

# Great Wardens Project

## Building Great Wardens: Finding Hope in Corrections

January 18, 2024

# Tech Check

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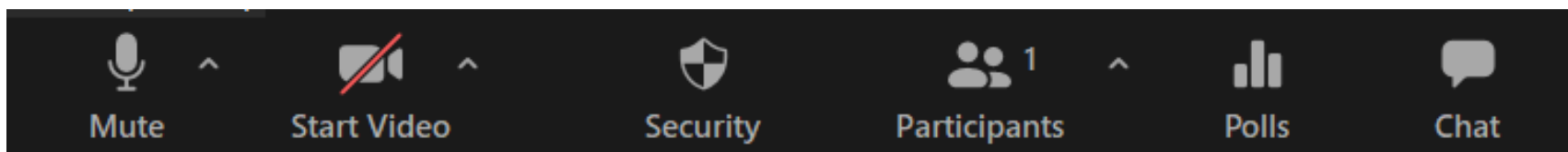
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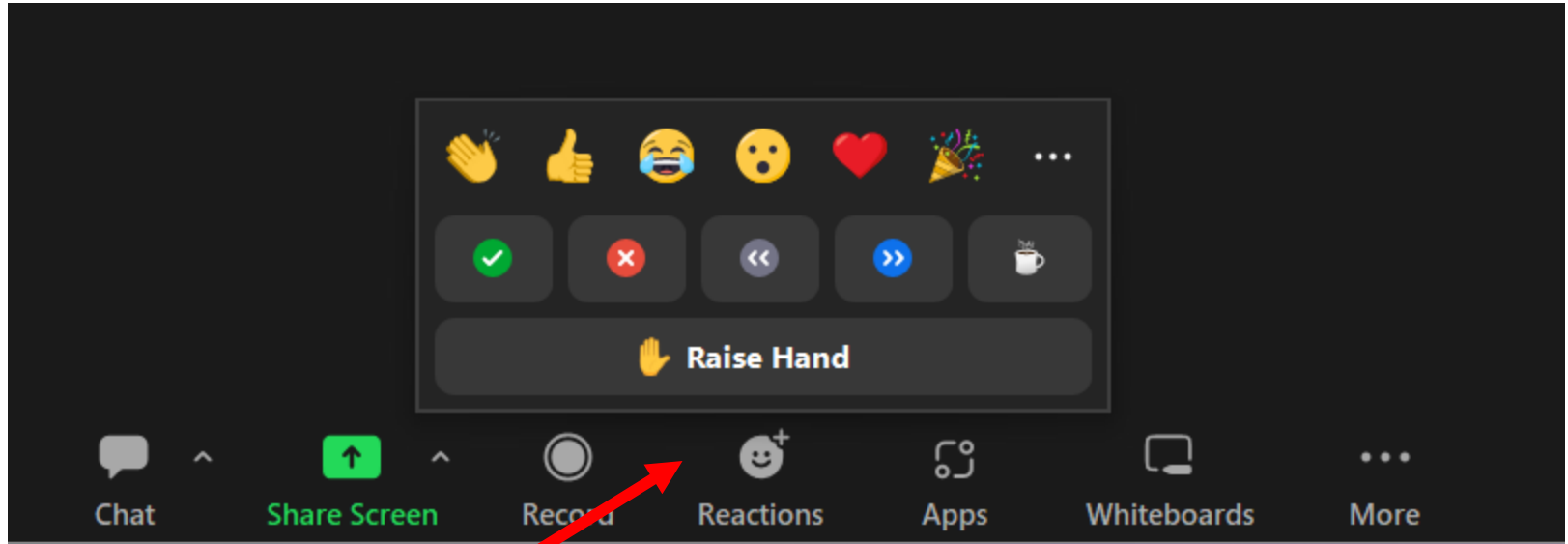


Chat



# Join the Conversation

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# Mission

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The Great Wardens Project provides mentorship and training to develop bold prison leaders and build a corrections culture based on safety and dignity.

