

Forum For Understanding Prisons (FFUP)

a 501c3 non profit

James Greer, Director DOC Health Services
WCI Warden Pollard
WCI Psychological Staff

July 28, 2014

Re: Urgent call for help for 4 prisoners at risk at WCI
Andre Williams 177359 on hunger strike, alleges food is tampered with
Justin Welch 579750, WCI at risk for suicide, harassment/
Glenn E Conroy 447096 WCI at risk for suicide, harassment/
Patrick Weeks 581595, WCI, diabetic mismanagement, harassment/

Hello,

I writing to ask you to take immediate steps to help the above four people either by addressing their immediate concerns or transferring them out of WCI. Even if they do not get treatment in a new facility, the new environment will positively effect their outlook. I have left numerous messages to both psychological and nursing staff and have not been called back by anyone who can speak with authority about their cases. I have also written you before- so this is a final plea.

Mail this weekend has been horrendous. I got a goodbye letter from Justin Welch, who last cut himself on July fourth, lost two pints of blood, he asserts ,and was not given a transfusion till much later when he was fainting often. Both he and Glen Conroy say they are being denied treatment. Justin say the offered "Coping skills" program is woefully inadequate and promises of change in the distant future cannot help then break the cycle. Glen says he was told he had to "stabilize" before anything meaningful would be offered him. How can these people "stabilize" if they are merely thrown naked into an observation cell and then back into the same environment. They need the best you can offer at this time-which is WRC- but at this time transfer to any prison other than WCI would help.

A third inmate at risk is Andre Williams, who has been complaining a long time about soggy food and rotten fruit and general tampering of his food . In his latest letter he names the Guard "Lunde" as someone stealing food and/ or tampering with it. He asks me to get the camera footage and I here ask you for it . Again, I have left messages with both the nursing and psychological staff about Andre and beg you to send someone to speak directly to him . I understand that he is refusing an evaluation as he trusts no one on staff so I suggest an informal discussion where you can hear his complaints and view the videos of appropriate timeslots. Although he has been on official hunger strike only a short time I know he has been missing meals for weeks if not months.

And finally Patrick Week. I have not hear from him in a few weeks and hope this is good news as I did have a thorough conversation with appropriate DOC authority on his case. Patrick was having a hard time with staff harassment and was unable to get adequate support for his diabetes care. He has filed suit against the guards who assaulted him and has requested unsuccessfully to have no contact with his supposed main assailant, Officers Beahm. This man , Also needs to be moved out of WCI .

As you know, FFUP worked with Bill Lueders of Wisconsin Watch and July 20th a series of reports came out on alleges abuse there. The on the ground environment in WCI seg units has become even more toxic for the short term. WISDOM, the interfaith coalition for prisoner reform, is calling for the US Justice Department to investigate the accusations so the truth will be found. In the meantime I ask that you help these inmates .. They badly need a new start , a new environment away from the guards they accuse of abusing them. I believe they need WRC but that is your call. They need positive change. No outside organization or person can reach in and help except through you- this is your responsibility.

Peg Swan, Member, FFUP
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cc. Attorney Pam Compton