



Minding the Gap

Written by the HIV, TB, viral hepatitis and STD programs of Oregon Health Authority
for correctional facilities in Oregon

June 2016

Transition Services for People Living with HIV

HIV RELATED RESOURCES FROM THE NORTHWEST AIDS EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER

- ANNUAL HIV CARE IN CORRECTIONAL SETTINGS CONFERENCE
- CORRECTIONS PRECEPTORSHIP
- FREE ONLINE CONTINUING EDUCATION
- VIDEOS & PRESENTATIONS
- LITERATURE

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FOR MORE
INFORMATION

HIV case managers in Oregon are expected to provide transitional case management services to facilitate an HIV positive inmate's transition from a correctional facility to the community, up to 180 days prior to release.

Transitional Case Management may include commencement of Intake, Screening, Assessment and the development of a care plan which may include referral and/or application to medical insurance, Oregon's AIDS Drugs Assistance Program (CAREAssist), short and long term housing programs, and substance abuse/mental health treatment. HIV case managers are expected to communicate with federal, state and local correctional staff, and maintain a working relationship in order to facilitate the transition of PWLH from jail/prison to the community. If someone in your custody would like a referral to case management, please help the inmate complete and submit our [Release of Information Form](#) and [Referral Form](#), up to 180 days prior to their anticipated release. Once received, staff within the Oregon Health Authority will forward the request on to the appropriate case management agency based on the inmates anticipated county of release for follow-up and service provision. Questions about this process can be directed to Christy.j.hudson@state.or.us. Appropriate forms can be found [here](#).

An interview with Chris Stenken, CARELink Coordinator at Cascade AIDS Project (CAP)

1) Who does the CareLink program serve, and what types of services are available?

CareLink is a program that serves HIV positive individuals who are transitioning out of prison or jail, as well those newly diagnosed and those having trouble engaging in medical care. We provide short term intensive case management and help connect people to HIV specialists, insurance, housing, mental health and substance abuse treatment. We help with scheduling or attending medical appointments with clients, and provide education on HIV and health, relationships, and overcoming stigma. CareLink serves persons who are being released to Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Columbia, Yamhill and Clark Counties.

2) Can you provide an example of how your services helped someone experience a successful transition out of a correctional facility?

Joe L.* (*name changed), was due to release from Columbia River Correctional Institution (CRCI) in four months when he was referred to CareLink through his release counselor at CRCI. We began corresponding with Joe and were able to complete housing applications in the first week of contact as well as set up a plan for transitional housing upon release. Joe took advantage of housing provided through his Parole Officer in a single room occupancy in downtown Portland. Joe met with a CareLink Navigator in the first week after release to confirm his insurance coverage and set up medical care with an HIV specialist. The housing waitlist that Joe had signed up for when we began contact at CRCI had an opening 20 days after his release, and he was able to move in within a month of release to his own subsidized apartment. After a month of being back in the community, Joe was starting to get back on his feet and reconnect to needed resources to support him on his journey.

3) How can an inmate be referred to your services?

Referrals for persons leaving a correctional facility in Oregon (federal, state or local) can be directed to the Oregon Health Authority, HIV Care and Treatment Program. See referral form for more information. For more information about CareLink, contact Chris at cstenken@cascadeaids.org, 503-278-3832

Contact us!

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