

The Opinion Pages |OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR from the NY Times

My Night in Solitary

By RICK RAEMISCH FEB. 20, 2014

COLORADO SPRINGS - AT 6:45 p.m. on Jan. 23, I was delivered to a Colorado state penitentiary, where I was issued an inmate uniform and a mesh bag with my toiletries and bedding. My arms were handcuffed behind my back, my legs were shackled and I was deposited in Administrative Segregation - solitary confinement.

I hadn't committed a crime. Instead, as the new head of the state's corrections department, I wanted to learn more about what we call Ad Seg.

Most states now agree that solitary confinement is overused, and many - like New York, which just agreed to a powerful set of reforms this week - are beginning to act. When I was appointed, Gov. John Hickenlooper charged me with three goals: limiting or eliminating the use of solitary confinement for mentally ill inmates; addressing the needs of those who have been in solitary for long periods; and reducing the number of offenders released directly from solitary back into their communities. If I was going to accomplish these, I needed a better sense of what solitary confinement was like, and what it did to the prisoners who were housed there, sometimes for years.

My cell, No. 22, was on the second floor, at the end of what seemed like a very long walk. At the cell, the officers removed my shackles. The door closed and the feed tray door opened. I was told to put my hands through it so the cuffs could be removed. And then I was alone - classified as an R.F.P., or "Removed From Population."

In regular Ad Seg, inmates can have books or TVs. But in R.F.P. Ad Seg, no personal property is allowed. The room is about 7 by 13 feet. What little there is inside - bed, toilet, sink - is steel and screwed to the floor.

First thing you notice is that it's anything but quiet. You're immersed in a drone of garbled noise - other inmates' blaring TVs, distant conversations, shouted arguments. I couldn't make sense of any of it, and was left feeling twitchy and paranoid. I kept waiting for the lights to turn off, to signal the end of the day. But the lights did not shut off. I began to count the small holes carved in the walls. Tiny grooves made by inmates who'd chipped away at the cell as the cell chipped away at them.

For a sound mind, those are daunting circumstances. But every prison in America has become a dumping ground for the mentally ill, and often the "worst of the worst" - some of society's most unsound minds - are dumped in Ad Seg.

If an inmate acts up, we slam a steel door on him. Ad Seg allows a prison to run more efficiently for a period of time, but by placing a difficult offender in isolation you have not solved the problem - only delayed or more likely exacerbated it, not only for the prison, but ultimately for the public. Our job in corrections is to protect the community, not to release people who are worse than they were when they came in.

Terry Kupers, a psychiatrist and expert on confinement, described in a paper published last year the many psychological effects of solitary. Inmates reported nightmares, heart palpitations and "fear of impending nervous breakdowns." He pointed to research from the 1980s that found that a third of those studied had experienced "paranoia, aggressive fantasies, and impulse control problems ... In almost all instances the prisoners had not previously experienced any of these psychiatric reactions."

Too often, these prisoners are "maxed out," meaning they are released from solitary directly into society. In Colorado, in 2012, 140 people were released into the public from Ad Seg; last year, 70; so far in 2014, two.

The main light in my cellblock eventually turned off, and I fell into a fitful sleep, awakening every time a toilet

flushed or an officer yanked on the doors to determine they were secure. Then there were the counts. According to the Ad Seg rules, within every 24-hour period there are five scheduled counts and at least two random ones. They are announced over the intercom and prisoners must stand with their feet visible to the officer as he looks through the door's small window. As executive director, I praise the dedication, but as someone trying to sleep and rest my mind - forget it. I learned later that a number of inmates make earplugs out of toilet paper. When 6:15 a.m. and breakfast finally came, I brushed my teeth, washed my face, did two sets of push-ups, and made my bed. I looked out my small window, saw that it was still dark outside, and thought, now what?

I would spend a total of 20 hours in that cell. Which, compared with the typical stay, is practically a blink. On average, inmates who are sent to solitary in Colorado spend an average of 23 months there. Some spend 20 years.

Eventually, I broke a promise to myself and asked an officer what time it was. 11:10 a.m. I felt as if I'd been there for days. I sat with my mind. How long would it take before Ad Seg chipped that away? I don't know, but I'm confident that it would be a battle I would lose.

