

To: Correctional Advisory Committee

Thank you for taking my letter and considering these issues.

There is a problem in the Correctional system regarding medical care and treatment. Since the State has gone back to the D.O.C. overseeing the medical dept., the care inmates are receiving is deplorable. The amount of doctors in each facility to see patients is woefully understaffed.

When you do see your provider, you rushed in and out and will hardly get the treatment required for what you went to medical for. As an elderly inmate who is supposed to be on chronic care, I barely receive any care being treated as a younger inmate.

When you do follow the D.O.C. policy to grieve the lack of medical care you received, they don't follow their own guidelines and time frames to respond leaving you no choice but to file medical habeas' to force them to give you treatment causing taxpayers undue law suits.

The specialty doctors, such as the optometrist and pediatricist, there are only 1 of each for the entire state. I have been waiting 1 1/2 years to see the optometrist and over 3 years to see the pediatricist. We are supposed to receive the same medical care as someone in the world but that isn't happening. It needs to be addressed.

Last year from March through October, we were on some sorta modified lockdown just about every weekend due to short staff. This has been an ongoing issue since 2022. We were either on Y4 tier rec. for only 1 hr. or on complete lockdown and no rec at all. This is usually the care for both shifts and Saturday and Sundays.

This has affected visits each of the days with them being cancelled, denying families from visiting their loved ones on the weekends. Gym recs and outside recs are also cancelled throughout the summer denying inmates outside fresh air recreation.

There is also a crisis in the prison system with the aging population. The Correctional Prison system needs a new way of thinking in regards to lengthy sentences and a more efficient and better way to handle and release the Aging Prison Population in the State. Most of the Older people in prison have already spent decades behind bars and pose little or no risk to public safety.

Recent medical research has uncovered that the brains of those under 18 years old have not fully developed bringing sweeping changes to the sentencing of juveniles in this State. And now there is also extensive research that those who are 50 years and older "Age Out of Crime".

New York City and State and California have passed legislative laws for the parole suitability of inmates who are 60 years and older and served a minimum of 25 years of continuous incarceration are granted parole. Recidivism and Parole violations decrease with age, with those over 55 years old the least likely to reoffend, and are likely to self-desist or "Age Out of Crime" as they enter adulthood.

Not to mention the cost that occurs as these some prisoners get older. With the lack of quality medical care, poor diets and lack of exercise, these costs can double, even quadruple. It's time to join the rest of the democratic world by enacting meaningful and lasting changes to release currently incarcerated older people and have a chance to demonstrate their fitness for release, to show they have been corrected.

Thank you for taking the time to review these issues
and make meaningful changes to the Dept. of Correction.

Sincerely
Mark L. Bova
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#224757