

Inmates Concerns from Lowell Annex

1. Medical is deliberately indifferent to treating prisoners to save money. Medications and diagnosis is not done. It is only if you have family to fight for you that you might get something done. Dr. Rodriguez is head of medical and promotes this behavior.
2. Officers need to be psychologically evaluated for their abusive behavior. Abusive officers are promoted.
3. Bad behavior by inmates is rewarded by staff. Positive behavior is not reinforced by staff.
4. Chow hall food portions of vegetables are never the correct amount. Vegetables are served frozen and too cold to eat. Dishes and cups are not washed properly. Milk and juice is watered down to where you have vitamin loss and never get the full cup of milk or ½ cup of juice that is on the menu. Mr. Corn has been the Food Director for years and allows this because he gets a bonus if he saves money.
5. Women are over-looked for programs; especially those with long sentences.
6. Have to have money to purchase hygiene. The state only supplies one small tube of toothpaste and a hotel size bar of soap and one roll of toilet paper. If you need more toilet paper or soap it is hard to get even though it is supposed to be on a as needed basis. This doesn't happen and grievances rarely work.

OTHER CONCERNS

Women are different then and that has never really been addressed. Also, women are less likely to leave prison and commit violent crimes. Most of us would be good candidates for parole but we need a chance. Some women have living death sentences with no possibility of parole or early release. To keep people locked up in the US costs 80 billion. In Europe most life sentences run 20 years because they believe in reform, that people can and do change and can be given a second chance. Prison has become a business and police unions fight initiatives to lower sentences because they do not want reduced prison populations for job security reasons. Prison is based on profit-not reform.

1. Re-enact Statute 944.30 (written to provide any person sentenced to 40 years plus and had served 10 calendar years with good behavior had the opportunity to be recommended by DOC for commutation of sentence (for non-capital felonies)
2. Actually reinstate parole-people who have done 10 years or more on a case by case basis (still profitable as you have monthly fees)
3. Sentence reform. Many sentenced under Jim Crow laws-violation of civil rights. Sentences are disproportionate to the crime

In the end prisons are not cost effective nor does it accomplish a better society for the offender and the community.

Average Clemency hearing takes 5 to 6 years and most are denied. Clemencies should be heard within 2 years and if denied there should not be a waiting period. Why are so few clemencies granted? Is it about profit?