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I was not always an addict. I was once a successful medical assistant and phlebotomist who worked at a thriving medical office. After going through some difficult experiences in my life and not knowing how to cope, I turned to drugs and slowly started to lose myself, and then very quickly my life began to fall apart. I became homeless; my children were no longer with me, and I soon became hopeless and lost. I began committing crimes to support my substance use and that led to multiple charges against me. I absconded for quite some time and would continuously get arrested for probation violations or new charges, usually more serious than the ones before. After getting arrested on my last charges, I did not think I would be getting released and I had mentally prepared myself for prison. I had come to terms that I would not be seeing my children for a few years and that it would take multiple years to repair the damage that I had caused my family. Because most of my crimes were property crimes, I was given an opportunity to enter a program called Klamath Evidence Based Sentencing. It was clear this was my last chance before I would go to prison. It was obvious to everyone that I had an addiction problem that led me to commit crimes and had not yet had an opportunity for treatment. For the first time I was honest and verbalized If were to be released from jail before getting into treatment, I would run, as it was what I always did. At that time, I had become accustomed to running from my emotions and using drugs to cope because I couldn't bear to face all the damage that I had caused. I sat in jail for 3 months and was released to an inpatient residential facility. I completed the 90-day program and attended outpatient treatment. The Klamath Evidence Based Sentencing program provided me with structure, accountability, and the skills to remain sober, which in turn kept me crime free. It gave me so much accountability that when I did have a relapse, I turned myself in to my probation officer, Julie Harper, and served a sanction, willingly. The probation officer I once ran from was supportive of me and helped me when I needed it. I successfully completed the Klamath Evidence Based Sentencing program and earned an early discharge from probation.

My life now revolves around my children, sports and traveling. In June 2021 I began working for Klamath Basin Behavioral Health in the women's transitional houses, working as a case manager to help clients become self-sufficient. I began working at the corrections location in December of 2021 as a CADIC intern and obtained my CADIC-I in April of 2022. I am now the Klamath Evidenced Based Sentencing counselor and specialty courts counselor. I think it is helpful to the Klamath Evidence Based Sentencing clients to see a former client to have successfully completed the program and give back to others. I have a passion for criminal justice clients, as I can identify with this population. I thoroughly enjoy coming to work daily and helping others find themselves along their sobriety journey and helping equip them with the coping skills to help them get through their most difficult moments. Watching others move forward in their self-discovery and learn the skills needed to help them sustain their recovery and find a new sense of hope is truly rewarding.