

SELF-IMPROVEMENT GROUP PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

 / /
FROM: Lifers & Long-Termers of MCI Shirley

TO: Superintendent of MCI Shirley

Re: Shirley Lifers Group

Dear Superintendent:

Enclosed please find our "Self-Improvement Group Application Form" in which we propose to you the establishment of the Shirley Lifers Group.

We have done our best to comport to the submission requirements of 103 DOC 473, and envision a group which will serve the needs of the lifers and long-termers here at MCI Shirley. This group will also serve the Department of Correction in meeting its goal of providing offenders programs that afford them opportunities to make real reparations to society, while also serving the victims of crime by providing a visible example of the accountability process.

The proposed group would require a minimum of services from the facility. Our hopes are to be allowed to meet once per month in the facility chow hall, while also being afforded consideration for special activities as they may arise, and for which would be sought via the means of a "Special Activity Application".

The men who have worked on the vision for this proposed group take that responsibility extremely seriously. We hope to be able to work with your office to make this group one which will make both the population and administration at MCI Shirley proud.

Thank you so much for your time and anticipated serious consideration of our proposal. We welcome and encourage your input and involvement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lifers & Long-Termers of
MCI Shirley

SELF IMPROVEMENT GROUP APPLICATION FORM

Date: _____

Institution: MCI Shirley

Program Title: Shirley Lifers' Group

Space and Meeting Time Requirements: Inmate Chow Hall - Once Monthly
7:PM to 8:30 PM

Approval: Yes No

Superintendent Date

Approval: Yes No

Director, Re-Entry & Program Services Date

Approval: Yes No

Deputy Commissioner, Classification, Programs and Reentry Division Date

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Program Description: Detailed explanation of the purpose of the group. This weekly discussion group is based on a behavior modification model that employs pro-social, empirically study proven, peer cooperation techniques effective in addressing conduct disorders and anti-social behavior patterns. The program will afford a multi-axial system providing a fertile biopsychosocial environment that promotes and enhances interpersonal relationships which will optimize reparation efforts.

The program agenda will include updates and education on the topics of commutation, parole, legislative efforts, legal developments, and community reparation efforts, while always maintaining a responsible, respectful, honest and caring environment through which the group can best serve its membership.

The establishment of the Shirley Lifers' Group will assist the Department of Correction in meeting its long-term goal of developing programs that provide offenders the opportunity to make reparations to society.

Program Goals and Objectives: Identify the intended program goals and objectives. The Shirley Lifers' Group will educate and inform its members, through active participation and discussion, in an effort to promote public safety by fostering an environment of safe, secure and humane confinement. It will assist with successful community reentry and afford various opportunities for positive behavior change which will optimize community reparation efforts.

Pro-criminal thinking and beliefs will be reduced through a peer therapy model addressing impulsivity, poor coping skills, and relationships with criminal others. The problem solving skills the group will foster play an important role in creating a productive prison climate with the ultimate goal of reducing recidivism and healing the community.

Through the group's reparation efforts the victims of crime will be served in a multi-dimensional fashion affording visibility in the accountability process, conformity to resocialization techniques, while expanding the properties of growth to create a true healing environment. The ultimate goal of the program will be to increase the safety of the public.

The group would require the use of the inmate chow hall once per month for its meetings. The meetings would be held from 7:PM to 8:30 PM. Periodic "Special Activities" would be scheduled. These activities would be requested through the 103 DOC 473 "Special Activity Application".

Describe the benefits to the inmate population:

The immediate benefits of the Shirley Lifers' Group would be in the form of offering the Lifer and Long-Termer prison population an opportunity to participate in a group socialization environment which offers productive pro-social avenues for addressing individual rehabilitative needs.

The future rehabilitative benefits of the Shirley Lifers' Group will be in the form of developments toward effective reparation opportunities. Members will be able to play a role in their own destinies, increasing self-esteem and coping skills, while creating a positive "trickle-down" effect for the entire institution population. The importance of men being directly involved, in a personal manner, in their wide spectrum rehabilitation and reparation process cannot be gainsaid. The Shirley Lifers' Group will build a sense of pride among its members through which the victims of crime can be best served.

