

## Forum For Understanding Prisons (FFUP)

a 501c3 non profit

July 6, 2014

James Greer, Director DOC Health Services

WCI Warden Pollard

Re: Urgent call for suicide prevention and diabetic mismanagement alert

Patrick Weeks 581595, WCI, diabetic

Justin Welch 579750, WCI at risk for suicide

Glenn E Conroy 447096 WCI at risk for suicide

Hello,

I am amending a letter I wrote on the 6<sup>th</sup> and sent successfully to James Greer but did not reach you. My concerns remain the same but I have a little more information. I writing to ask you to take immediate steps to prevent two suicides and a possible death due to mismanagement of diabetic snacks and low sugar episodes in WCI seg unit. As you know, FFUP has been slowly gathering evidence of a pattern of assaults by guards on prisoners and there have been suits by alleged victims of the assaults and counter charges by the DOC.

Justin Welch 579750, WCI at risk for suicide

Glenn E Conroy 447096 WCI at risk for suicide

The environment in WCI seg units is incredibly toxic partly because of these efforts and I have begun to get letters from inmates alerting me to prisoners at risk and recently mentally ill inmates themselves are coming forward. This is new. I also understand that some of the guards are wearing cameras and that the physical assaults have stopped, however taunting of the mentally ill has increased reportedly and two inmates are particularly at risk, have lost copious amount of blood through self harm and are simply returned to their units after brief hospitalizations. These inmates need to be removed from WCI NOW. I understand from inmates that there have been three suicides already at WCI just this year and although changes are coming, I am afraid those changes will be too late for these two inmates particularly. (*later note: I now know there was one Suicide at WCI*)

Patrick Weeks 581595, WCI, diabetic

The third Inmate at risk is Patrick Week. He has filed suit against the guards who assaulted him and has requested unsuccessfully to have no contact with his supposed assailant, Officers Beahm. Patrick reports of his cell being ransacked and documents take and increased taunting by Beahm. But as a diabetic, Beahm and other guards who were complicit in the assault are directly responsible for his very life. A few weeks ago Patrick wrote about being low sugar at night and getting no response, sucking on orange peels to keep from passing out. I wrote widely and called, leaving messages but getting no calls back. I was sure this was not deliberate but due to lack of training. The latest few letters are complaining of his getting saltines at night instead of the graham crackers despite reaffirmation of orders by the kitchen lead me to believe that this may also be retaliation. This man, Also needs to be moved out of WCI.

I know you do not believe the inmate but you can look at their records and verify the suicide attempts and look at Mr Weeks' complaint and then talk to these men. I am afraid that without talking to the men, you will not get an accurate picture as it I beginning to look to me like records are being manipulated. At any rate, the truth of whether the guards are out of control or not can be sorted out later. I ask you act now to prevent two deaths.

Peg Swan, Member, FFUP

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Lena Taylor