Red Hook’s community court, the judge is not sitting up high, looking down on his community; he’s looking eye-to-eye at his community. Calabrese brings people up to the bench, talks to them one-on-one at the bench, off the record, as human beings, shakes their hand, encourages them, acknowledges their struggles. He’ll say, for example, “Look, I can’t stay on a diet for a week, so I can’t imagine what it’s like trying to get rid of a habit like an addictive substance.”

Brett Taylor has watched Calabrese at work. “There is always just this look of shock and ‘Where am I?’” he said. “People say afterwards, ‘I think that judge really cares.’” Taylor added that if there’s one commonality among all the 70 community courts across the country, it’s that the judges take this approach.

The goal is to produce better results for court, community, victims, defendants, and taxpayers. In Red Hook, within 13 years of the community justice center opening, faith in justice in the court system went from 12% to 94%.



Red Hook Community Justice Center

What that meant was that more people were willing to obey the law, including complying with court orders; to cooperate with the police to co-produce safety and order; to report crimes and give information to the police; and to serve as a witness or a juror.

Calabrese explained that when you have a justice center that listens to the community, amazing things can happen.

In Red Hook they have a classroom for people to earn their High School Equivalency (HSE) diplomas right inside the center. The judge can even use that as a sanction. They have a youth court based on a Navajo tradition that is manned by teens known as peacemakers. Half the participants are former defendants. Nearly every case gets dismissed, and thus wiped off the record. They also have extensive youth programming: a basketball court, entrepreneurship clubs, and community service opportunities. Nearly every case gets dismissed, and thus wiped off the record. Local police refer people. Red Hook was the only part of Brooklyn that did not have a violent summer in 2020, following the George Floyd killing.

“We give the community a voice in justice,” says Taylor. “We ask them what they need and then try to provide it.” Red Hook was one of the first courts in the country to bring in trauma-informed counseling, because the community expressed the need for it. The idea for the GED/HSED classroom, in a place with generations of school dropouts, also came from the community.

A virtual justice center?

DA Ozanne is particularly enthusiastic about the idea of a community justice center for Dane County, so much so that he believes we could get one up and running virtually while the bricks and mortar one is being built. “We would have to give people tablets and internet access,” he said at the Town Hall. “They would have their court appearances and apply for jobs online, and take part in Telehealth, which is proving to work very well.”

While it is early, Dane County may finally be moving towards the kind of transformative change that MOSES has been advocating for. ■

MOSES President Rachel Kincade Appointed to Madison Police Civilian Oversight Board

by Kate Mulligan

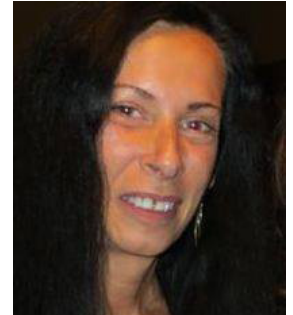
City Council President Sheri Carter has announced the appointment of MOSES President Rachel Kincade Morgan to the Madison Police Civilian Oversight Board. Rachel was one of eight individuals who emerged from a competitive and complicated selection process.

Nine community organizations nominated candidates, who then were considered by city officials. JustDane, Urban Triage, and Freedom Inc., were among the organizations that made successful nominations. NAMI Dane County nominated Rachel. The mayor and council officials will appoint four more members. Over 75 applicants volunteered to serve on the board.

The Board will be responsible for making recommendations regarding the use of force, hiring, training, community

relations, complaint processes, and other policies related to local law enforcement.

“I believe the board will help provide transparency and accountability to the community about any police misconduct, promote training necessary to answer calls from people in crisis, and assist in rebuilding trust between the community and police,” Rachel said. “I take this responsibility very seriously and hope I can live up to the expectations people have of me.” ■



Rachel Kincade Morgan

Thanks to Frank Davis for IVE Leadership

by Pam Gates

For almost four months this summer and fall, Frank Davis organized volunteers in distributing information – about 15,000 pieces in total -- from MOSES, WISDOM, EXPO, the ACLU, and the League of Women Voters. The information left on doorsteps in lower-income neighborhoods around the city told people about registering to vote, where and when to vote, the importance of each vote, Wisconsin’s disenfranchisement of



Frank Davis

potential voters due to felony convictions, how this disproportionately affects African Americans, and corrective proposals.