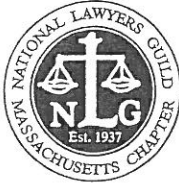
Rehabilitative Benefits: (Describe the immediate and future rehabilitative benefits for the offender.)

Immediate rehabilitative benefits:

Study proven effective resocialization environment which fosters a productive rehabilitative climate toward real reparations.

Future rehabilitative benefits:

Installation of coping skills and increased self-esteem which creates fertile platforms from which to rehabilitate, work for victim reparations, and advance the cause for public safety.



NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD

Massachusetts Chapter, Inc.

14 Beacon St., Suite 407, Boston, MA 02108

tel. 617-227-7335 • fax: 617-227-5495 • nlgmass@igc.org • www.nlgmass.org

Timothy J. Muise, #W66927
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464

March 21, 2011

Re: Support for Lifers Group at MCI Shirley

Dear Mr. Muise:

Thank you for contacting the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild in this matter. We are pleased to learn and strongly support your efforts to establish a Lifers Group at MCI Shirley.

As a jailhouse lawyer member of the National Lawyers Guild since 2001, frequent contributor to our publication *Mass Dissent*, and former member of the Board of Directors of the Lifers Group at MCI Norfolk, we hope the Department of Corrections considers and approves your proposal to recognize a Lifers Group at MCI Shirley and wish you great luck in your endeavor.

The National Lawyers Guild is an association of progressive lawyers, law students, paralegals, judges, legal secretaries, and community activists. Our members collaborate in using the law for social, political, and economic justice. We are an affiliate of the National Lawyers Guild, founded in 1937 as an organization dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system.

In Solidarity,

Sara K. DeConde
National Lawyers Guild, Massachusetts Chapter

JUDGE RICHARD L. BANKS COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM, INC.
964 Parker Street
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522 - 7870 Judgerlbankscjp@aol.com

April 1, 2011

Timothy J. Muise, W66927
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464-1218

RE: Response to your letter, dated March 22, 2011
Letter of Support for a proposed Lifers' Group at MCI Shirley
Review of Proposal and Endorsement

Dear Mr. Muise,

Thank you again for another kind and very professional letter. As stated in our prior letter to you, in order for our organization to issue a Letter of Support and/or to serve as any type of community liaison, we would first need to review, analyze, and comment on your formal proposal to the DOC.

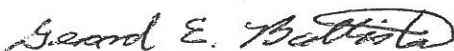
I have reviewed your proposal document and our organization issues this Letter of Support with the following explicit conditions and terms:

- 1.) All meetings, activities, and coordination clearly fall within the Department of Corrections policies, legal procedures, and approval;
- 2.) The primary mission is for the pro-social development of all the participants;
- 3.) Rehabilitation, restoration, and redemption will always be the focus.

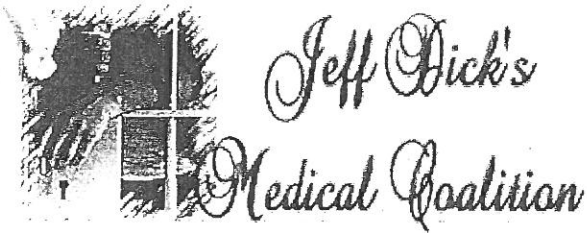
I request that you continue to update our organization with the status of progress. Attached is a brief summary of the services available and offered to clients.

If you have any questions, require additional information, and/or seek further clarity, don't hesitate to contact us directly. Again, we highly commend your pro-social and constructive endeavors for personal and professional development and wish you continued success.

