

Improve Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

Amend: Changing Correctional Culture

Working together for safer communities



What is Amend?

Amend is a physician-led program based in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco that draws on public health, occupational health, and correctional principles and practices from the Norwegian Correctional Service to improve the health and wellbeing of correctional staff and incarcerated people. In the Norwegian correctional system, these principles and practices have significantly reduced prison violence, boosted staff and incarcerated individual health and morale, and ultimately dramatically increased the likelihood of successful reentry leading to less crime and safer communities.

Amend has chosen to work closely with four U.S. state prison systems – Washington, Oregon, California, North Dakota – that are committed to finding new, healthier, and more effective approaches to corrections. The Amend approach is to take inspiration from Norway, other countries and from relevant medical and public health models to support their partners in U.S. corrections to develop their own, innovative methods that work best for their state.

Why is Amend important?

The mission of DOC is to improve public safety by positively changing lives. In order to accomplish this, we need to do everything in our power to improve the health and wellness of our staff and the people in our custody and care. We need to proactively build healthy interactions among staff and between staff and incarcerated individuals. Amend provides a blueprint for us to move forward.

What can you expect and how can you ask questions or get involved?

Staff may start to engage in more in-depth conversations with incarcerated individuals than before and show a genuine interest in incarcerated individuals' rehabilitative plans and progress. Some people work here, and others live here, but we are all part of the same community. More details of program specifics will be provided as our work with Amend develops, and we welcome your direct participation in this development.

You can get involved immediately by simply being sure that you treat everyone you encounter in the prisons, whether staff or incarcerated individuals, as fellow human beings worthy of dignity and respect.

The Department's work with Amend is currently focused at Stafford Creek Corrections Center, Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women, Washington Corrections Center for Women, Ahtanum View Reentry Center, Bellingham Reentry Center, Bishop Lewis Reentry Center, Tri Cities Reentry Center and the correctional officer Training and Development Unit with plans to reach more sites in the coming years.

For more information on Amend, please contact:
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“At Amend, we recognize that US prisons have had a devastating impact on the physical and mental health of residents and staff alike.” -Dr. Brie Williams, Founding Director of Amend.