# Core Beliefs

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- Wardens and Superintendents have a responsibility to promote safe, secure, and healthy corrections facilities.
- Advocates and prison leaders can work together to reimagine how corrections facilities operate and shape a new generation of committed corrections professionals.

# Today's Speakers

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**Art Beeler**

Federal Bureau of Prisons, ret.



**Jessica Serrano Seipel**

Just Detention International

# Meet Our Task Force

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# Discussion

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**What does hope in  
corrections look like?**

# Hope, Defined

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- The belief that your future will be better than today and that you have the power to make it so
- Not a feeling but a way of thinking
- One of the single best indicators of wellness across the lifespan



# Hope is a Verb

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- Ability to identify pathways towards goals and problem solve around obstacles
- Ability to sustain motivation to move along pathways



# Measuring Hope

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- Creativity and problem solving
- Sense of direction and potential
- Self-worth
- Meeting goals
- Learning from past experiences



# Hope and Trauma

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- Willpower is a limited resource
- Trauma tends to rob us of our problem-solving capability
- More likely to set avoidant goals
- More difficult to set long-term goals



# Discussion

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**What are the biggest predictors of hope?**

# Hope is Contagious

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- Connectedness is one of the single biggest predictors of hope
- Hope begets hope – one opportunity for success shows what is possible



# Hope is a Protective Factor

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- Decreases recidivism
- Improves mental and physical wellbeing
- Promotes resilience
- Reduces suicidality



# Case Study: Warren Hill Prison

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- Men's prison in Suffolk, England
- Population of 244, mostly lifers
- Core values: belonging, boundaries, communication, development, involvement, safety, structure, empowerment, leadership, and openness



# Hope in Corrections

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**"Hope is everywhere ... From the minute you get off the bus. They shake your hand and give you a cup of tea. They say good morning to you. You see guys moving on. There is humanity here ... People treat you like you're a person, like a person who has potential."**

**- Incarcerated person**

# Hope in Corrections

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**"We allow the men to be who they are really are. They don't have to pretend here ... Everyone lives and works side by side. What we're trying to do is create a real community." - Warren Hill staff**

**"It shouldn't be about performance targets and numbers. We should be about values and changing lives." - Warren Hill staff**

# "Are Hope and Possibility Achievable in Prison?"

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Staff were...

- Motivated by a clear mission to change lives for the better and generate hope
- Invested in individuals, finding their talents and strengths

Incarcerated people were...

- Trusting of staff and the institution as a whole
- Able to have agency over how they participated

# Leadership and Hope

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- A strong mission
- Energetic communication
- Implementing a strengths-based model
- Emphasize 'soft-skills'



# Discussion

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**How do you make room for hope in corrections?**

**What are you hopeful for in 2024?**

# Get Involved

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For additional information, please visit our website at: [greatwardens.org](http://greatwardens.org)

**Direct questions**

**to:** [greatwardens@justdetention.org](mailto:greatwardens@justdetention.org)

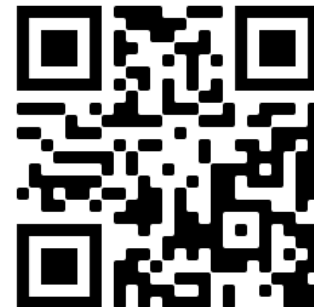
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**Great  
Wardens**  
Project

# Next Summit

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

Join us for our next Leadership Summit on April 18!

# Resources

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[TED Talk – The Power and Science and Hope](#)

[Prison Journalism Project - How I Keep Hope Alive While Serving 150 Years in Prison](#)

[The Role of Hope in Preparation for Release from Prison](#)

[Without hope for parole, prisoners with life sentences tell their own stories](#)



# EVALUATION

Please take a moment to share your thoughts before logging off

Thank you!