

Name: Rocky Williams

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed

NA

Testimony:

I am currently housed in MacDougall C.I, but I've spent ten years (2014-2024) in Garner C.I and have prison experiences dating back to the late 90's. It has been brought to my attention that the findings in the OCO Semiannual report have been vehemently denied by the CT Commissioner of Corrections. I am confounded by such a denial because throughout the span of the aforementioned report, I'm fairly positive that the Correctional Ombudsman has visited each respective facility more frequently than the Commissioner of Corrections himself. Intense, outside oversight is imperative for any faith and trust in, or renewed and continued efficacy of CTDOC. Any institution that is responsible for its own checks and balances is a potential cesspool of incessant and unabated shortcomings. Although in many instances it is not upstanding, the conduct of the prison population is highlighted and promoted as leverage, while the conduct of those reporting it is omitted, and obscured from public attention. From my own observations and experience, there is widespread abuses of power: an overall "us against them" culture, parties and barbecues that lock down entire shifts, continuous "training" that routinely locks down the prison although there's an academy specifically designed for such purposes, manipulation of and outright falsities on official state documents (D.R and Incident reports), staff planned and executed disregards of authority regarding the Protect Act, blatant denials of prisoners' rights, arbitrary and inconsistent application of directives, ineffective and insufficient grievance policies which serve to permit officers to circumvent any meaningful reprimand or accountability and deny the filer any meaningful recourse. Officers routinely sleep on the job, conduct retaliatory searches, harass prisoners with impunity, mistreat visitors, outwardly display envy toward (free) college courses, and use cell phones on the job, all while acting as the upholders of policy and integrity -- an outright misrepresentation of CTDOC's mission. This amounts to a problem culture from the top down, and leaves people like me exposed to an absolute and immediate form of violence which can only be addressed by way of an unfair marathon of a process. I wouldn't be surprised if I were transferred to another facility soon after this message is sent, however having our voice heard outweighs any form of retaliation that can be exacted upon me. I submit this statement in truth and with conviction. Thank you.

This experience is unlike any other. I've been forced to live in a compromised physical state. Confronted with an issue one night around 10 pm that was serious enough for me to call home and ask my family to call 911, the response was a c/o (not medical staff) sent to my door to ask what the problem was. Uncomfortable with discussing personal medical details with the officer, I requested to see medical staff and was eventually sent to the medical unit where three nurses were skeptical and dismissive of my issue. My issue was minimized by what I perceived as three individuals more concerned with changing shifts to go home than to ensure that I received proper care. I requested to be sent to an ER and was denied. I am a man of a particular age who wishes to be taken seriously and doesn't make it a habit to bother the medical staff with petty matters. I felt as if I was being treated as if I were an 8 year old sent back to bed with a tummy ache.

For at least five years the ongoing symptoms I've been experiencing related to my condition have gotten progressively worse and I've effectively been forced to live physically compromised. I've repeatedly complained of intermittent and excruciating pain, but unless one exaggeratedly falls out on the floor, no immediate action is taken. Any attempt to notify the medical staff is reduced to a pain scale from 1-10 which is laughable and insulting. Much to my concern, I've had multiple consults at UConn Health - via CTDOC - with a surgeon (without having any diagnosis) who's expressed to me "there's nothing I can do for you." I've been referred to a GI specialist years ago to no avail, I've been denied a colonoscopy repeatedly even though there's a family history of colon cancer, and by result of such non-actions I am

being forced to live in suffering and compromised health.

A medical staff (in some part), comprised of individuals who have outward unpleasant dispositions, are skeptical and flippant toward patients, who prioritize the price of a prescription above its need and who expend more energy towards whether or not a patient has proper command of a particular medical term, than is expended to that patient's well-being, needs to find an alternative career, doesn't recognize that the medical field is a service industry or needs more intense oversight. An overhaul of the medical system in CTDOC is required. Thank you.