

# MOSES



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity  
**for Criminal Justice Reform**

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## Crimeless Revocation

### What is Crimeless Revocation?

Crimeless revocation is the practice of re-incarcerating people on probation, parole or extended supervision for violating often minor rules of supervision.

Unfortunately, Wisconsin's revocation policies lead to the unnecessary incarceration of thousands of men and women each year. These policies, which disproportionately harm people of color and people with disabilities, tear families apart, disrupt communities, and drain resources that could instead be used to build safer and stronger communities.

### Impact

A recent health impact assessment, *Excessive Revocations in Wisconsin*, demonstrates that Wisconsin revoked 3,000 individuals for crimeless revocations in 2015 alone. Thousands of others who were not revoked were held in county jails and state detention facilities.

Nearly half of people revoked without a new criminal conviction were parents. The impacts of incarceration extend beyond the people locked up, and are associated with wide-ranging detrimental effects on children and families. The report finds that in 2015, an estimated 2,700 kids were at increased risk of poverty with a father's incar-

ceration, and 1,600 kids in Wisconsin may have lost primary financial support with a parent's incarceration. (Read the complete study at [SentBack.org](http://SentBack.org).)

### Inconsistency

Revocation policies are applied inconsistently in Wisconsin. The Department of Corrections has yet to clearly implement the state law calling on the DOC to create short-term responses for people who break the rules of supervision and to determine how to reward those who comply with the rules of supervision. Current practice is inconsistent. There is too little training, lack of written policy, and inconsistent opportunity to improve DOC data collection.

Furthermore, research shows that incarcerating people for breaking rules of supervision doesn't improve public safety.

### Cost

In 2015, \$147 million was spent on crimeless revocation at a time when budgets for community mental health, restorative justice and diversion programs were struggling for funding. In addition to monetary costs, incarcerating individuals for crimeless revocations destroys lives because people often lose jobs, housing and the opportunity to support their families.

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### Executive Committee

Eric Howland, President  
 Carolyn Moynihan-Bradt,  
 Vice-President  
 Talib Akbar, Vice President  
 Ann Lacy, Financial Secretary  
 Rain Zephyr, Treasurer  
 Alison Mix, Secretary  
 Pam Gates, Assistant Secretary  
 Joan Duerst,  
 Religious Leaders Caucus

### Operational Team Leads

Communications  
 Alison Mix  
 Tina Hogle  
 Data/Information  
 Terry Millar  
 Becca Everett  
 Event Programming  
 Lucy Gibson  
 Todd Marcotte  
 Event Logistics  
 Linda Wills  
 Talib Akbar  
 Fundraising  
 Rachel Kincade  
 Media/Government Relations  
 Gil Halstead  
 Jeanie Vershay  
 Recruitment and Retention  
 Karen Julesberg  
 Frank Davis  
 MOSES Justice System Reform  
 Task Force  
 Paul Saeman  
 Jeanie Verschay

## Organizer's Corner

### MOSES for Change

It is a pleasure and an honor to be in a position to help push MOSES forward because we stand at the crossroads of "Change or Die Trying," and for many in the Wisconsin Justice System the need for change is as simple and desperate as that. We need change for people sentenced under the Old Law but subjected to New Law penalties, who are forced to spend many more years in prison than their sentencing judge intended. We need change for the parolee who hasn't broken any criminal laws but can lose his freedom and be returned to prison for several years for nothing more than breaking a rule of supervision. We need change for the individuals with addiction and mental health issues who are made worse by sitting inside solitary confinement units for 48 x's longer than the United Nations would deem to be torture (15 days). We also need change for the children, family members, and taxpayers who are affected by the system. The battle we fight is personal, important and necessary. It is local, with an impact on the state and national levels.

In the coming months and years, MOSES will be rolling out new ways for people to get engaged with our issues and the community through community forums, outdoor fundraisers, town hall meetings, leadership training, community picnics, and many other great ideas. We are also keeping our eye on the coming elections and will be working with

other local organizations to roll out a Voter Engagement campaign.

Stay tuned and stay connected through our monthly meetings, monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website; by doing so you'll become informed about community actions, events, and movements that affect our city and state.

### Teams are underway!

Thanks to all who have volunteered to work with one of our seven operational teams. The teams had an opportunity to work together during the planning and execution of Breakfast-2-Go. As we continue to work together, we're honing and refining our processes. We need you!

Please look at the team descriptions on page 4 and contact the team leader of the team that you think would make the best use of your gifts, talents, and skills.



Frank Davis, Community Organizer  
davisfrank32@gmail.com  
608-445-9811

## Upcoming Events

### WISDOM Conference Calls (712) 432-1601

- Old Law: June 10th 8:30 am (code 423950)
- Solitary Confinement: June 13th at 4:00 pm (code 423950)
- Prison Prevention: June 13th at 5:00 pm (code 423950)
- Post-Release: June 22nd at 7:30 pm (code 423951)

### MOSES Justice System Reform (MJSR) Task Force

- MJSR Task Force Education Focus Group: June 5, 10:00 am at Olbrich Gardens
- MJSR Monthly Meeting: June 11, 6:30-8:30 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church

### Events

- Juneteenth Celebration: June 17th, 10:00 am-6:00 p.m., Penn Park
- Breakfast-2-Go: July 11, location to be determined

### MOSES Summer meetings

- July 1<sup>st</sup> at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Society
- August 5<sup>th</sup> (location to be announced)

## One Family's Crimeless Revocation Experience

by James Morgan

In 2010-11 I found myself facing a revocation by the Department of Corrections on an allegation that I had somehow tampered with their GPS tracking device. The device had malfunctioned on numerous occasions but what made this event significant was that DOC knew my exact location and still decided to pursue revocation, recommending that I be returned to prison for a period of eight years.