Very truly yours,



Gerard E. Battista, MBA, MS, JD
Deputy Director
cc: Eva H. Clark, Esq., Executive Director
Enclosure



Shirley Dicks, Founder
PO Box 342
Beechgrove, TN 37018
www.jeffdicks.net

Susan Huskins
P.O.Box 5094
Framingham Ma. 01701
susanhuskins1@verizon.net

Date: March 21, 2011

To: Luis S. Spencer,
Acting Commissioner
50 Maple St. Suite 3
Milford Ma. 01757

From: Susan Huskins, Mass State Coordinator
PO Box 5094
Framingham, Ma. 01701
susanhuskins1@verizon.net

Re: Timothy J. Muise, W66927
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, Ma. 01464

I would like to ask you to give consideration to the men at Shirley Medium who would like to start a Lifers Group. I have worked with Mr. Muise for many years and feel that he will be a valuable asset to this program. In the past, Mr. Muise has worked with me in a capacity of helping other prisoners to contact me for medical intervention. I have found Tim to be a caring and compassionate person. Tim has asked me if I would be willing to act as a community liaison and I have no problem in doing that.

On the Department of Correction's website, it states that your mission is to promote public safety by managing offenders while providing care and appropriate programming in preparation for successful reentry into the community. I can not think of a better way for these men to rehabilitate themselves than to work together to achieve a goal or to help others. In fact, I believe that every facility should be allowed to start one of these programs, if they so choose.

We at the Jeff Dicks Medical Coalition are asking that you allow these men to rehabilitate themselves and to help others that may not be able to help themselves. It is my belief that by caring about others, these men are rehabilitating themselves and will be successful when they do return to their communities.

INCARCERATION WITHOUT REHABILITATION
AND MEDICAL CARE IS A CRIME!

Real Cost of Prisons Project
Publishers of Real Cost of Prisons Comic Books

Lois Ahrens
Director
5 Warfield Place
Northampton, MA 01060

June 17, 2011

Mr. Timothy J. Muise
#W66927
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA 01464

Dear Mr. Muise:

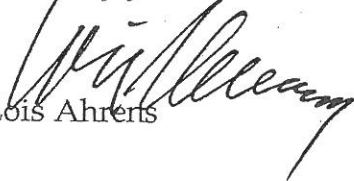
I am writing in support of the proposal to establish a "Lifers' Group" at MCI Shirley.

In my experience working with the Lifers' Group at Norfolk which included speaking at Norfolk, communicating with Lifers' members so that they had the up-to-date research they need for advocating on behalf of all prisoners at Norfolk and the Commonwealth, I have witnessed the constructive role a Lifers' Group plays within a prison.

Additionally, in my years of contact with Lifers' Groups I have come to understand the important positive role a Lifers' Group plays in mentoring younger prisoners and prisoners new to the system. A Lifers' Group provides education, positive connections and a productive way to live one's sentence in addition to physical activity and often too much TV watching.

I wish you all the best in the effort to establish a Lifers' Group at Shirley.

Sincerely yours,


Lois Ahrens

Timothy J. Muise
MCI Shirley
P.O. Box 1218
Shirley, MA
01464-1218

August 15, 2011

TO: ALL CONCERNED PARTIES

**Re: LIFERS & LONG-TERMERS GROUP at MCI SHIRLEY
PROPOSAL DESTINATIONS - ATTENTION**

Executive Branch/Office of the Governor

His Excellency Deval Patrick
Governor of the Commonwealth
State House

William "Mo" Cowan
Chief Legal Counsel
Office of the Governor

Ken Brown
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
State House

Elizabeth Morningstar
Secretary of Cabinet Affairs
Office of the Governor

Rebecca Deusser
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor

Ron Bell
Director of Community Affairs
Office of the Governor

Executive Branch/Office of Public Safety

Mary Beth Heffernan
Secretary of Public Safety

Sandra McCroom
Undersecretary for Criminal Justice
Office of Public Safety

Michael Coelho
Chief of Staff
Office of Public Safety

Gregory I. Massing
General Counsel
Office of Public Safety

(1)

(cont.)

Office of Public Safety (Cont.)