Inmates in Ad Seg have, of course, committed serious crimes. But I don't believe that justifies the use of solitary confinement. My predecessor, Tom Clements, who was as courageous a reformer as they come, felt the same way. Mr. Clements had already gone a long way to reining in the overuse of solitary confinement in Colorado. In little more than two years, he and his staff cut it by more than half: from 1,505 inmates (among the highest rates in the country) to 726. As of January, the number was down to 593. (We have also gotten the number of severely mentally ill inmates in Ad Seg down to the single digits.)

But Mr. Clements had barely begun his work when he was assassinated last March. In a tragic irony, he was murdered in his home by a gang member who had been recently released directly from Ad Seg. This former inmate murdered a pizza delivery person, allegedly for the purpose of wearing his uniform to lure Mr. Clements to open his front door. A few days later, the man was killed in a shootout with the Texas police after he had shot an officer during a traffic stop. Whatever solitary confinement did to that former inmate and murderer, it was not for the better.

When I finally left my cell at 3 p.m., I felt even more urgency for reform. If we can't eliminate solitary confinement, at least we can strive to greatly reduce its use. Knowing that 97 percent of inmates are ultimately returned to their communities, doing anything less would be both counterproductive and inhumane. Rick Raemisich is executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Who's The Boss

(C) Ras Uhuru

Tagline: "The taxpayer must realize" they are the employer of the DOC.

1) This January, 2015, Wisconsin DOC will have once again hoodwinked the Wisconsin Prison Reform and Advocacy movement, when their DOC 303 code book will go radio-active in emitting harmful energy and making it possible to continue the abusive/misuse of solitary/segregation/AC confinement.

2) They have been hoodwinked because every DOC official from Joy Staab - as DOC spokesperson, to Secretary Wall, has promised that the new code/rules and practices using them, would seismically reduce hole (Seg. and confinement) time and place limits to prevent the current culture of abuse and misuse within the DOC. "Wisconsin has the highest segregation use in the nation and gives out the highest time for the pettiest of allegations."

3) However, as evident by anyone who compares the old with the new 303 Admin. code will see, it has expanded 360 time frames to other codes; and has increased time for other codes that had smaller time scales, thus making 360 (or other) more available by staff for abuse and contrary to the misdirection they would "j" its use or stop using it all together.

4) DOC never had any intention to stop said practices and three things prove this:

(a) They never provided notice of these changes formally per Wis. Stat. §227.

(b) They never provided the proposed changes for public discussion and input and a hearing to discuss the same, and voice our objections. In direct violation of our due process rights. (And contrary to Wisconsin Statute §227.

(c) According to Bill Lueders, December 10, 2014 article on the subject, "Wisconsin Prison System Revamps Disciplinary Rules", on wisconsinwatch.org (Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism), DOC skullduggery extends to them fast tracking this new code book through the legislative process without any oversight or legal instructions (to protect our rights).

5) Hence, the reason why the appendix section has been **gutt**ed from the book entirely. This is very significant in protecting prisoners' rights, because the appendix, in every book since the creation of the code, place limitations and restraints on the overly broad interpretations and abuse expansions DOC staff use when placing prisoners in segregation.

6) What you now have is a completely void of balance and fair condification, leaving DOC to interpret and re-interpret the codes in unconstitutional and machiavellian fashion to seek to not only overturn previous court decisions they found unfavorable to them, but circumvent the ones we must now litigate and relitigate as a result of these changes, and soon to be confrontations over their usage and interpretations.

7) For example: DOC 303.35, page 12, (in the old book was 303.31). false names and titles, has been revised to overturn and circumvent current litigation in Wisconsin's Court of Appeals and create conflicting law and its effect unlawfully change Wisconsin state statutes to change ones name and the constitution common law name rights.

8) These rules/codes were not "revamped" to protect prisoners and curb certain segregation abuse, but they were revised to do the exact opposite, make these abuses more and to remove the chances of accountability and liability in challenges to them in court. These are classic DOC machinations, every time the courts rule to uphold our rights, DOC waits a few years before undermining the courts by having their friends change the law biasly to their end.

9) My question to those people in Wisconsin or the country as a whole, who genuinely care about prison reform and the human rights of those confined, how long and how many lies and deceit will you ingest from these officials before you will demand they be fired for lying to you?

10) You hold the power to do so. You elected the people who are the Boss of the big liar and responsible for hiring them.