Frank and his approximately 20 volunteers played a part in unlocking the vote in this election and, we hope, in every election going forward. Thank you, Frank, and thank you, volunteers, for your work with Integrated Voter Engagement! ■

Backyard Heroes Award Presented to Paul Saeman

Paul Saeman received a 2020 Backyard Heroes award on Sept. 17, 2020, at the Community Change-Maker Awards digital event. Each month, two outstanding nonprofit volunteers who make our community a better place to live are nominated for this



Paul Saeman

award. Paul was nominated by MOSES/WISDOM. Congratulations, Paul, and thank you for your outstanding contributions to MOSES on the Justice System Reform Initiative Task Force. ■

Meet Returning Citizen Niki Wilichowski

by Alison Mix

Niki Wilichowski, 32, spoke passionately at the WISDOM/EXPO protest and press conference in front of the Governor's Mansion on Nov. 14, demonstrating the communications skills she hopes to hone over the next few years while earning a bachelor's degree in Communications from Wheaton College in Illinois. Currently, she lives in the Milwaukee suburb of New Berlin. In addition to cleaning residential homes for a private company four days a week, she has been working a second job selling flooring, doing paid work for the ACLU's Rights for All campaign, and studying at MATC-Milwaukee, with the intention of transferring to Wheaton next fall. Yet she completed a seven-year prison stay only a year ago.

Born in Guyana, South America, Niki moved to Wisconsin with her mother at the age of 5, ending up in Marathon City. "I never knew my real father," she says, "and that played a huge role in why I did some of the things I did growing up." Those things included drinking and drug taking – and ultimately drug dealing. Although she excelled at sports, especially volleyball, she felt like an outsider at her school: "I was the only minority person there. Everyone else was rich, and we were lower middle class. It was hard for me, and I was seeking validation."

She started doing drugs at 15, but recalls that, at the same time, she had a foundation of faith, thanks to a woman who took her to confirmation class. Then, when she was 16, three people very close to her died: her godmother (her stepfather's sister), her grandfather, and – suddenly, of cancer – the woman who took her to confirmation classes. "It really hit me hard," she says. "I was really mad at God."

At 17, when she made herself less available to care for her much younger brother, a new babysitter sexually abused him. She felt guilty. "I carried that for a long time," she says. At that point she started doing drugs more intensively, including Ecstasy and cocaine. Then she got pregnant with her boyfriend of four years. She wanted to keep the baby and resolved not to drink or do drugs. However, she was drugged and raped at a party and ended up losing the baby, breaking up with the baby's father, and dropping out of school early in her senior year.



Niki at Governor's Mansion protest

No angel

When she was prescribed Percocet following gynecological surgery around that time, she was soon hooked. "I just wanted to be numb," she says. "I just went downhill from there." She started selling drugs and entered into a relationship with an abusive man. "But I was no angel myself," she admits. During a fight, she wounded her boyfriend with a knife and was charged with disorderly conduct and domestic abuse with a dangerous weapon, incurring a 90-day jail sentence and probation. "I was on probation for that when I caught my first drug case," she says. "This was at [age] 19." She was arrested as part of a "gang drug ring" in a case that received intense media attention locally. Her sentence for the drugs was 14 1/2 months in the county jail and 10 years' probation.

While in jail, where she succeeded in getting sober for six or seven months, she met a man she later discovered had a secret heroin addiction. Dating him on the outside, she ended up getting pregnant again and having another miscarriage. "I was just crying. He didn't want to hear me crying anymore," she recalls. "He shot me up with Oxycontin. It was over for me. It was over for me for years." She started selling heroin and turned into a ruthless, physically abusive person. "I didn't care about anyone or anything but making money," she admits.

Between her rape in high school, the regular emotional and physical abuse she suffered from her boyfriend, two miscarriages, and the deaths of so many people close to her, Niki was left with PTSD and night terrors. "Even now, I don't have a problem telling my story, because God has done such a healing with that," she says. "But when it comes to my personal life, it's really hard for me to trust anyone."

After nearly five years of her 10-year probation sentence, during which she sold drugs on a regular basis, Niki was eventually arrested again on drug charges and sentenced to nine years of prison and four years of extended supervision.

