



## American Friends Service Committee, Arizona Program

### 2014 Annual Report



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

*Quaker values in action*



### ***Message from the Director:***

Our office was recently profiled by the *Arizona Capitol Times*. The article describes the unlikely but effective match of a “liberal group” and a “conservative lobbyist,” and touts our numerous successful legislative efforts. This is but one example of how AFSC-Arizona is pursuing innovative and unexpected strategies to advance our larger goals.

In 2014, we passed legislation to expand *pre-trial* deferred prosecution programs, providing treatment for those with mental illness and substance abuse in lieu of incarceration. We exposed a disturbing new trend of for-profit prison companies attempting to take over state mental hospitals and civil commitment centers and hijack sentencing reform efforts for corporate gain. And we raised up the voices of people incarcerated in solitary confinement to tell the truth about what conditions they face and how they are affected.

We defy expectations, we blaze trails, and we are making a difference in Arizona. We thank you for helping us ‘beat the odds’ with your generous support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Isaacs'.

Caroline Isaacs, Program Director

# Reducing Prison Populations

## Another Legislative Victory!

### REDUCING CORRECTIONS COSTS

THROUGH SMART AND SAFE  
POLICY SOLUTIONS



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Service Committee

In 2014, HB 2307 sailed through both houses of the Arizona legislature with nearly unanimous approval. It allows counties to fund *pre-trial* deferred prosecution programs, such as treatment for those with mental illness and substance abuse, when these conditions are associated with their criminal behavior. The bill weathered numerous political and procedural obstacles, but we were successful, thanks to working closely with our conservative Republican lobbyist.

Our successful legislation in 2013 authorized evaluation and development of guidelines for mental health courts. AFSC participated in the Arizona Supreme Court's advisory committee for the development of the guidelines, along with judges, probation staff, and mental health advocates. The guidelines now are on the cusp of implementation, and we are hopeful they will lead to the expansion of these effective programs.

## Bridging the Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Systems

In October 2014, AFSC-AZ helped to organize a statewide conference through the highly-regarded Center for Applied Behavioral Health Policy at ASU on the intersection of the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. Over 240 people—social service providers, prosecutors,

Corrections staff (including Director Charles Ryan), court personnel, and probation staff—gathered to identify needed future actions that will now guide the work of many in these systems to address behavioral health issues as early as possible.

AFSC-Arizona's External Affairs Liaison Penny Pestle moderated a panel of prestigious state officials, including Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery, Cenpatico CEO Terry Stevens, and Glendale City Court Presiding Judge Elizabeth Finn.



AFSC-Arizona staff Penny Pestle moderates a panel on the intersections of mental health and criminal justice



# Opposing Prison Expansion and For-Profit Incarceration



## The Treatment Industrial Complex

In cooperation with Grassroots Leadership and the Southern Center for Human Rights, AFSC-Arizona released a groundbreaking report on the movement of for-profit prison corporations into the areas of prison medical care; forensic mental hospitals and civil commitment centers; and community corrections, including halfway houses, treatment programs, and alternatives to incarceration. We are dubbing this new development the **Treatment Industrial Complex**. The report is available online at: [www.afsc.org/tic](http://www.afsc.org/tic).

The Arizona office is working in collaboration with these and other groups to develop a campaign on for-profit community corrections programs. With help from a generous three-year grant from the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation, we will soon be hiring a Campaign Director to help us shape this new area of work.

## Exposing For-Profit Prison Corporate Influence in Arizona

In the last days of the legislative session, House Appropriations Chair and longtime mouthpiece for the private prison industry John Kavanagh tried to sneak a \$900,000 giveaway to GEO Group into the state budget. AFSC-Arizona went to work mobilizing our constituents to oppose the move. As a result of this public outcry, the appropriation was shelved and Kavanagh got a hefty dose of finger-wagging in the press.

## 10 lessons from Arizona legislative session

### ARIZONA LEGISLATURE WRAPS UP SESSION

Here are 10 takeaways from the 2014 session from The Arizona Republic reporters who cover the Legislature:

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#### PRIVATE PRISONS

House Appropriations Chairman John Kavanagh, R-Fountain Hills, added \$900,000 to the budget for Florida private prison company GEO Group Inc., which he said had done the state a "big favor" by providing emergency private-prison beds at a discount during the recession. State campaign-finance records show GEO executives gave Kavanagh's campaign committee \$2,544 in 2012. The money was removed by the Senate following an outburst of criticism.

The *Arizona Republic's* legislative wrap-up "Winners and Losers" piece depicted Kavanagh as a "loser," chiding, "Kavanagh should have known better."

# Improving Conditions of Confinement in Arizona

## Confronting Solitary Confinement



Matthew Lowen at our press conference announcing the release of *Still Buried Alive*.

When the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) and Governor Brewer failed to heed AFSC Arizona's call to halt plans to build a \$50 million, 500-bed maximum-security facility, we responded by gathering prisoner testimonies about their experiences in solitary confinement. We released *Still Buried Alive: Arizona Prisoner Testimonies on Isolation in Maximum-Security* on the day that the new max facility opened.

*Still Buried Alive* documents first-person perspectives on the conditions and impacts of isolation, and gives prisoners who have borne the consequences of long-term isolation an opportunity to voice their concerns and critiques of the conditions of their confinement. From these moving testimonies, AFSC Arizona has crafted recommendations for limiting in-cell time for maximum-security prisoners and expanding access to programming, medical care, and eventual reentry to the community. The full report can be viewed at [www.afscarizona.org/issues/publications-reports](http://www.afscarizona.org/issues/publications-reports).

## Honoring Victims of Poor Medical and Mental Health Care

This year during Tucson's All Souls Procession, AFSC Arizona honored the prisoners who have died while incarcerated. Volunteers and interns carried signs and paid tribute to the increasing numbers of prisoners who are suffering, dying, and committing suicide. It was a powerful testament to their memory and a profound call to state officials to better care for our incarcerated sisters and brothers.

The lack of adequate medical and mental health care is something that AFSC Arizona has long highlighted in its reporting (*Death Yards*, 2013) as well as its support for the class-action lawsuit (*Parsons v. Ryan*) against the ADC. That case was recently settled and will hopefully result in dramatic changes to prisoner health care. AFSC Arizona is proud to have contributed to this historic case, and will continue to monitor ADC's compliance.



# ***American Friends Service Committee— Arizona***

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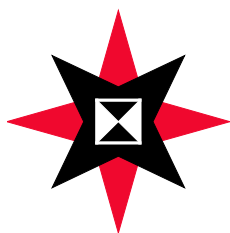
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**THANK YOU!**



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