11) How can you *entrust* the power to make life choices for other human beings in the hands of people who habitually lie and deceive you when you ask simple and honest questions about their practices and methods. If they will lie about things they themselves have admitted to be harmful practices and usages (Secretary Walt's memo to his staff), one need not extrapolate or imagine very far to see what they will lie about if the actions fall into more illegal conduct or practices that clearly violate the power you, as taxpayers, have invested in them.

12) As a result of these untruths and circumvention of the due process in the machination of this new code/rule book, DOC Secretary Wall and those top level DOC officials in collusion should be held accountable for this 2nd and 3rd degree breach of the public trust. This is "public official misconduct", (See: Wis. Stat. §946.12), and unethical practice of the state trust.

13) If they lied to you today about this, what will they lie to you about tomorrow or in the future.

Show them you are the Boss!

P.S. There will be more Articles on these new rules/codes (303 Admin.) soon, providing more qualification as to how they will be more oppressive.

Suggested Resolutions: We are filing a class action suit against DOC for violating our and the public due process rights to vet and dispute these changes. We need citizens or a group to join us as the public representative in this endeavor. We both have rights to partake in that legislative process.

Anyone interested, please quickly contact FFUP Director, P.S., or pro se litigation Ras Atum-Ra Uhuru Mutawakkil, P.O. Box 351, #228971, Waupun, WI 53963. (N. Green).

360 Increases

New Codes and New Time:

303.15	360
303.28	360
303.34	360
303.36	360
303.38	360
303.58	360

Old Codes and Old Time:

303.14	180
303.24	180
303.30	60
30332	120
303.35	180
303.58	120

The DOC increased the loss of good time on 24 separate codes. P. 20-21.

Under the new code 36 codes carry 360 time frames. Id.

Under the new code 24 codes have had the extension of MR increased, four of these went from zero to 20 or 30 day extensions. Id.

How could these increases be a re-evaluation of segregation abuse?

Wall, Edward F .DOC

From: Wall, Edward F - DOC
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 2:06 PM
To: Rick Raemisch - DOC ([REDACTED]); Mohr, Gary
([REDACTED])
Cc: George Camp ([REDACTED])
Subject: Article

Gentlemen,

Just FYI, my most recent article in the "Secretary's Corner" on our Intra-net and I mentioned your efforts and testimony with links to those articles and prepared remarks. Thanks for your leadership on the issue of Segregation!
Ed

Segregation / Cause, Effect and Reforms

When I went to my first meeting of the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) as the new Secretary of the Wisconsin DOC, it was an enlightening experience. I learned many things that week, including that we face very similar issues across corrections agencies nationwide. One of the issues we discussed at length that is now becoming a national focus, was the impact of confinement in segregation and the lasting effects it has on inmate behavior.

One of my mentors at that first ASCA meeting was Tom Clements, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections. Tom was an exceptional man who was very focused on the issues dealing with the impacts of segregation and was himself one of the national leaders in pushing for reforms to positively affect change. Tragically, Tom was killed just a few weeks later at his home in the presence of his family by an inmate who had recently been released from a long stay in segregation, directly into the community.

We need segregation to address problematic, dangerous and violent behaviors in order to assure the immediate safety of staff and other inmates. Yet beyond this purpose, what do we need segregation to accomplish for us? That is the focus that corrections agencies across the country are dealing with now.

This subject will undoubtedly touch nerves with staff for a variety of reasons. The view of segregation's purpose varies for many of us. For some, segregation is seen as a method of punishment where inmates are taught a lesson. Long periods of sensory deprivation, no contact with family and limited time for physical fitness or interaction are just part of that punishment cycle. Obviously, the intent being that if the sanction is unpleasant enough, then people won't want to return.

Although it's easy to understand the human emotion behind that kind of feeling, we need to ask if it serves us well in the long term? Are we placing inmates in segregation because we are mad at them? Are we placing inmates in segregation out of a sense of retribution? And if we are, does this help our inmates or does it make us any safer?