Finding religion

While she was in county jail that time, awaiting her sen-

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tence, an officer walked by at one point and asked Niki what she believed in. She said, “Like... me?” He replied: “How’s that working out for you?” Then a doctor who was treating her for night terrors gave her a book by the Christian preacher Joel Osteen. Around the same time, she started researching different religions, everything but Christianity, because she was mad at God. One night she woke up saying the Lord’s Prayer. “I thought, if my subconscious mind calls out to this Jesus, there must be something there.” She started reading the Bible. And slowly, she started changing, fighting less, caring about people, praying for people. Even the officers noticed the change. When she was then sentenced to nine years in prison, she was surprised, but decided that, unlike in the past, she was not going to walk away from God just because he didn’t do what she wanted: “I decided I was going to see this all the way through.”

At Taycheedah Correctional Institution (TCI), Niki signed up for every program that was available while working and supporting herself the whole time. She did Bible studies, played sports, and completed the dental lab program. “I found freedom even when I was locked up,” she says, because I started realizing that if you discipline yourself, no one else will ever have to.”

After two years at TCI, Niki was transferred to Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center (REECC) in Union Grove, a minimum-security prison. There, she was the choir director as well as the chaplain’s secretary and also organized everything from Bible studies to volleyball and baseball tournaments. Looking back at that time, she says: “It’s funny to me, because God was teaching me stuff about organizing, even when I was in prison.” With God’s help, she says, she started working out and got off all medications, including anti-depressants. “I know my ability to manipulate doctors, so I was trying not to have to visit doctors when I got home.”

Meeting her mentor

At REECC, Niki met her current mentor, a volunteer with the Bible studies program. They developed a friendship, and the woman invited Niki to live with her in New Berlin when she was released (after only seven years, thanks to an early

release program). “I was afraid to go back home,” she recalls, “because I’d seen so many people come back to prison.” She moved to New Berlin with \$400 to her name, no ID, no Social Security card, and no driver’s license. Although she had become a U.S. citizen at age 12, Niki had failed to update her citizenship status when she turned 18. The cost to fix the problem was \$1,170. “Being told I needed \$1,170, if I wasn’t spiritually where I was, I would have gone back to either stripping or selling drugs. Thankfully, I had a mentor who was tenacious.” With help from Sen. Ron Johnson’s office, the paperwork was done in seven months rather than the usual 18.

While she awaited her certificate of citizenship, her mentor’s employer gave her a job selling flooring on weekends, and a woman from Niki’s church gave her a job cleaning homes. The same church raised enough money for Niki

from a Christmas offering to help her buy a car and pay for her schoolbooks. “I knew it was God blessing me,” she says of all her good fortune. Now she volunteers at the church, doing youth ministry and a program called Celebrate Recovery. “I love it. They have become like a family to me, and it’s my way of giving back.”

Next steps

If she is accepted at Wheaton College for next fall, Niki hopes to benefit from a Chuck Colson scholarship established especially for felons, for which she was nominated by the reverend at REECC. The ACLU job, which ended after the election, opened doors for Niki, who attended and spoke at a number of rallies and events, mostly online. In the course of that work, she stumbled across Sen. Lena Taylor’s bill that would allow felons in Wisconsin to vote immediately after they are released from prison. “Unlock the Vote is huge for me,” says Niki. She started investigating with her friends at the ACLU, and they pointed her to Ramiah White-side and to EXPO.

It is unlikely that EXPO, WISDOM, and MOSES have heard the last of Niki Wilichowski, who clearly has a great future ahead of her. ■

State Watch

Speak up on December 8!

Promote Criminal Justice Reform in State Budget

by Kate Mulligan

We have an important opportunity to urge Gov. Evers to include items in his budget that will promote criminal justice reforms.

The Governor is holding a series of People's Budget virtual listening sessions that will guide him as he develops his 2021-2023 state budget. The budget listening session on criminal justice reform will occur on Wednesday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m.

Each session will begin with comments from the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, after which participants will move to online group breakout rooms to discuss and advocate for budget items in greater detail. Staff from the Governor's Office and policy experts will facilitate the discussions and take notes. Gov. Evers and Lt. Gov. Barnes will cycle through the rooms to listen to the conversations.

Check out the [website](#) to register and learn more about the sessions. **Registration opens for the Criminal Justice Reform session on Wednesday, Dec. 1.** You may submit a written public comment at any time.