Catherine Bailey
Assistant General Counsel
Office of Public Safety

Legislative Branch/Federal

John F. Kerry
United States Senator
Boston, MA

Ashley O'Neill
Legislative Aide
Office of John F. Kerry

Legislative Branch/State

Patricia Jehlen
State Senator
State House

Lauren Sacco
Legislative Aide
Office of Patricia Jehlen
State House

Sonia Chang-Diaz
State Senator
State House

Lauren Brooks
Legal Counsel
Office of Sonia Chang-Diaz
State House

Stephen M. Brewer
Senator/Chair
Ways and Means Committee

James E. Timilty
Senator/Chair
Public Safety Committee

Jennifer E. Benson
State Representative/Shirley District
State House

Department of Correction

Luis Spencer
Commissioner of Correction
Milford, MA

Veronica Madden
Deputy Commissioner
Milford, MA

Paul DiPaolo
Acting - Deputy Commissioner
Milford, MA

Duane MacEachern
Associate Deputy Commissioner/Northern Sector
Concord, MA

Kristie Ladouceur
Director of Administrative Resolution
Milford, MA

William Millhomme
Director of Volunteer Services
Framingham, MA

Private Sector

Lois Ahrens
Real Cost of Prisons Project
Northampton, MA

Sue Huskins
Jeff Dicks Medical Coalition
Framingham, MA

Eva Clark
Judge Richard Banks Justice Center
Roxbury, MA

Urszula Masny-Latos
National Lawyers Guild
Boston, MA

**** Numerous other private sector supporters have been contacted.**

***** The listed individuals, officials, and agencies were all contacted by Timothy Muise and provided with a copy of the MCI Shirley Lifers and Long-Termers Group "Proposal". They were contacted after no response was received from MCI Shirley administrators regarding the submission of the "Lifers Group" proposal.**

This concludes the involvement of Timothy J. Muise in the Proposal Steering Committee.

PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Date: _____

Institution: MCI SHIRLEY

Program Title: FAMILY REUNIFICATION DAY

Program Start Date: _____

Supervising Staff: Name & Title: Christine Brockelman, Director of Treatment

Staff Facilitator(s): Name & Title: Deacon Art Roger, Catholic Chaplain

Volunteer Facilitator(s): Name: _____

Target Population: MCI SHIRLEY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Referral Process: Sign-Up with Catholic Chaplain's Office

of Participants: 100 Open or Closed Enrollment: OPEN

Length of Session: 4hrs # of Sessions per Week: _____ Total # of Sessions: 1

Materials/Supplies: Sound Equipment and CD Player, All supplied by Catholic Chaplain's Office

Funding Source: _____ Associated Costs: _____

Space Requirements: MCI SHIRLEY VISITING ROOM

Please attach applicable item:

Curriculum: Yes No Lesson Plan: Yes No

Agenda: Yes No Rules: Yes No

Approval: Yes No

Superintendent

Date

Approval: Yes No

Director, Program Services

Date

Approval: Yes No

Deputy Commissioner, Classification, Programs
and Reentry Division

Date

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Program Description: (Outline of the curriculum, agenda and/or lesson plan to include a description of how the program supports the Department of Correction's mission, vision and core values. In addition, please attach a copy of the full curriculum, agenda and/or lesson plan). This spiritual topic based group discussion program will adhere to a religious theme to be selected by the keynote speaker. Small and large group reflections will engage the participants to explore the foundations of healing in a responsible, respectful, honest, and caring environment. This healing process is invaluable in serving the victims of crime through the deep understanding of the rehabilitative process it affords the family of offenders, who live with crime victims in the community. There will be a "Breaking of the Bread" segment which instills the importance of sharing as the "Family of Christ. This effective form of programming will promote public safety and work to reduce recidivism. (see Attached Program Agenda)

Specify the treatment model (ie: group, one on one, discussion based etc.) utilized in the service delivery. Group Discussion - Topic Based - Spiritual

1) **"Psychospiritual Perspective Method"**

Joan Borysenko, PhD.

- a) Healing the Child Within, from Guilt is the Teacher, Love is the Lesson.
- b) Healing the Shame that Binds You, from Guilt is the Teacher, Love is the Lesson.

