



Issue Brief

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Hospice

Overview

The Hospice/End of Life Care program at the Department of Corrections (DOC) began in 1999 at the Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP). Currently, Oregon has a Hospice program located within five institutions: OSP, Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF), Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution (EOCI), Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI) and Two Rivers Correctional Institution (TRCI).

Over the years, the need for Hospice/End of Life Care has increased. Many inmates have expressed fears about dying in prison and the Hospice/Palliative Care program is designed to help and give hope to inmates who fear sickness and death.

Hospice Care

Hospice exists to provide support and care for inmates in the last phases of their life so they may live as fully and comfortably as possible. The program recognizes the dying process as a natural, normal part of the life cycle and focuses on maintaining the quality of life. These programs are modeled after the community standards for hospice programs.

The following services are provided for inmates who receive Hospice care from DOC:

- Physician Services
- Nursing Services
- Pastoral Care
- Bereavement Services
- Social Work Services
- Volunteer Services, such as assistance with activities of daily living

- Ancillary Services, such as accommodations for nutrition needs and friends and family visitation

Certification

DOC's hospice program meets the essential care standards of community-based hospice programs in Oregon. DOC End of Life care and Hospice programs are reviewed every three years by the Oregon Hospice Association.

Inmate Volunteers

A key component of the Oregon DOC Hospice program is inmate volunteers. Inmates are given the opportunity to do good things for others. They volunteer their time and receive no compensation or reduction of their sentence for the services they provide. In addition, the volunteer work does not replace the mandated work requirements all inmates must meet.

Inmate volunteers receive the same training as a community hospice volunteer. They have 30 hours of extensive training before they take the responsibility to care for a person needing hospice care. During training, the inmates learn about the concepts of death and dying, communication with the dying, diseases, spiritual and psychosocial dynamics of death and dying, grief and care and comfort measures.

Upon completion of the training, inmate volunteers work alongside experienced volunteers and health care staff. ■

**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by holding
offenders accountable for their actions
and reducing the risk of future
criminal behavior.**



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