

A Publication of The Pennsylvania Prison Society

GRATERFRIENDS

The mission of the Pennsylvania prison society is to advocate for humane prisons and a rational approach to criminal justice.

Staying Connected in a Disconnected World

By Naya Blue at Pennsylvania Prison Society

As the Administrative and Customer Service Associate for the Prison Society, I communicate directly with family members of incarcerated people, many of whom are accustomed to regular visits with loved ones through our transportation program.

At the start of the pandemic, loved ones were using Zoom to stay connected with people in state custody. We received both positive and negative feedback about this process. This new way of visiting allowed members of families that physically could never make it to prisons a chance to see and talk to their loved ones. One person wrote to us and said that “during the Zoom visits we had, we celebrated, cooked favorite foods, and connected with family members.” For the first time, people in prison had the opportunity to not only talk to relatives, but also to engage with them in their homes.

However, every new system comes with challenges. We heard from incarcerated people and their families that dates were hard to schedule, that some visits were never verified, and that DOC sometimes failed to respond.

In hopes to improve the above problems, DOC launched a new video visiting system that became effective on September 1st, 2020. Unfortunately, what we have heard from families and incarcerated people is that this new system seems to have more problems than Zoom. We are hearing many of the same complaints as before, but additionally that the quality of the video is poor and that many visits malfunction. Family members have reported that when they ask

staff at facilities about what is going wrong with the videos, they are told it is old software or that they can’t do anything about it. Just last month we received a call where someone stated, “we are receiving video visit cancelation notices and nobody at the facility seems to want to tell us anything.” The lack of communication from staff and the resulting confusion has been the most frequent frustration expressed to me since September.

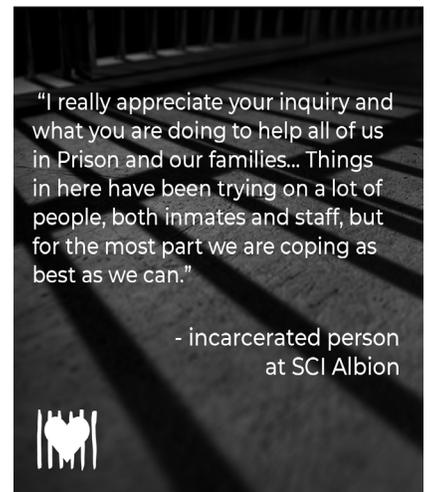
With the rapid spike of new COVID-19 cases, many facilities are undergoing new lockdowns to ensure the safety and wellness of incarcerated individuals and staff. But families are frustrated when they don’t know that someone who is usually able to talk on the phone everyday isn’t able to do so because they are on lockdown. Lack of communication within the facility is also a big worry that we have heard from incarcerated individuals. “We are locked in our cell and when we ask questions, they tell us they don’t know.”

Another common theme we have been hearing from families is that their loved one inside “doesn’t sound like themselves anymore” and this leads them to worry about their mental states. There is no telling when things will be back to normal, so it is important we try our best to keep a positive mind. A wife of someone in prison expressed to me that she and her husband now write each other poems and that it’s like “they’re falling in love all over again.” I encourage you to find new ways to connect with the people in your lives.

In This Issue

Special Report	1
Letter from SS	2
Report from Nicole Sloane	3-4
COVID-19 Survey Update	4-5
Shout Out & Call to Action	5
Illustration	6
Book Recommendations	7
Reports from the Inside	8-9
Advocates	9-12
Resources	13-14
Legislative Highlights	15
Reader Survey	16
COVID-19 Survey	17-19
Subscription	20

Stay strong as you do your best to stay connected in the upcoming holiday season. As always, write to us with questions about how to connect to your loved ones, about issues you are having, and about how we can help support you through this difficult time.



FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the Society,

The last time I wrote a letter for Graterfriends, I thought we were in the peak of the pandemic.

That was in April.