While awaiting the revocation process, I learned that my mother had breast cancer, my grandmother, whom I had not seen in over forty years was also ailing, and my aunt with whom I was living with was being seriously impacted by my being re-incarcerated.

I was being held at Racine Correctional Institution, the holding place for the Department of Corrections for those awaiting revocation hearings. The facility is a maximum security prison where access to books, newspapers, etc. is severely limited. It's a closed institution with no access to the outside, and one spends a total of 18 hours a day locked in a cell.

With the issues my family was facing this experience traumatized me beyond what I'd ever experienced during my years in prison. The most painful aspect was that my daughter, whom I'd begun to build a relationship with after my 24 years of incarceration, decided she could not handle the stress being placed upon our relationship by the DOC. She relocated to North Dakota, taking my two grand-daughters away as well. "Dad," she said, "You've



James Morgan and his family

done nothing wrong, and how am I to explain to the children why their grand dad keeps disappearing?"

Ultimately, and with the assistance of MOSES, MUM staff and other concerned citizens, a resolution was offered to the Department of Corrections where by I would be released on a ATR (Alternative to Revocation). This led to my being, for all intents and purposes, re-incarcerated within the community at Foster Community Corrections on the west side of Madison. Since that time, I have faced many obstacles while on parole, and I continue to do what I can to educate others concerning the impact of crimeless revocations on individuals, their families and our communities.

## Crimeless Revocation continued from page 1

The Health Impact Study provides the following recommendations that are supported by MOSES and WISDOM:

### Recommendations:

1. Remove incarceration as a response to non-compliance for non-criminal violations of parole, probation, or extended supervision.
2. As an alternative to revocation, continue to build on the partially implemented steps of the "short-term sanctions" law by ensuring a consistent and racially equitable response to non-compliance and the granting of rewards for compliance that is transparently documented through policy development, clear matrices, and workforce development that includes annual trainings.
3. Consistently trace, evaluate at regular intervals, and annually disseminate the outcomes on the use of alternative measures to revocation for people on parole, probation or extended supervision to build community trust.
4. Provide access and navigation into rehabilitative programs and assure successful graduation for people on parole, probation, or extended supervision.
5. Reduce the number of people and length of time people across races/ethnicities are placed on probation or extended supervision, which will in turn reduce agency caseloads.
6. Apply greater due process rights for people in revocation investigations and proceedings, such as the right to bail and a higher standard of evidence.

## Team Charges

### Communications

This team provides editorial oversight of large email blasts, flyers and newsletters, and informational material as well as the website and Facebook page, in order to ensure that MOSES communications are clear and effective and convey a consistent message.

### Event Programming

This team comes up with event ideas and plans events for MOSES, its executive committee, and other groups that are part of MOSES. It also plans the monthly MOSES meetings.

### Event Logistics/Hospitality

This team provides logistical support for MOSES events and other events organized by the Events Programming Team, Executive Committee, or other group that plan MOSES events.

### Fundraising

This team, in collaboration with the Organizer, will develop strategies and plans for fundraising events. These ideas will be vetted for financial viability to ensure that MOSES stays on track to reach financial goals set by the Organizer and the Executive Committee. We will also research and design strategies for new grants while working to maintain our current grants.

### Data/Information

This team facilitates information acquisition, storage, presentation, retrieval, and transmission based on the functional needs of MOSES.

### Media/Government Relations

This team is in the process of developing its charge.

### Recruitment and Retention

This newly formed team is in the process of developing its charge. It will focus on membership.

MOSES is supported by congregations, individuals and

## The Evjue Foundation

The charitable arm of *The Capital Times*

## Contact a Team Lead

### COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Co/Lead—Alison Mix ... [alisonbmix@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbmix@gmail.com)  
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### EVENT PROGRAMMING TEAM

Co/Lead – Lucy Gibson ... [lucyoflakeedge@gmail.com](mailto:lucyoflakeedge@gmail.com)  
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### EVENT LOGISTICS/HOSPITALITY TEAM

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### FUNDRAISING TEAM

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### DATA/INFORMATION TEAM

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Co/Lead – Jeanie Vershay ... [jeanie@tds.net](mailto:jeanie@tds.net)

### RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION TEAM

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Co/Lead – Frank Davis ... [davisfrank32@gmail.com](mailto:davisfrank32@gmail.com)

MOSES helps congregations and individuals move from direct service to transformative justice. Rather than simply providing assistance, we form a community of neighbors who can together change public policy to make our communities places where everyone has a chance to succeed.

To create change, MOSES uses:

- Education: Helping communities better understand the issues that affect their lives;
- Training: Enhancing our abilities to act as leaders;
- Advocacy: Speaking with a common voice so public policy better reflects our common values;
- Action: Moving beyond the walls of our churches to make our presence felt and to transform our community.
- To do all this, MOSES has built an organization with trained leaders and an orderly, effective process to best respond to the issues our members select to address.

MOSES is an affiliate of WISDOM, a statewide network of congregation-based community organizations that work to live out their values in the world.