



5/25/2021

The attached 4 pages are from John Edwards testimony.

A suggestion is that you read both the letter dated December 2017 and the one dated 5/20/2021 to totally understand John's personal story.

Respectfully,

Roger Kincade
Vice-chair Advocates for Change



December, 2017

To whom it may concern,

My name is John Edwards, I am 62 years old and I am living a healthy and productive life in the community since my release on parole in Colorado in Nov. of 2015. In 2004 I was sentenced to 12 years to life in CDCC for having committed a sexual offense. During the 11 1/2 years I served in prison I worked hard at improving myself. I successfully completed all required sex offense specific treatment which included Phase 1, Phase 1 transition, Phase 2, Maintenance and I earned being placed in aftercare. I gained the understanding of why I hurt other people and made positive changes in myself so I don't hurt anyone again.

I am writing this letter to let others know what I experienced on parole in Colorado and what I have experienced thus far in Nebraska since my interstate compact was approved and I moved in Oct. 2017. My conditions of parole have changed. I am not required to make daily check-ins reporting what my itinerary will be for the day; there is no CWISE. I do meet regularly with my parole officer. There are certain procedures parole has that I am required to follow concerning treatment. I am required to meet with a clinical therapist in a group session at the parole office once a month (this is free of charge). Because of the treatment I have successfully completed in the past I have been told I will be required to attend these sessions for a limited time unless I want to attend longer and after completion I can drop in on occasion should I want to. While in Colorado I was required to attend individual sessions with a therapist twice a month, group therapy sessions twice a week and one peer driven group once per weekend. Having 1 session per month versus 14 allows me to work my full time job with fewer interruptions and have more time for myself to pursue positive interests. I still have to register quarterly but there is no fee in Nebraska. I have not been told that I need to take a polygraph nor has it been mentioned. When I asked what my travel restrictions were I was told I could travel within 50 miles from my home and to call my Parole officer if I was going further than that. If I need to leave the State, I can contact my Parole officer to get a travel permit. Safety plans are not required for community movement. I am allowed to go to any business establishment except those whose main source of income is from the sale of alcohol or where children may congregate. I have no curfew, but I will let my Parole officer know of

anytime out of the ordinary. What I do realize is the trust that I am shown has affected my frame of mind in a positive way.

I have awakened each morning since being released on parole in 2015 feeling great about myself and the world around me. With the increased level of trust given me since my move to Nebraska, my self-worth and self-esteem have reached new heights. And I choose to uphold the trust and level of freedom I now have with renewed motivations. This keeps me and the community safe. And isn't that the whole point?

The negative effects I experienced in Colorado from their use of the outdated, inaccurate and ineffective "no known cure" model I am working through. This NKC model is still practiced by some in Colorado though by statute RNR or another evidence based model is required. I was told many times that I was on the verge of re-offending, so often that I almost began to believe it myself. I was told time and again how easy I could be sent back to prison. I had to write a safety plan for every community movement. I was required to have an accountability partner accompany me. I guess these were meant as deterrents. However, what it did for me was leave me walking on eggshells every day and this has left its mark on me even now. Last night I was at a restaurant with a lady friend, with permission, (something I was not allowed to do in Colorado without jumping through many hoops), when 2 police officers walked in. Instantly, I felt panic! I then asked myself "why"? I wasn't doing anything wrong, I'm with a lady friend having a nice meal, it's OK, I can relax and This is so much more healthy for me. It is for anyone. That is one example. That is all past for me now and I am the same person in Nebraska that I was in Colorado and appreciate this opportunity to live a healthy, happy, and productive life treated with respect and dignity.

Good luck to all, John Edwards,

C.D.O.C. #126777.

5/20/2021

From: John Edwards DOC# 126777
520 S. 35th St. #11
Omaha, NE 68105

This is an update of my letter written in December of 2017, at which time I had been in Nebraska on parole for 2 months. You have copies of both letters and a copy of my Certificate of Completion from Sex Offense Treatment from my Parole Officer Stacy Brickey dated 11/14/18. I attended a group meeting once per month at the parole office that was an hour to an hour and a half in duration. I attended 12 of these from Dec. 2017 to Nov. 2018 which was 18 hours total.

My required treatment in Colorado at T.H.E. consisted of 14 groups per month. 2 process groups per week at \$65 per group, 1 weekend group per week that didn't have a charge and 2 individual meetings a month with my therapist at \$75 per meeting. Each group lasted at least 1-1/2 hours X 14 = 21 hours per month at a cost of \$65 x 8 plus \$75 x 2 for a total of \$670 per month. This does not include other tests such as polygraph at least two per year, ABLE tests, PPG at \$250 each. At T.H.E. I would have spent 21 hours per month x 12 months = 234 hours in group not including travel time, parole meetings, UA's, and possibly missed workhours. Total cost for the year \$8540. Treatment in Colorado sometimes lasts for years.

As I mentioned in my December letter, Nebraska parole does not use safety plans (They did not know what a safety plan was when I initially asked about them). T.H.E. and Colorado Parole required that I submit a safety plan for every place or activity I participated in. These had to be approved and signed by treatment and parole and this sometimes took up to a month or longer. (I had to do a separate one for shopping at King Soopers or at Walmart or going to the bank, etc)? In addition, I was required to have an accountability partner accompany me much of the time.

I currently see my parole officer once every two months. I can travel anywhere in the state and though I am not required to, if I am going to leave my County I leave a message for my parole officer. I am able to frequent any business that is not a parole violation (where serving liquor is the primary business or where minors may congregate, etc.) I do not need to get permission to date or associate with others as I did in Colorado. I have a smart phone and a computer and internet access with no monitoring software required. I do not have scheduled UA's and I am not required to call in my daily itinerary to CWISE or anyone. I have not had one polygraph test.

I appreciate the trust that my parole officer has given me and I have not and will not do anything to screw that up. I am the same person in Nebraska that I was in Colorado and I truly appreciate being allowed to live a healthy, happy, and productive life treated with respect and dignity.

I work second shift Monday thru Friday and cannot take time away from work to testify, though I would have liked to and my parole officer Annette Ruffcorn is ok with me doing so. If you should want to talk with me, my phone number is 720 338-5142.

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION FOR
CONTINUED CARE

AWARDED TO

JOHN JAMES EDWARDS

In recognition for your commitment to lifestyle change.
Keep up the Great Work!

SENIOR PAROLE OFFICER Scott Hester
DIVISION OF PAROLE & SUPERVISION EMPLOYEE

DATE: 11/11/18