Cities and prisons alike were locking down in order to limit the spread of Covid-19. I had a lot of fears and questions, but never did I think

we would be experiencing another surge in cases in November.

As I write this, Pennsylvania is reporting record highs in positive cases, and Philadelphia is implementing new restrictions. 23 out of 24 SCIs are reporting active cases. And we are all so very tired.

Everyone at the Prison Society is thinking about you. We recognize that living behind prison walls is isolating and that this pandemic has only exacerbated that isolation. We recognize

that many of you are scared, that you are frustrated, and that you are concerned about each other and about your loved ones on the outside.

I cannot predict when this pandemic will be behind us, but I can promise that we are here for you. We will continue to work hard to make sure that you are heard and that your loved ones are getting accurate and timely information.

Continue writing to us. What we hear from you is invaluable and guides our action as an organization. We are talking to the press and to leaders in the state on an almost daily basis based upon what we hear from you.

My work at the Prison Society is centered around the power of human connection and on the resiliency that lives within everyone. Keep taking care of yourself and taking care of one another.

“There must always be a remedy for wrong and injustice if we only know how to find it.” – Ida B. Wells

With gratitude,

Kirstin Cornell
Social Services Director

GRATERFRIENDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Claire Shubik-Richards

DESIGNERS Kailyn Schneider

EDITORIAL ORGANIZER Noelle Gambale

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS Taylor Lawritson, Will Bein, Kevin Bendesky, Greg Volynsky, Shana Vaid, Monica Mellon

FOUNDER Joan Gauker



230 South Broad Street · Suite 605 Philadelphia, PA 19102

Telephone: 215.564.4775 · Fax: 215.564.1830

www.prisonssociety.org · www.facebook.com/PrisonSociety

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We reserve the right to edit submissions. Original submissions will not be returned. We will not print anonymous letters. Allegations of misconduct must be documented and statistics should be supported by sources. All submissions should be no more than 500 words, or two double-spaced pages. Letters more than 200 words, or one double-spaced page, will not be published in their entirety and may be shortened for clarity and space.

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If you have a question about Graterfriends, please contact our staff by mail, email, or phone.

REPORT FROM

NICOLE SLOANE, ESQ.

Reviving Batson

By Nicole Sloane, Criminal Defense Attorney

Note from the Editor: This article is reprinted from the 2015 July/August edition of Graterfriends. However, the issue remains more relevant now than ever as the disparate effects of COVID-19 on non-white communities is reflected in the number of non-whites reporting for jury duty since the beginning of the pandemic. Time has passed, but this issue remains.



I looked down to avoid making eye contact as they walked out of the courtroom. Although 16 other potential jurors were questioned about answers they provided on their jury questionnaires, not one of the three African American women leaving the courtroom now had been asked for further explanation of their answers. In fact, two of the three women gave no answer that would have been expected to generate further inquiry. Yet, the prosecutor used three of his

seven peremptory strikes to remove the women from serving as jurors in my client's trial.

Discrimination during jury selection not only violates the right of the individual being excluded to serve as a juror but it also has been shown to reduce the likelihood that a criminal defendant will receive a fair trial. A 2006 study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, authored by Samuel Sommers of Tufts University, acknowledges that diverse juries exchange a wider range of information compared to the information exchanged in all white groups. Researchers learned that white jurors that are part of a diverse group cite more case facts, make fewer errors, and are more agreeable to having a conversation about racism than groups that are exclusively white. Studies show that even before members of a diverse group begin discussion, the white members of a diverse group are more lenient towards black criminal defendants. This leads to the conclusion that the benefits of a diverse jury are broader than just the information exchange between members of a diverse group.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that a potential juror cannot be eliminated from serving as a member of a jury because of his or her race, gender or ethnic origin. Here in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court recognizes that a citizen-juror has a right not to be discriminated against and when purposeful discrimination occurs, relief may be granted regardless of whether the discrimination produces an "unfair" jury. *Commonwealth v. Hackett*, 956 A.2d 978 (Pa. 2008) When the defense suspects a prosecutor has used a peremptory strike to remove a juror based upon that juror's race, gender or ethnic origin, then the defense must raise a "Batson Challenge" which is aptly named after the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Batson v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 79 (1986). The Pennsylvania Supreme Court recognized in *Commonwealth v. Sneed*, 45 A.3d 1096 (Pa. 2012), that it is the defense's burden

