

July 14th, 2014

Forum For Understanding Prisons (FFUP)
29631 Wild Rose Drive
Blue River, WI 53518

Re: Indelible scars, Dysfunctional WDOC

Dear FFUP:

Wisconsin prison awareness is getting considerable recognition. I have been reading various news articles about the much under stated, costly dysfunction, indelible actions and scheming tactics of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (WDOQ). When comparing the prison populations of Minnesota and Wisconsin, simply both Wisconsin politicians and WDOC do not know how to run an equivalent, efficient department like Minnesota or they do not want to for disingenuous reasons. How many needless billions of dollars expense over the decades has this cost taxpayers, the incarcerated and their families? Yes, when is enough, enough?

In reference to the parole hearings of my father, James Schuman #335144 (*incarcerated since 211997, 17yrs*), after reviewing the recordings and actions of the previous parole hearings (*2005, 2008, 2012*), I must question on what *and* how tax dollars arapsnt. Sadly, I vew tha hear!ngs as pitful, scheduled, staged, witch-hunts used to demerit inmates and justify the parole commission's existence and to detain inmates for their livestock value and the job security of the parole commission and W000. I am disgusted with unfocussed procedures and disabling tactics used to keep an inmate(s) detained who has a spotless record and has already served considerable more than the average time served for such a crime.

It is my opinion, in all the previous hearings, the commissioners came across as completely biased with predetermined decisions. The use of incendiary, misleading sophistry shows no actual consideration or discussion for *parole*. ***One might think the parole commission would be more useful investigating and assisting inmates to target how they will support and establish their selves to be assets to society***, rather than detaining a created, continued expense for taxpayers.

How does an inmate achieve parole suitability? When in a letter, the family asked the question, we received, a form letter response: We will put your letter in a file and review it at the proper time. How pro is that?

- 1.) Only after inefcient, created rules forcing maximum, warehouse time served, will inmates be returned to society, with no actual rehabilitation or parole consideration.
- 2.) How many inmates get parole at 25% of their sentences? I've never known of one in 17 yrs.
- 3.) Parole hearings are determined by one commissioner (*WDOC employees only,*), ***not*** a panel of 3 or 5. How is that fair? Why not an over site committee for balance?
- 4.) Can a parole commissioner actually parole someone? Probably not, only the Chairperson appointed by the governor can approve the parole.
- 5.) Does an inmate's behavior, merit, participation, skills, support and ability to support their selves earn consideration for parole suitability? No, apparently, one size fits all. (*warehousing for dollars*)

- 6.) **Does the parole board look at disparity (*excessive time given*) in the sentences? Absolutely not, inmates with excessive sentences are simply cash cows for WDOC. *excessive sentence = excessive \$ expenses for taxpayers.***
- 7.) **Why can't programs be completed on the street and be a condition of parole to move people along? Most likely, so WDOC can receive the program monies (funding) and create a bottleneck and reason to detain inmates.**

Every parole hearing I reviewed was a redundant attempt to re-trial the crime, with the parole commissioners not having the facts straight, but targeting the inmate to agitate and provoke an argument, confusion and disorder. Trial, punishment, and program needs were the function of the court and the A&E specialists. My father was through A&E (*'Assessment & Evaluation*) at Dodge Correctional twice (1997, *re-trial-2000*). My father when evaluated by the A&E—Specialists, assessed no program or education needs. My father has multiple skills and has had a career in *business*. *Please note skills and participation at the end.*

After nearly 10 years (612006) of incarceration, a NLC1 (New Lisbon Correctional) social worker assigned my father a program requirement with no discussion or incident to justify the need (except receiving program funding). Now the alter the fact, the late instated, uncompleted program is a created rule to deny parole. Even willing to take the program to appease the mandate, the program is being with held, until 1 or 2 years before MR (*mandatory release, 2020*), and can only be endorsed by the parole commission. My father's first parole hearing was in 2005; also he had been to numerous PRC hearings (*'program review committee*), and so why at the late date was the program instated? It appears as an invented reason to detain him and others and collect additional program monies. The quote, *tough on crime = added expense for taxpayers*. Warehousing is not working except for the staff receiving the excessive funding.

Dozens of supporters have (*120+ letters*) and still offer assistance and to write support letters for my father. Such letters and offers ore of diminutive or no value for parole consideration. The family fee!s the supporters' sincerity, kindness, opinions, valuable time and efforts are without merit. There is no consideration for parole. Presently the family is encouraging supporters to consider voting for politicians who are smart on crime/money, who believe in fair punishment for the crime, and will be smart with tax dollars. Also, to join support groups and the 11/15 campaign supporting prison reform, population reduction, improving skills and education of inmates and the parole of old law prisoners according to the law under which they where sentenced.

In high school, I lived in a foster home, while the attorneys, guardian ad litem, psychiatrist and experts opportunely frenzied for 3 years over the money in my father's estate. I milked cows to help support my needs. After high school, I took employment with a construction company. I work very long, hard hours. My wife has struggled with cancer since 2005 (multiple surgeries, treatments, etc.). Money is always deficient because of the on going medical costs. I have two daughters and extra things for the family are simply unaffordable. When I see such an injustice and decades of dysfunction of departments, with no conscience of the needless, over expenditures, I must question where the future of Wisconsin going is. What can my daughters expect? Perhaps I would feel different if I were a recipient of the tax dollars; however, it would still be wrong and unjustified! WDOC is pillaging other programs and the people funding them! Personally, I give the WDOC a failing report card for allowing decades of costly, indelible actions at taxpayers' expense. Excessive incarceration is not only leaving scars on inmates but it also has a deep, negative ripple effect on families for generations. What is WDOC'S and politicians' answer on how to fix the generating dysfunction? Building more prisons for warehousing and longer sentences is no answer. Nationally, we have Obama Care. In Wisconsin, we have WDOC who does not care!

Sincerely,

J. Skipp Schuman