

I am still gravely concerned about the unnecessary frequent STRIP searches used in the Ct prison system. As a social worker, I view this as unnecessary trauma and inhumane treatment. There are machines that are used in our airports to detect weapons, and which can also pick out medication or drugs. We need body scanners NOT strip searches in every correctional institution.(Note .I believe there might be some proposed funding for TWO body scanners but I am not clear if funding is secure or if even the two scanners will be in use by this time next year.) i propose that the ombudsman office needs to make sure that implementing at least the first body scanner needs to be a goal for this next six months. The ombudsman's office also needs to see this as TOP priority by tracking the funding, pushing for the implementation or the use of these "test' or" pilot" machines and demanding and collecting statistics on when strip searches are used in each facility. I believe the frequent use of strip searches is cruel and unusual punishment and needs to be done rarely. This has been on the legislative agenda for many years and should be the top job of the ombudsman's agenda to get not just have two scanners in the whole system but at least one in every correctional institution in the state so that STAFF and inmates be subjected to MECHANICAL scanning instead of strip searches. The review of strip search protocol should also be at the top of priority of the Ombudsman's office agenda as well as getting data on how often they are conducted and reported. The ombudsman's office needs to have access to the strip search data on a weekly basis as well as weekly reports on the death and injury of those incarcerated