

CORRECTIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

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Correctional Advisory Meeting
Joint Committee On Judiciary
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
Hartford, CT, 06106

1/19/26

My name is Eduardo Santiago Jr, I'm a 46 year old man currently housed at MacDougall Correctional Institution. I have a few issues I would like to bring to your attention.

- #1) I have had to suffer needlessly over 10 years because I cannot get the proper medical equipment that I need, such as a foam wedge needed to support my head, neck, and shoulders while I sleep. I suffer from hiatal hernia that doesn't allow a certain muscle to close above my stomach. If I sleep without a wedge the contents of my stomach come up my throat causing erosion and occasionally getting into my lungs causing me to fight for every breath. I have been told to use an extra pillow and blanket to prop up my head. Not only does this suggestion barely work but it causes me extreme pain in my neck, head, and arms because of a bulging herniated disc in my neck. The staff's pillow and blanket solution only raises my head putting unnecessary pressure on my neck causing painful nerve pain to my upper body. A simple wedge would address both of those issues.

I have the same issue in my lower back that causes me extreme nerve pain to go from my lower back, down around my hip and into my groin and down my legs into my feet. I have a flat blue mattress that provides no support and puts pressure on my lower back lighting up every nerve from the waist down bringing tears to my eyes from the pain and helplessness to do anything but complain to medical who's hands are tied. The C.D.O.'s answer to this is, yup you guessed it, another pillow and blanket that puts more pressure on my lower back. I am overmedicated with generic neurontin that barely puts a dent in the pain and has crazy side effects. So they don't want to give me medical devices, a wedge and medical mattress, to alleviate the pain and they don't want to give pain medication to mask the pain. So it's the status quo, "Just suck it up" day in and day out.

#2) The Doc was given money to give prisoners better food to lessen a lot of food related illnesses. They did use the money to give us better food but when covid became an endemic the food quality went straight down hill again. They give fancy names to these gelatinous slops they serve, but it's far from it. It's sad to say that the Vet Dogs being trained at MacDougall turn up their noses at the food when it spills on the floor. They have the ingredients to make healthy palatable food but insist on making some of the most disgusting dishes I've ever encountered.

#3) The mail is horrible! I've been waiting since November 20th 2025 till current date and have not received my books that got here at MacDougall on November 20th. They have two weeks from receipt date to either give me the books or send them back. The books have already been let in before and passed scrutiny why are they allowed to play with people's mail. If I were to bring this to the attention of the post master general, I would be the bad guy and

subject to retaliation. They are the ones in violation of the directives and State administrative Regulations. They have 14 working days to deliver or Reject publications, it's been 42 as of Jan 19th. That is 28 working days passed the allowed 14 days. There is no accountability for these peoples actions.

I do court accredited programs through ACCI LIFESKILLS, my family paid for 12 courses at \$55 a course, plus an additional \$10 to have the books graded and returned for proof of completion to the board of pardons and parole, or for further reflection, So all together that's \$780.00 for these courses that include 12 workbooks and 12 return envelopes marked "ACCI LIFESKILLS", so that the workbooks and all notes/thoughts can be returned to the company, graded, and sent back to me. The intelligence liason took and threw out the labeled and prepaid envelopes and threw them out forcing me to pay twice for shipping even though they were told not to throw them out. Again, no accountability.

I can go on and on with serious violations and no accountability but that would leave no time for anyone else. I thank you for your time concerning these matters and I hope that the response from the C.D.D.C., "We are sorry it won't happen again", will not be accepted. Everytime they say it, it happens over and over again. There needs to be accountability now not never.

Sincerely

Edwards Santz Jr