2) **"Stress, Appraisal, and Coping"**

Richard S. Lazarus, Ph.D. & Susan Folkman, Ph.D.

If applicable, specify the theory or research on which the treatment model is based, include information on program efficacy if available.

The healing avenues afforded through the Group Discussion Model utilized at the Family Reunification Day, avenues that enhance interpersonal relationships and optimize reparation efforts, instill pro-social, empirically study proven, peer cooperation techniques, which will work toward reducing negative attitudinal perspectives, while restoring self-esteem through the accountability process. When the Family Reunification Day Program was held at MCI Norfolk it was embraced & heralded by staff, families, and the prisoner participants. (Psychospiritual Perspective Method, J. Borysenko, Ph.D.) Specify the dynamic criminogenic risk factors/behaviors (ie: pro-criminal thinking, pro-criminal beliefs/attitudes, impulsivity, poor coping skills, relationships with criminal others, poor problem solving skills, egocentrism, low frustration tolerance) that are targeted by the program.

The healing afforded through the Family Reunification Day Program directly confronts beliefs & attitudes surrounding pro-criminal thinking, inadequate problem solving skills, while addressing low frustration tolerances and the separation anxiety that stems from the fractured family/societal unit
(Stress, Appraisal, and Coping: R.S. Lazarus, Ph.D., & S. Folkman, Ph.D.)

Describe what impact the program will have on:

- Institutional operations (ie: staffing, space requirements, associated costs)

Minimal staffing requirements (two corrections officers) will be needed due to the attendance of the Catholic Chaplain, the approved volunteers, and the keynote speaker. The visiting room will be utilized during a "non-visit" period. The costs of food and drink will be covered by the guests using vending machine cards.

- Victims of crime, the community, family members of offenders, staff (ie: possible objections to the program)

The victims of crime are served through the community healing and reparation techniques this valuable program will teach. There should be minimal objections to this program due to the many positive benefits which are fully in line with the departments mission, vision, and core values.

- Climate of the institution

Family Reunification Day will improve the climate of the institution due to the positive healing effect it will have on offenders. When offenders are afforded meaningful avenues to work toward self-actualization they affect the overall attitude of the facilities population.

- Volunteer availability

The requested volunteers have already confirmed their availability.

Is a deduction from sentence (earned good time credits) recommended for successful participation in this program? If so, justify why earned goodtime is appropriate and how much earned goodtime should be awarded per month?

No earned good time will be awarded.

Program Goals/Outcomes: (Identify the intended program goals/outcomes).

Family Reunification Day is a healing endeavor designed to heal the offenders, offenders families, and the victims of crime and their families by addressing criminal thinking, self-esteem issues, low frustration tolerences, and seperation anxiety related problems that stem from the fractured family/societal unit. Offenders will come away from the program with a renewed sense of responsibility derived from the positive interactions of the groups, while being restored with self-esteem through true feelings of being accountable for their criminal actions. A greater understanding of the serious ramifications of crime will be afforded, thus enhancing inter-personal relationships and making efforts for reparation more sincere and effective. Such reparation efforts benefit victims of crime.

Rehabilitative Benefits/Spiritual Value: (Describe the immediate and future rehabilitative benefits and/or the spiritual value for the offender).

Immediate rehabilitative benefits:

Renewed self-esteem and responsiblity. New sense of "I Can!" which directs the rehabilitative desire in the incarcerated. The reduction of negative thought processes will immediately impact adjustment to societal norms. The sense of renewed self-esteem will have an immediate impact of the attitudes of the program participants peers, fostering a positive rehabilitative environment in the facility.

Future rehabilitative benefits:

Personal accountability for actions forcing pro-social thought processes that correct criminal thinking and allow for successful reentry and reparations. Pro-social thinking replaces anti-social criminal thinking, increasing the public safety through the release of prepared offenders upon completion of their sentences.

