

Umatilla County CARE

Ayana Sanchez
CARE Specialist
216 Se 4Th St
Pendleton, OR 97801



Good Morning Committee Members,

My name is Ayana Sanchez and I am a CARE Specialist for Community Corrections in Hermiston. I have been working for the CARE program for just under two years. In my first year as a CARE Specialist I served the area of Milton Freewater, where the need for someone to CARE was greatly needed. There I learned how to navigate all the systems and resources for my clients. The need for translation was especially needed.

There was a time I went with my monolingual client to the only OHP approved dentist office in the area where they had no staff to help translate for clients. I translated for my clients and then after that appointment the office staff called and asked me to translate for many other clients. As well as giving out my number to help any Spanish speaking client schedule an appointment. There was definitely a lack of resources for our clients who do not speak English. I also helped many of my clients who were facing eviction due to seasonal farm work ending find resources that they would have never known about, to pay their rent. I also learned and found resources outside of the area to help pay legal consultations for my clients who came here claiming asylum. Client needs varies by case, some only needing assistance with hygiene products

After a year of learning the area I started a new position within the CARE Program focusing on the Community Corrections population. In this new position I help the marginalized population being released on parole or probation. A lot of what I get to do is help my clients with navigating the system to get health insurance for themselves and their children, along with many other resources. My clients on supervision are young moms with smaller children. Most young moms aren't aware of the support available for them which is where I come in to help. I help moms get into programs such as WIC and headstart. Most young / first time parents don't know their child is supposed to come in and get well child checks done. We teach and train our clients parenting skills and are a natural influence on them to be able to safely make decisions for themselves and their children.

The list could go on and on. CARE is crucial to our community and could definitely benefit if implemented throughout the entire state. What we do is one of a kind. We are like an umbrella of resources, the support is endless.

Umatilla County CARE

**Ayana Sanchez
CARE Specialist
216 Se 4Th St
Pendleton, OR 97801**

