

Office of the Co-President  
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CURE-NY  
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Deputy of Programs  
Taconic CF  
250 Harris Road  
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

CC: Programming Office; Central Office, Patricia Ledbetter; Temporary Release;  
Anthony Annucci, and Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell; Superintendent Taconic CF;

**RE: Inadequate Programming for Females Incarcerated In NYS**

February 13, 2015

Dear Sirs:

It is my understanding through correspondence I received in my capacity as the Co-President of the international organization of CURE-NY, there is a **system-wide problem**, wherein the female inmates are deprived access to adequate programming. They are also not afforded the same opportunities as male inmates incarcerated in the state of NY.

This is creating a system-wide disparity for the females. The newly amended parole laws allow for consideration of rehabilitative efforts as one of the criteria the NYS Parole Board considers as a condition of release. **The women are not afforded the same programs as the men** so they are disadvantaged when appearing for their quest at release.

Please be advised that Penal Law 1.05 and CL 805 make the requirements for rehabilitative efforts pretty clear and there is an obligation placed on the state to provide adequate programs prior to an inmate's parole date.

Please be advised I will be looking into this issue itself further as the Co-President of CURE-NY and determining what additional steps need to be taken to address the issue systemic- wide.

I have been informed there is not a teacher for the General Business Program. This is the case in excess of 6 months at Taconic CF and female inmates who are eligible for merit consideration are being denied because they cannot complete their programs due to this inadequacy;

I was informed there is not currently a Narcotics Anonymous Program;

I was informed there are no sign language classes;

I was informed there are no culinary arts vocational classes and that the women's vocational programs in no way compare to what are offered for the male inmates;

I was informed there are inadequate career classes, business and or computer classes for the women;

I was informed there are no groups or workshops to address issues regarding domestic violence;

I was informed there are no parole prep classes;

I was informed there are no "Rehabilitation through the Arts" as is offered to the male inmates;

I was informed there is no equivalent program to YAP for the females;

There are no money crime/addiction programs running;

There are currently no food service programs running;

The exception for work release applications for people convicted of violent crimes is not being utilized and Taconic is simply denying all applicants who otherwise qualify without even reviewing their applications.

**Please let this letter serve as a FOIL request for:**

- **A list of all current programs offered at Taconic CF;**
- **A copy of all work release applications filed by inmates who fit the exception of domestic violence victims; their point scale calculation and the decisions rendered both at the Taconic CF and Central Office;**
- **A copy of all parole decisions rendered to the female inmates at Taconic CF in that last year (2014);**
- **A list of all programs offered at Taconic CF in January 2014;**

**Thank you for your consideration in this matter**

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Kates-Benman Esq.  
Co-President, CURE NY