Any of us who are parents know that when we discipline our children, we can choose various strategies. We *may punish* the child by taking away activities or privileges, but we also want to *teach* the behaviors that we see as more appropriate. All of us intuitively know that properly administered discipline involves both control *and* teaching. This same broader view of discipline is an integral part of efforts to improve segregation units so that they are more effective in achieving our mission as corrections professionals

Ultimately, for the safety of our staff and other inmates, what we really need from segregation is for inmates to have a *corrective and rehabilitative experience*. Nearly all of the inmates who are in segregation will eventually be released into the general population. And most of these inmates will someday be released into society. The safety and well-being of our family, friends, the DOC workforce and offenders depends on our single-minded focus of providing that corrective and rehabilitative experience for this admittedly difficult population of inmates.

We need to remember that inmates are sent to prison as punishment, not for us to punish them further. Rules and regulations are obviously needed in order to maintain a safe and secure environment for staff and inmates. The challenge is to find the balance of safety and security combined with effective program opportunities that help create an environment which enhances public safety.

The best scientific studies show that the actual outcomes of long-term segregation, at least as currently practiced in this country, may not serve corrective or rehabilitative goals as well as they could. Length of stay, conditions of confinement, behavioral incentives, and the availability of treatment and programming can all impact outcomes in significant ways. In order to be effective we have to have an appropriate balance of physical containment and behavior management. We need to utilize alternatives to restrictive status housing when possible so that we can focus our resources on those who need it most.

Staff have told me that inmates will come to segregation for a variety of reasons, such as to get a single room or to avoid the responsibilities and accountabilities of being in general population. That's not what segregation is for. It should be focused on changing behaviors, improving outcomes and ultimately making for a safer environment for everyone. But simply locking inmates up with little consideration for programming, corrective instruction or positive reinforcement may really just be helping to create a worse behavior problem and habitual threat.

The methods in dealing with segregation have been changing and Wisconsin has consistently been at the forefront in those changes. Over the next year, our department will be interacting with other DOC's, scientists, scholars and mental health professionals from across the country in an attempt to define how best to work with this challenging population. Ultimately, this national focus will guide us in the next steps and changes to our segregation practices, which is now being broadly referred to as "Restrictive Status Housing" by most DOC's across the country.

Former Wisconsin DOC Secretary Rick Raemisch is now the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Corrections, replacing slain Director Tom Clements. Recently, Rick had himself placed in segregation for a 22 hour period to see for himself what the impact was of just a short time in that environment. His observations are sobering and certainly call attention to the damaging effect that isolation can have on the mind. Below are links to Rick's article and news coverage of the event that I think you will find interesting.

Additionally, Director Gary Mohr of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections was asked to represent ASCA in his testimony before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil and Human Rights of the Judiciary regarding Restrictive Housing. The subject of the hearings was focused on "Reassessing The Use of Solitary Confinement". Follow the link below to read the testimony given by Director Mohr; his thoughts are a concise summary of the national attention this subject is getting.

Through everyone's efforts, we will affect a positive change in how we handle inmates and create better outcomes for all involved. Thanks, take care and stay safe.

Ed

Edward Wall
Secretary; Wisconsin Department of Corrections
Office: 608-240-5055
www.doc.wi.gov/home

Recognizing the False Dawns in Wisconsin-DOC solitary confinement Reforms

By Ras Uhuru and Waupun AC Collective

Date: 1 26 2016

If the public stops watching and pushing them (DOC) they will not only stop changing things, but reverse some of the stuff they did and let the abusive back in rotation.

- 1) On behalf of all those still being held on AC (Long status of solitary confinement) here at WCI and statewide a response and dispute must be formulated in response to the over praise being made to WI - DOC (men on AC composed of time length from 2 years to over 18 and 22 years held status.)
- 2) The changes mentioned in the 2014 report by the Association of State Correctional Administrators and some media quotation of the same, are nothing more than "Gauzes" being applied to a neglected and septic wound.
- 3) Showing strong symptoms of preventative gangrene.
- 4) We are working to give measure to the January 17th 2016 and other media accounts that the tide is turning against solitary confinement.
- 5) The public must know that these lip services are at best smoke screens to shut them up. First of all those lawsuits and settlements mentioned in Dee J. Hill Jan. 17th report (which has the DOC keeping much of the details concealed) mainly dealt with prisoners with mental illness. And because DOC will not and do not acquire the proper mental health resource ^{facilities} ~~statistics~~ to deal with mental health issues, the settlements are bandages and nothing more than quieting suits. (i.e. We tried to slow the bleeding from shooting out like a water hydrant to a garden hose flow.)
- 6) Lost in the smoke screen are the hundreds of us still confined in long term solitary confinement textually called AC (Administrative Confinement). Waupun has 24 people on AC as of the date of writing.
- 7) My 17 year continuum of AC was briefly stayed for 60 days for DS (disciplinary Segregation) time. Once this paper shift DS is up they will paper shift me right back to AC. I've already received a pre-notice that this is their intent. Nothing much changes but paper works labels.
- 8) DS and Ac are so identical that you have to be told they are not the same. Psychologically they are. I often forget they are not until I could only receive a one hour visit from my family who traveled from Chicago to only talk to me through a tv screen. (AC gives two hours)
- 9) In the recent news article by Hall, DOC Mental health director, Kevin Kallas stated they are being more transformative in how they "think and act". In Practice and to whom solitary confinement is (protractedly) applied.
- 10) However, the reality on the inside is much more real and truthful than the propaganda being spieled here. I witness mentally ill prisoners down the range losing all grasp of reality and themselves every day. One such elderly prisoner has been on AC, shipped here and there for over 20 years, since about 1998.

