

7-7-20

My name is Sidney, and I am writing to tell my story of what OCE means to me.

I can totally understand and appreciate the concerns of current customers and the community as well, in regards to OCE but, in fairness to both sides, OCE does provide skills and training that can be a useful tool upon release. I am currently an employee at the OCE call center and I've learned as an Agent skills about myself that I never knew I had. The job has given me confidence in myself to interact with professionals in the business world; prior to OCE, I would have continued to shy away feeling inferior to this class of people. I now have skills to take with me upon release from Prison. Upon doing some research, I have learned that the telemarket industry is felon friendly and starting wages range between \$14.00 and \$16.00 an hour. In some cases, the company contracted with OCE has hired several inmates upon release from prison!

In regards to OCE Laundry, my experiences there have also been positive. OCE here at OSP as far as laundry is concerned ①

allows inmates from other OCE shops the opportunity to come in and work overtime when needed. This "was" a buzz around here until recently, when change that people out in the community thought was for the better has actually been for the worse. I took pride in being able to pay my daughters electric bill each month and also save a little bit to start over when I got out! All that is now gone! I don't see how dismantling OCE by taking away contracts is change for the better? People in here are "seriously down" because of the loss of OCE's biggest laundry contract!

In closing, if change had to be made, it should have been negotiated with the all the parties involved especially with the input of the so called disgruntled worker. Some positions at laundry pay 10 points, some 12, some 14 and some 16 a substantial change in which 99.9% of us would have supported would have been to pay all the positions 16 points across the board. If I had the chance to talk to OHSU, I would tell them that you hurt us and did us no favor by leaving.

Gidney