This session will be the first of many chances to persuade the Governor and members of the Legislature to support our policy and budget reforms. Gov. Evers will present his budget to the public in February and then submit it to the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) of the Legislature. The JFC will prepare its own budget proposal and hold public hearings throughout the state. The budget must be approved by both the Assembly and Senate before it is forwarded to Gov. Evers, who has veto power. Each step of the process offers opportunities to pressure for reform.

WISDOM and MOSES members have been discussing budget priorities as part of the campaign to end mass incarceration in Wisconsin. Some key advocacy items are:

- Add \$15 million to the budget for the Treatment and Alternatives Diversion (TAD) program and expand the kinds of services that can be funded.
- Create a Justice Reinvestment Fund. That fund would direct savings from criminal justice reform to communities in ways that would reduce the need for incarceration and bring down recidivism rates.

- Fight efforts to spend taxpayer dollars on new prisons.
- Expand the Earned Release Program. Approximately 7,000 people in prison are eligible for early release if they complete various in-prison programs, but those opportunities are limited because of funding and other constraints.
- Develop transitional jobs that enable people leaving prison to become employed.

WISDOM and MOSES will offer advocacy materials and further information as the budget process continues. ■

MOSES Meetings

Upcoming MOSES monthly meetings

- Sunday, **Dec. 6**, 2:30 pm via Zoom
 - Sunday, **Jan. 3**, 2:30 pm via Zoom
 - Sunday **Feb. 7**, 2:30 pm via Zoom
 - Sunday, **Mar. 7**, 2:30 pm via Zoom
- contact [Cindy Lovell](#) for link

JSRI Task Force

Dec. 10, 6:30 pm via Zoom
Jan. 14, 6:30 pm via Zoom
 contact [Jeanie Verschay](#) for link

Racial Justice for All Children Task Force

Dec. 1 and 15, 4:00 pm via Zoom
Jan. 5 and 19, 4:00 pm via Zoom
 contact [Barbie Jackson](#) for link

Public Safety Task Force

Dec. 17, 6:00 pm via Zoom
Jan. 21, 6:00 pm via Zoom
 contact [Barbie Jackson](#) for link

DOC Town Hall Signals Some Improvement in Revocations Policy

by Carol Rubin

About 10 members of WISDOM's Post Release Task Force (most from MOSES) viewed the Department of Corrections' (DOC's) Town Hall on "Violation Response and Revocation" on November 18. Although DOC Secretary Carr agrees with us that "Wisconsin has locked up too many for too long at too much cost" and some positive changes are happening, we still have concerns.

DOC reviewed all violations and revocation responses for 2018, with work groups aiming to reduce revocations, reduce the amount of prison resources needed for revocations, reduce the number of individuals in jails on revocation holds, increase the number of community-based alternatives to revocations, and use data better to drive decisions about resource allocation.

The Division of Community Corrections (DCC) reported that in 2018, 17% of its clients (DCC's new term) were revoked: 73% for "criminal behavior" and 27% for non-criminal behavior, the top reasons being failure of Alternatives to Revocation (ATRs) or absconding for more than 6 months.

DCC has drafted a number of proposed policy changes, but did not share them verbatim. Some of its proposed changes require amending parts of the Wisconsin Administrative Code (WAC), which includes a hearing and legislative review, which can take a year or longer. Some of the positive changes, as we understood them, include:

1. Jail revocation holds will be used only if necessary, meaning there is a risk to the public.
2. DCC will not send anyone to Milwaukee Secure Detention facility for ATRs.
3. The 18 standard supervision rules will be reduced to 9, which reduces likelihood of rule violations.
4. After-hours holds: DCC will eliminate automatic custody for certain curfew violations and give agents more discretion.
5. There will be no revocations for alcohol or substance abuse, which is a treatment issue, EXCEPT:
 - a) if all treatment options have been exhausted and alcohol or substance abuse was part of the underlying crime; or,

b) if revocation was a specified condition of supervision in a Judgment of Conviction.