- 11) Only one single mentally ill has been released from AC and this was because prisoners' rights advocacy groups like FFUP and others pushed his mental health status in their face.
- 12) In 2014 FFUP submitted to the DOC secretary and Waupun WARDEN a transition workshop/crisis management program designed specifically for prisoners on ac. (held in an allegedly "administrative/non punitive status for indetermine status) called Common Ground.
- 13) Fostering self-Help and teaching crisis management to improve and show problem solving mechanisms. Common Ground also allow prisoners ways to showcase issues they perceive as neglected by staff and grievances.
- 14) The program was outright rejected by staff and not even acknowledge by either. Yet DOC/Waupun has no program designed specifically for transitioning AC prisoners off Ac. Instead they offer stuff not a A&E requirement or need that statistically they can gain more money for. Yet Waupun has been double digit for past ten years with AC placement.
- 15) How can we trust DOC spokes people when in 2014 they made claims of major changes in Disciplinary segregation rules and applications.(DOC 303 code) However when the new 2014 rule book came out they not only increased the time sentences but added new offenses and time frames that allowed punishment of 360 days in confinement.
- 16) Only after prisoners complained to advocacy groups like FFUP, Wisdom and WCEHTP, WCIJ (Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism) and only after WCIJ filed a lawsuit did the DOC issue a DAI policy clean up. Why print a new rule book with policies you were not going to implement or that was contrary to the new Changes promised to make?
- 17) And it was still not being enforced. When the DAI clean-up policy came out counteracting the 2014 rule book; rogue joints like WCI concealed and refused to implement or even make known the DAI's mandate. And we never even knew there was a DAI policy until August of 2015.
- 18) And no way Madison was not aware that rogue institutions like Waupun ~~was not~~ went Sarah Palin on us by not implementing the new DAI policy which was created ad hoc. Every time a prisoner appealed an ICI to Madison on a disciplinary procedural; Madison/ DAI etc was placed on notice. Those appeals would have made it clear. Madison said nothing and did nothing for almost a whole year-Waupun refused to disclose and follow the DAI policy.
- 19) We learned of the DAI policy when by rumor from Green Bay, but this was not official. Then confirmed by a newspaper article. Making copies to circulate to enlighten others of our class and to get more information was denied.
- 20) This skullduggery and dilatory tactics illustrate that DOC (by facts and extrapolations) is not serious nor sincere in their words and will never be proactive in these issues of solitary confinement constraint. They will only make small window show changes to get the attention and focus off of them and not to appear the only state out of the fad.
- 21) Only if there is pressure and monitoring by society will they follow through.

