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Title: Executive Director
Organization or Agency: Evolve Love
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
NA

Testimony:

The conditions of confinement at Osborn Correctional Institution are cold, cruel, and soul crushing. The staff and administration consistently demonstrate neglect, a disregard for human dignity, and a focus on punishment rather than rehabilitation.

The facility has not been properly renovated in years. There is mold in cells and showers. Inmates are forced to share showers with two to six people at a time, with no privacy—what is referred to as a “car wash.” This is demoralizing, dehumanizing, and traumatizing.

Cells are so small that sitting on the toilet often means your legs hit a locker or bunk bed. Housing two people in such confined spaces makes it nearly impossible to maintain physical or mental health.

Medical and mental health care are routinely ignored. People—young and elderly—are left untreated for cold and flu symptoms. Sick call is nearly impossible to access, and some inmates are charged without ever being seen.

The BOS status is especially inhumane. Individuals are placed in cold, unclean cells wearing only a Ferguson gown, without basic sanitation, clean bedding, or dignity. Not to mention the lack of footwear on that filthy floor. Mental health emergencies are dismissed, and staff often mislabel people in crisis as refusing housing instead of providing care, including myself. I told him I was in a mental crisis and was mislabeled.

Many incarcerated people believe this facility will never change. I share that concern. Osborn does not rehabilitate—it causes harm. Even five or six months here can be traumatic. I cannot imagine the damage done to those who have been confined here for years.