6. There will be an increased number of ATRs via Telehealth because the pandemic has demonstrated that that works; they can do small groups of 1-3 people.
7. The Evidence Based Response to Violations (EBRV) matrix developed 3-4 years ago will remain the key document to determine appropriate sanctions, although some beneficial changes will be to:
 - Remove the category of "very high risk"
 - Require a pattern (not a single incident) for "low-level risk" sanctions
 - Treat a failed ATR as an aggravating factor, not a violation
 - Initiate an ATR only if a violation is first deemed appropriate for revocation

Unfortunately, because of the speed of the presentation and the intense use of DOC terminology, there was a fair amount of confusion. WISDOM's Post Release Task Force has several concerns, such as how the DOC remains adamant that "criminal behavior" for the purpose of revocation is NOT limited to situations in which criminal charges are filed. Also, there is no mention of Act 196 requirements that short-term sanctions minimize impacts on employment & families. ■

MOSES Madison Mission

Our mission is to build collective power to dismantle the systems of mass incarceration and mass supervision and to eradicate the racial disparities in our community that contribute to them.

We envision:

- an end to the systems of mass incarceration and mass supervision;
- an end to systemic racism;
- a reallocation of resources to create racial and economic equity;
- a just society without discrimination in which all people thrive.

Protests Lead to New Hope for Criminal Justice Reform

by Kate Mulligan

Voters in many parts of the country used the ballot box to express their outrage at George Floyd's death and their determination to bring about meaningful criminal justice reform.

According to the Washington Post, "After a summer of protest, Americans voted for policy and criminal justice change." Law professor Ronald Wright told the Post's reporter, "For a long time, we had a very narrow band of possible outcomes that were politically viable.... This year's votes show there is clearly room for more experimentation with other strategies on public safety."

In Wisconsin, efforts to promote police reform were thwarted when Republican leaders in the Assembly and Senate refused to allow debate and voting on police reform bills put forth by Gov. Evers (D) and by Sen. Waangaard (R).

Opportunities will come, however, with the legislative session beginning in 2021. Assembly Speaker Vos (R) appointed a Task Force on Racial Disparities that was charged with finding ways to "address racial disparities, educational opportunities, public safety, and law enforcement policies and standards." Task Force Co-Chair Sheila Stubbs (D) hopes to have a package of bills ready in January. Likely they will be considered along with the bills proposed this year.

Here are some highlights of what has been enacted in other states, counties and cities during this year. They widen our expectations of what can be accomplished and offer new ideas about how to bring about reform.

Reduce drug convictions

Oregon became the first state to decriminalize small amounts of heroin and cocaine. It had already legalized the use of recreational marijuana. Tax revenue from those sales funds addiction and recovery centers. Four other states legalized the sale of recreational marijuana in November. Eleven states had already done so.

Expand social services and housing

Nearly 60 percent of the voters in Los Angeles County approved Measure J, which requires that 10% of locally generated, unrestricted county money — estimated between

\$360 million and \$900 million — be spent on a variety of social services, including housing, mental health treatment, and investments in communities disproportionately harmed by racism. The county will be prohibited from using the money on prisons, jails, or law enforcement agencies.

Strengthen police review boards

Portland will replace its current police oversight board with a new one. Members of the new board will have the authority to subpoena documents, compel officers under investigation to testify, and share investigative findings with the public. The board will have the power to discipline and even terminate police officers.

Ban no-knock warrants

Virginia became the third state in the country to ban no-knock warrants. In June, the Louisville Metro Council passed Breonna's Law, which banned no-knock warrants in Louisville, Ky. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky) introduced a bill that would ban no-knock warrants throughout the country.

Eliminate chokeholds

At least 32 of the nation's 65 largest police departments have banned or strengthened restrictions on the use of chokeholds since May of this year. New York City, which previously had banned their use, found that the ban was insufficient and added the possibility of a criminal charge. New York State passed a similar bill with different criminal penalties.

Expand voting rights

California voters approved a ballot proposition that will permit people on parole to vote after completing their prison sentences. Approximately 50,000 people now on state parole will regain those rights, and countless others will benefit in the future. ■

Why I Am a Sustaining Member

by Deanna Grahm

Why am I a sustaining member? It's a great question that I will answer with what I've been gifted with – membership in MOSES.

When I heard about something called the “Three Strikes” law for Wisconsin, I thought, that makes sense. After one time being locked up and freed, a person would never want to go back and would work hard to follow the laws, right?

When I heard of Truth in Sentencing, I thought this made sense. If someone is charged with a crime, they should do the time. The criminals I saw on TV and in the news were vicious criminals. The two men who beat my cousin to death as he slept deserved to spend the rest of their life in prison for taking a father, sole provider, away from his 3-year-old daughter who was the light of his life.