- 22) DAI Cathy Jess statement showcases this very fact and the DOC attitude. "It is somewhat of, I would say, a culture shift for the staff" (a culture they have been and continuously denied existed in first place and all lawsuits and complaints files alleging such).
- 23) She continues, "I've been in the Department (DOC) for 29 years. Things change, the pendulum swings with corrections, and depending on the public's opinion and how laws get passed and different things."
- 24) To her it is not a matter of doing the right thing or following human conscience to treat others humanely. To her it is a matter which oscillation the wind is blowing.
- 25) So the question to the public is: who has to push the pendulum to get moving? For she's been here 29 years and has played a major role in that so-called culture they barely expose. When she says "it swings with Corrections" we must be suspicious of what "corrections" she is talking about. The Department or the official misconduct? The culture? Or with the humane changes that Obama and other prison reforms are being called for. The abolition of solitary as a management continuum in general? She has the power individually to do so right now.
- 26) Furthermore, DOC staff do not get paid with tax dollars to build and establish a culture (Abusive or otherwise). They get paid to follow mandates laid down by DAI and other hands in Madison. They don't live here, they don't have the psychological interests or investments to prison lifestyle to be cultured into a way. The fact that they have shows a lack of management and training coming in policy and practices from Madison's Academy.
- 27) My Observations and experience lead me to extrapolate that "swings with corrections" is more metonymy than the noun.
- 28) If they were sincere! WCIJ would not have to keep suing them to gain access to the truths, facts and figures they wish to conceal- Public data that suppose to be on DOC's website.
- 29) They will continue to make these window dressing changes and false claims until the pressure and focus is removed. And they will not only stop making changes but they will reverse a lot of the ones they've made.
- 30) They could release all 24 of us from AC today and a few weeks later place us ALL right back on it if the public don't demand legislative actions and law regulating DOC acts and boundaries. We need AC caps and constraints. The pre-1998 change was more humane.
- 31) Lastly. What Culture shift? When a lot of the ethno centric minds, like Jess herself (29 years recall) played major roles in this abusive and disgusting culture in the first place. When talking of cultural institutions involving official abuses and misconduct. That means people like Jess were aware of these abuses at least and/or encouraged it, overlooked it, or organized it from the very start.
- 32) These are the lessons in "Corrections" that we prisoners are learning-that ALL the negative qualities that landed some in prison-it's okay for these same qualities to be exhibited by government employees.(re-to beat, abuse, lies, neglect or kill).
- 33) To amplify what Rev. Kate Edwards of WISDOM finds to be (a catch 22) "concerning." That "a specified

max period of confinement .. for aggravated circumstances” is the Only thing that will pause and begin to cure this House. This cannot be overstated.

- 34) First: “Aggravated circumstance” turns on an ambiguous expansion in terms. Because without that maximum time cap for AC placement, either as a rule infraction or as a cause for non-infraction, all the so-called changes will merely be washing and cleaning the outside of the wound and leaving the inside infected and putting the same bias bandages shown to not keep it clean back on it (re: same attitudes, policies, staff, officials etc)
- 35) WCEHTP (Wisconsin Committee for the Ethical and Humane Treatment of Prisoners) was created to be a oversight Board to ensure its eponymous name by being composed of citizens and professionals who review the “aggravated circumstances”: and make oversight rulings and findings when prisons officials exaggerate and abuse the power of those electives.
- 36) No agency will ever truthfully and honestly police itself once it has abused its power or gone outside the scope of its mission policy. Let alone self - incriminate its policies, practices and abuses. It is a joke and mockery of activism and human rights to assume they will do so or to conceded to such hypocrisy.
- 37) But hey, I’m just one of the evidences of this official vice. 18 Years and counting in solitary oscillating between AC and DS.
- 38) The Mandela rule is what the nations of the world need. How many more segicides (segregation suicides) or post confinement segicides need to occur before we demand they do what’s humane.
- 39) President Obama has taken the lead. But can other politicians do what’s right?
- 40) It is the public who are to hold these power blocks responsible and compel human rights. Mandela Rule: Everyone call and write to Madison and demand the Mandela rule/law on solitary confinement in WI and the nation

From oppressive confines of Waupun. 18 years and continuum

Ras AtumRa Uhuru Mutawakkil; PO Box 351 #228971; Waupun, WI 53963

Note: WCEHTP and Common Ground and a summary of the Mandela Rules included in insert. We envision a six week workshop mandate of transitional placement of AC prisoners upon completion of Common Ground. No money or resources are required than what’s already being misused. Doc Secretary has the power to assign cases to the board (WCEHTP) to review such matters. This would be true and real accountability. Contact FFUP for more information or to get involved.

TO: Warden Pollard
Dr. Ingres
Dr. Ludigson
Toni Mell
HSC Director
WIDOC health director

RE: Longterm Seg./AC Programs
WCI (Common Grounds)

Warden Pollard, et al:

Please find enclosed the CG (Common Grounds) longterm seg/AC program resolution that FFUP's "think tank" has put together and donated to Waupun to try to address the longterm seg/AC problems that exist there.