Spiritual value:

The connectedness that comes from this healing endeavor instills a sense of the larger family of man. When an offenders heart becomes full with the spirit of healing he can achieve more than ever before. Seeds will be planted at this program that will bloom brightly during the reentry process. The positive affect this will have toward increasing the public safety cannot be gainsaid.

F A M I L Y R E U N I F I C A T I O N D A Y
 A T M C I S H I R L E Y
 * * * * *
 " A G E N D A "

DATE:

TIME: 1:PM to 5:PM

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PARTICIPANT(S)</u>
1:00 to 1:29	Set-Up/Seating of Families	Shawn F., Jerry C., Sean H.
1:30 to 1:35	Opening Prayer Keynote Speaker Intro	Tim M.
1:36 to 1:45	Program Intro	Joe Lab.
1:46 to 2:10	Keynote Topic Speech	Keynote Speaker
2:11 to 2:30	Small Group Discussions	All Participants
2:31 to 2:50	Break	All Participants
2:51 to 3:15	Large Group Discussion	All Participants
3:16 to 4:20	Breaking of the Bread Family of Christ	All Participants
4:21 to 4:30	Keynote Summary Closing Prayer	Keynote Speaker Ken S.
4:31 to 4:45	Goodbyes	All Participants
4:46 to 5:00	Clean-Up	Tim M., Billy B., Jerry C., Shawn F., Sean H., Joe Lab.

FAMILY REUNIFICATION DAY
TREATMENT MODEL REFERENCES

* * * * *

1) PSYCHOSPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE METHOD

Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

From: Guilt is the Teacher, Love is the Lesson

by Joan Borysenko, Ph.D.

Warner Books, Inc.

666 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY

10103

ISBN #0-446-51465-9

2) STRESS, APPRAISAL, AND COPING

Richard S. Lazarus, Ph.D. & Susan Folkman, Ph.D

From: Stress, Appraisal, and Coping

by Richard S. Lazarus, Ph.D. & Susan Folkman, Ph.D.

Springer Publishing Company, Inc.

11 West 42nd Street

New York, NY

10036-8002

ISBN #0-8261-4191-9

FAMILY REUNIFICATION DAY

AT MCI SHIRLEY

"SIGN-UP SHEET"

Family Reunification Day at MCI Shirley is an adult event. Guests must be at least 18 years of age. The limit for guests is two (2) unless you arrange special permission from the Director of Treatment. The event will take place on _____, 2011, from 1:PM to 5:PM, and your guests need to be in the visiting entry area by no later than 12:15 PM for processing.

NAME OF INMATE: _____ COMMITMENT No. _____

UNIT: _____ CELL #: _____

GUEST #1:

NAME: _____ D.O.B.: ____/____/____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

HAVE THEY VISITED MCI SHIRLEY PREVIOUSLY? YES _____ NO _____

GUEST #2:

NAME: _____ D.O.B.: ____/____/____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

HAVE THEY VISITED MCI SHIRLEY PREVIOUSLY? YES _____ NO _____

Stephen J. Pope



Professor

21 Campanella Way, Room 319
Boston College
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Phone: 617-552-3892

Fax: 617-552-0794

Email: stephen.pope.1@bc.edu

[Curriculum Vitae](#)

Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:30 p.m.

EDUCATION

BA, Philosophy and Theology, Gonzaga University, 1977

MA, Divinity, University of Chicago, 1983

Ph.D., Ethics and Society, University of Chicago, 1988

Dissertation: "The Contributions of Contemporary Biological Anthropology to Recent Roman Catholic Interpretations of Love" (advisor: J. Gustafson)

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Stephen J. Pope received his Ph.D. in theological ethics from the University of Chicago in 1988. He teaches courses on social ethics and theological ethics. He has written *The Evolution of Altruism and the Ordering of Love* (Georgetown, 1994) and *Human Evolution and Christian Ethics* (Cambridge, 2007), and he has edited *Essays on the Ethics of St. Thomas Aquinas* (Georgetown, 2001). He and his wife have three children and reside in West Roxbury, Massachusetts.