In my limited experience, the justice system worked like it should, or so I thought.

Then I attended the early meetings of the 11X15 campaign, to cut Wisconsin's prison population to half its current population of 22,000 by 2015. Through those meetings, news events about unjust police killings, and movies and books like *Just Mercy*, *When They See Us*, and *The New Jim Crow*, I learned:

- the laws are unequally applied, that the scales of justice favor wealthy and white criminals and harshly punish the poor and minorities at far greater rates;
- there's systemic racism in our laws and policies;
- those suffering from addiction and mental illness are often incarcerated instead of treated;
- the difference between Old Law and New Law sentencing and how the Old Law prisoners are trapped in the current system;
- the school-to-prison pipeline is functioning too well;

- ex-prisoners are human beings with a story to tell and deserve an opportunity to rejoin the community, and the community should be set up to make this transition as successful as possible;
- private prisons and vendors who service prisons make a profit;
- the prison system is an extension of Jim Crow and slavery;
- involuntary servitude for purposes of punishment is allowed by the U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment.



Deanna Grahm

MOSES has done amazing work in pushing policy, putting pressure on legislators, and bringing to light concrete, proven steps that can be taken to reduce the prison population. The people in MOSES and WISDOM are so committed to making change, even though the work is hard and seems to take forever. The group is dynamic, uber smart, passionate, and motivated. After every meeting, I feel like my brain is exploding with so much valuable information. While I can't currently give the time I would like to give, I feel the work is extremely important, and money is needed to push MOSES to greater outreach, publicity, and power to make more change. A monthly donation is the way I can contribute to positive change, and I proudly do so. ■

Thanks to MOSES sponsors



Hearts Touched and Inspired by Transformation Gala Honorees

by Cindy Lovell

The MOSES Annual Transformation Celebration 2020, held via Zoom on Nov. 21, lifted up the lives of three persons of perseverance and passion who have spent time in prison. Awards were presented by MOSES President Rachel Kincade Morgan to:



John Givens

JustDane Circle of Support
Coordinator, Mentor



Talib Akbar

Solitary Confinement Truck In-
ventor and Coordinator, Advocate



Shanita Lawrence

JustDane Case Manager,
Role Model

Although each honoree's journey into, through, and post incarceration has been unique, the three share an overwhelming drive to help others. Despite experiencing dark times, each found positive role models and supportive programs, and all three attained a higher level of education.

The honorees value family and are living lives full of gratitude and hard work. Not only have they positively transformed their own lives, but they continue to work hard

to transform the lives of others experiencing, or who have experienced, incarceration.

Amid the pandemic, creative MOSES volunteers arranged to hold this year's Gala as a Webinar. The event was a triumphant "sellout," with 100 people registered to attend. Many donations were received during the celebration to continue MOSES' work.



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The evening's events would not have been possible without the contributions of many people and organizations. We extend special thanks to:

Gala Planning Team

Mary Anglim, Sister Joan Duerst, Sister Fran Hoffman, Rachel Kincade Morgan, Ann Lacy, Bonnie Magnuson

Award Reviewers

Sister Joan Duerst for John, Sister Fran Hoffman for



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James Morgan (photography)

Emcee

Carmella Glen, Just Bakery

Meals for Honorees and their Families

Food Junkies



Left: New member Thomas Smith enjoying the Gala along with Margaret and Paul Irwin

Gala Sponsors



Lunch and Learn with Justice Janine Geske

by Margaret Irwin

Justice Janine Geske spoke passionately about the importance of restorative justice at the virtual MOSES Lunch and Learn session on Oct. 22, although she was struggling with Covid-19 at the time. Justice Geske served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court from 1993 to 1998 and now is on the faculty of Marquette University Law School.

While serving as a Milwaukee County circuit court judge, Judge Geske wanted to learn what happened to inmates after she had sentenced them. She began to make visits to prisons, and it was there that she was introduced to the restorative justice movement. She took part in a life-changing three-day event that involved a talking circle. Ideally, talking circles involve the survivor of the harm, the community, and the person who may have caused the harm. Justice Geske explained that the goal of restorative justice is to repair harm. This is done by determining who was harmed, what harm was done, and what can be done to repair the harm.