We believe a fresh look at the AC/longterm seg. problem is needed, and we believe common grounds can be part of that solution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

We request feedback as to whether this program will be used or any comments on it.

Sincerely,

FFUP Director and Prison Rights Advocacy Coordinator.

Common Ground (CGS)

Logline: Transitioning Prisoners From AC and Longtime Seg.

Goals: Addressing conflict resolutions that prisoners in AC/longtime segregation have with prison staff and/or among themselves, resulting in the hopeful transitioning and release from AC/long time seg.

Premise of Program: CGS begins with the premise that if a prisoner has been placed and held in AC/long seg. status there has to be an existence of some kind of conflict between either staff or the prisoner and other prisoners that has lead to this long time segregation placement.

Unique Approach: Instead of placing blame or approaching the conflict from a subjective point of view, CGS is designed to not take a particular position in the conflict, but equalize the concerns voiced by both the prisoners/staff conflict or prisoner/prisoner conflict that led to the AC/long seg. placement, and focus on resolutions without placement of blame.

This unique approach is effective because, as in any conflict, resolution and all points of view must be aired and respected as part of the resolution discussion. No problem has ever been solved by one party in a given conflict being burdened with blame, while the other takes on a superiority complex.

Objective: The objective is to find common grounds that everyone can respect each other's security and classification concerns without placing blame and the use of inferiority labels that makes one party feel the need to be

defensive, which is what most prisoners who are held in AC/long seg. feel. This defensiveness has been the main reason no previous administration/ clinical programs have successfully led to the prisoners transitioning and eventual release from AC/long seg.

Designed: This is what makes CGS unique and effective. It was designed specifically with AC/long seg. prisoners in mind. After careful review of complaints, court cases, and other view points of prisoners held in these statuses. The CGS think tank recognized the fault lines that kept the prison officials security claims and goals from registering with the prisoners and the prisoner's views being considered by the prison officials. Both sides took a "my way or the highway" approach. Resulting in the stalemate with the prisoner stuck in AC/long seg. for indefinite years and the prison officials having to pay the cost of these prisoners becoming more defensive and in the more extreme cases, psychologically damaged beyond the objective penological goal of the status. And a psychologically damaged prisoner is not in anyone's best interest. It is certainly not in the best interests of society, where some, if not most, of the prisoners will be freed to; nor the tax payers, who now have to pay extra to staff special housing units to police segregated mental units that are in fact disciplinary segregation units, which only exacerbate the original conflict.

Workshops: The CGS is organized in six workshop sessions:

Session One: Begins with both the prison official and prisoner reducing to written word what each feels is the contributory problems.

CGS freedom of expression: in order for the workshops to be effective there has to be a certain level of free expression. CGS believes all participants must be allowed to state their views free of punishment. Free expression does not entitle abusive language used to provoke or disrespect the other participants, or create more problems.

Session Two: begins with the prison official recitation of the prisoner's point of view and the prisoner recitation of the prison officials. Or, in case of prisoner/prisoner, each would recite the other's views. The participant must defend each other's view point as if it was their original view to examine and experience the difference in each other's views.

Session Three: begins with each participant putting forth prospective resolutions to the conflict, with discussion.

Session Four: begins with the mediator of CGS - a neutral and independent person - putting forth resolutions that participants should consider. The participants can accept or alter these resolutions and stipulate.

Session Five: begins with the participants pointing out what issues of concern that the other one has. They can agree these are ones to be dealt with and agreements to resolve them.

Session Six: begins with all participants putting forth future resolution commitments to prevent and stop future problems and incidents.

Completion of CGS: Upon completion of CGS, which is a six week session workshop, the prisoner participant should be placed in a transition housing to be phased back to general prison population.

Homework Assignments: After each workshop the participant should take a story of real life conflict (past and present, over the span of the workshops) and write a report stating how both sides to that real life conflict could resolve the matter. Also, what might be the fault line problems preventing the current resolutions. The reports should also point out valid points that each side has that should be taken more serious by the other side.

Final Report: At the completion of CGS, the participant should write a one hundred word essay on how the examination of the report conflicts has impacted their opinion, and if so, made a change in view point.

Disclaimer: The reports written should be permitted some freedom of expression and not be used to continue