

Name: David Haywood

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

My name is David Haywood. I'm incarcerated at Osborn. Here's my experience of conditions in question at this facility:

The water in the cells at Osborn is suspect. It gives off a rotten egg stench, when I run the water in the morning. And it tastes rancid. I use my own 'boil water advisory'. I've seen reports stating the water has been tested and does not exceed allowable toxicity levels. However, prior to testing, the collected samples were treated. So I don't believe that that tested water is the same as what I am being compelled to drink.

The medical system at Osborn is broken. Since I've been at Osborn, I have written 10 requests asking for medical treatment. Each time, I received a reply from medical personnel stating I've been placed on a list to see a provider. At this point I've been waiting 12 months, and I've never once been called to see a provider. Recently, I wrote a repeat request saying I first wrote a year ago, and I'm in serious pain. I asked medical if they could tell me how much longer til I can be seen. Their single sentence reply was: "You've been placed on the list to see the provider, as of today."

There is a rat infestation in Osborn Chow Hall. Rat traps line the Chow Hall's entire perimeter. Sometimes it reeks of rotting carcasses.

And rats run across our feet while we eat. This experience makes it difficult to eat, without also thinking that at night rats were likely crawling over everything, including the tray I'm eating from.

There's significant disinvestment within Osborn Recreation Department. Nearly half of the machines in the weight lifting gym are in a state of disrepair. There is no apparent plan to fix them, even though needed repairs are fairly minor. And no one seems to know how long it will take to replace the broken machines. Meanwhile, to lift weights, I spend more time waiting in line for operable machines, than I do lifting weights. Standing around waiting in this fashion is so depressing that I stopped going to the weight lifting gym 4 months ago. Also Osborn Recreation department has a low supply/selection of fitness related equipment, such as medicine balls above 25 pounds. I think a comparison with other CT correctional facilities, including level fours, will show that Osborn has an unjustifiably low supply/selection of fitness equipment. I don't know why there is disinvestment here. Equally as important, Osborn Rec. Dept. doesn't have a wellness program to address the fitness needs of its aging and disabled population. Wellness fitness programs are commonplace at other CT facilities, and represent best practices, given the preventive health/mental health care benefits they offer to a population with dire needs.

Osborn Video Visits are unnecessarily time restricted. At Osborn, video visits are 45 minutes. Besides Osborn, I don't know of any facility that has visits (video or in - person) less than one hour. It's frustrating to experience my visits with family being shortened arbitrarily.

Osborn's poor electrical system is in need of upgrades. Each cell has a single outlet, without a surge protector. Two individuals with numerous electronic devices have to share that single outlet. The system wasn't designed for that kind of usage. When the power often blows in one cell, that triggers a widespread outage for 1/4th of the other cells in a unit. Last summer, I had to suffer through heatwave after heatwave, either with no power or in constant fear that my power would blow at any minute. I had been relying on my fan for heat mitigation, because the AC in my unit wasn't working properly. Each time the power blew (some days it would go out two or three times), I would have to plead with block

officers to have the power turned back on. The policy here seems to be that block officers don't have the authority to reset the breaker. This reset has to be done by an electrician. So if an electrician is not currently at the facility, they have to be called here by a lieutenant. That said, each time I pleaded with block officers to turn the power back on, I never knew if that officer called a lieutenant or if that lieutenant actually summoned the electrician. During heatwave nights, the heat and humidity was absolutely suffocating. Myself and others would be at our cell doors calling out to block officers: I can't breathe! Call the lieutenant! Turn the power on please!

The culture at Osborn is arbitrariness and apathy. The standard here is that there is no standard. I think that sums up my experience of the conditions in question at this facility.

Thank you for your time and attention.
Peace!