Restorative justice circles break down stereotypes through storytelling. As participants hear the perpetrator describe what has caused him or her to think and act in certain ways, the nar-

rator emerges as a unique individual. The listeners get a glimpse of the harm the perpetrator previously experienced which contributed to the harming of others.

When a crime is committed, negative ripples move out from the victim to the community, affecting the immediate survivor of harm, family, friends, teachers, employers, and more. The community is not only a victim of the crime, but it also has a role in helping the perpetrator repair harm. Justice Geske has seen great healing occur through the restorative justice process. Unfortunately, very little money is available for this work, and it often comes in the form of short-term grants. She concludes that what is needed for restorative justice to have a greater impact is generous, steady funding. ■



Justice Janine Geske

Prison by Any Other Name: The Harmful Consequences of Popular Reforms

by Maya Schenwar and Victoria Law

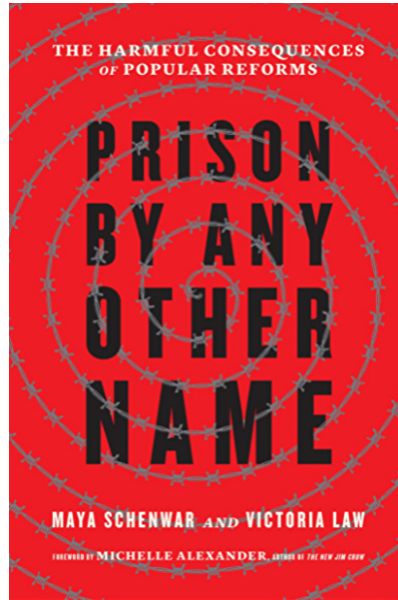
reviewed by Pam Gates

Schenwar and Law, who have each written notably elsewhere about America's vast, overreaching policing of its citizens, here join forces to address the most popular reforms of America's sprawling incarceration system, carefully pointing out why and how each is not a good idea. Michelle Alexander gives the book her stamp of approval in the foreword, and admiration comes as well from activist Angela Davis and Piper Kerman, author of "Orange Is the New Black."

The authors' basic premise is that reforms such as electronic monitoring, house arrest, and extended supervision don't really make things better for the person caught in their grasp; these reforms simply extend the carceral state and increase the likelihood that the person will end up back in prison. If s/he manages to avoid that fate, the restrictions are still extremely limiting; the person is living, at best, only a partial life.

Succeeding chapters address house arrest, involuntary drug or mental health treatment, extended supervision, schools as a part of the prison pipeline, policing parenthood, sex crime registries, and community surveillance of itself. The authors observe that America's overall approach to deviation from the norm is to correct the deviance, sometimes by force if the deviant wishes to avoid imprisonment. They suggest that we need to learn once again to live with these differences among us and to respect them as part of the community. They are not opposed to mental health or drug treatment, for example, if the individual seeks it; they simply doubt the effectiveness of forcing treatment, deeming it little more than an extension of the carceral state.

Schenwar and Law's picture of the carceral state is especially illuminating of its effects on poorer communities. The state becomes Big Brother, and people are also encour-



aged – or told – to report on each other. Is abuse suspected? Does the abuser want help? S/he is often afraid to ask for it, for fear, for example, of having the kids taken away by a state claiming to be helping.

My computer raised doubts about the word carceral, which the authors used frequently, so I checked my 2003 dictionary, which dated the term to circa 1587 and defined it as "of, relating to, or suggesting a jail or prison." I found the definition powerful, particularly the word "suggesting," for I have often thought that our country's accumulation of laws and rules makes many of us feel like we're always in danger of punishment for some infraction, and that we have to be careful

not to get caught. Being white and older and living in a middle-class neighborhood all help a lot; the authors give many examples of people not in those categories who must more actively deal with ever-present threats of incarceration, either literally or in the extended carceral state.

In the last chapter, "Beyond Alternatives," one thing the authors suggest doing about all these problems is, literally, nothing. They point out that we humans have been solving dilemmas for millennia, and if we'd agree to operate as a community, each of us offering our talents and supporting each other as difficulties arose, we could avoid calling the police for every problem that arises. They acknowledge that it is sometimes necessary to call on police expertise, but opine that we've gone way overboard and have given up relying on ourselves as active participants in community.

MOSES and WISDOM are working on recreating that community. This book gives encouragement and depth to our efforts. I encourage us all to read it. ■