

Conversation with Mike Lloyd – Indiana Dept. of Corrections
May 5, 2014

1. Q - You have had a number of years working within the correctional field. How do you feel about alternative sentencing programs like Craine House and what do you see in the future for this kind of correctional programming?

A - "There are some bad people that truly belong in prison; but there is a large number of people that did not intentionally do wrong or just plain made bad choices. I believe we should 'sanction' this group, not imprison them. Leaving these individuals in the community seeks to keep families together; taxes paid, and offer opportunities for programming."

"The future is pointing to utilizing the alternative sentencing idea more; especially for low risk offenders."

2. Q - What is your opinion of Craine House? Do you see this type of programming in the correctional institutions becoming more common? Would you say Craine House might be a model for this type of programming?

A - "I like the Craine House concept. With that being said, I am aware of what goes on within the Craine House structure."

"But I don't understand why there aren't more of these programs like Craine House throughout Indiana. Evansville, Ft. Wayne, Bloomington, etc. Because, for low risk women with children, it makes sense to do this – the family is not penalized because someone in the family made a bad choice. The prison population for women is skyrocketing – women become pawns in many situations – one example is; delivering drugs for a dealer and getting caught with drug possession."

3. Q - Since Craine House specializes in helping women (primarily with young children) in the traditional prison system to learn skills and be better prepared to transition back to their communities, can you see us expanding these services and having similar programs to include a larger variety of the female population in prison?

A - "Currently, there are many residential programs available in the prison system for low-risk women. They primarily teach job/employment skills and learning to respect the rules which are both very necessary, but counseling, emotional support, etc. are not as prominent in this setting. That is where Craine House differs."

"It is important to get those low-risk offenders away from prison and the culture of prison."

4. Q - Since you are familiar with Craine House, do you have any ideas to improve the efficacy in our programs or procedures, especially working with the DOC?
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A - "One of the most important things that I highlight is staff being respectful. I encourage my staff to be teachers/coaches/mentors/role models with the prison population. Social workers as well as monitoring staff can be more effective using that technique. No 'talking down' (one extreme) or no 'enabling' (the other extreme). Respectful staff makes respectful offenders."

"Sometimes you must go through people in various staff positions in order to find the right people to operate a work release center; but when you do, it makes a big difference in overall success."

5. Q - The board for Craine House is ramping up efforts to educate the community about what we do here at Craine House. How can we, the DOC and Craine House, work together to help educate them and improve the perception of alternative sentencing as a means to help the entire community?
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A - "Data – this is very important. If you can gather the data, publish the data and show the effectiveness of your program that would be a good step. For example, collect a certain set of statistics over 3 years – then publish this data for the community to see. Make sure your website and other literature have these statistics. Your small, green brochure is nice but you really need data to make it more effective."

"Also, visit the Kiwanis's, Rotary, other service organizations. Visit your neighbors and introduce yourselves. What about your neighborhood association?"

6. Q - Do you have any questions or comments about our responsibilities as board members for Craine House? i.e., the operation of Craine House?
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A - "No questions, just some comments. Keep doing exactly what you are doing right now! The board members must stay involved and active. Encourage board development and education regarding the focus of Craine House. Board members that are active and involved help the organization become even more effective. And, if you are an uninvolved board member, you are just as responsible as the active board member when things are going well, or not going so well. So it is personally important to stay connected."

Interviewer: Marilyn Day – Board Member