to show that the prosecutor "purposefully struck potential jurors based on their race [or gender or ethnic origin]." If the defendant makes what is called a prima facie showing, the prosecutor must then provide a race-neutral explanation lest the objection be sustained and the juror seated.

It is important for attorneys to understand that racial identity between the excluded juror and the defendant is not required to challenge a prosecutor's use of a peremptory strike. *Powers v. Ohio* 499 U.S. 400 (1991). In other words, the juror and the criminal defendant do not have to be the same race, gender or ethnic origin for the defense to argue that the prosecutor's use of a peremptory strike was unlawful.

In the case I referenced above, in which three African American women were removed as potential jurors by the prosecutor, I argued that the prosecutor struck two of the three women based upon race. Erie Common Pleas Judge John Trucilla agreed that the prosecutor failed to provide a race neutral explanation and sustained the objection for both women.

In an unrelated trial, a welfare fraud prosecution of a white defendant prosecuted by a different assistant district attorney, I again challenged the prosecutor's use of peremptory strikes to remove two African-Americans from the jury. The prosecutor provided what he argued was his race-neutral explanation, "She is a single parent with three children. That is the reason I struck her." The prosecutor continued, "I was concerned about bias because there's a possibility that she [the African American single mother] is on food stamps or some other form of welfare." Unimpressed by the young prosecutor's assumption that the African-American single mother was likely on food stamps and would therefore be biased against the prosecution, Erie Court of Common Pleas Judge John Garhart ultimately sustained the Batson challenge for both African-American jurors in that case.

I want the reader to know that making a Batson challenge is not always easy for a criminal defense attorney to do, even when it is clearly the right objection to make, both for the criminal defendant as well as the juror who was removed. It was an especially difficult objection for me to make in the first case described above, in which the three African-American women were removed. You see, the prosecutor in that case is an individual who I know and respect, having been involved in numerous cases with him. In alleging that he had removed the women from serving on the jury because of the women's race, I was in essence accusing him of being "racist," at least when it came to jury selection. I suspect that the awkward displeasure that I felt may be why so few attorneys properly raise Batson when a juror is struck for what appears to be no other reason than the juror's race, gender or ethnic origin. Nevertheless, I set aside my personal feelings about my colleague and I made the objection. I did so because it is my job to protect the right of my client to receive a fair trial and according to the studies referenced above, selecting a diverse jury makes it more likely that my client will receive a fair trial.

It appears that the prosecutors learned their lesson from my successful Batson challenges. Last week during a trial with the same assistant district attorney who previously struck three African-American women, we were presented with a jury pool that included two African American men. I am happy to report that both men successfully served as members of the jury.

COVID-19 SURVEY UPDATE

When the pandemic first hit Pennsylvania prisons and jails in early March, the Prison Society assured our readers that we were working around the clock to ensure that incarcerated people received proper physical and mental health care during this crisis. Eight months later, this is still our mission as the pandemic continues to take lives. Each issue, we have included an update of our findings from the surveys you have filled out. Below is another update on the continued trends we are seeing with data from August 12th, 2020 through early November:

Inconsistent mask policy continues to be a problem.

Prison staff, particularly Correctional Officers, pose the greatest threat of bringing COVID-19 into the prison. Without consistently wearing masks, they run the risk of bringing COVID-19 from their outside communities into the prison.

Fewer than 20% of respondents reported that guards “always” wear masks. Roughly 70% indicated that guards wear masks “sometimes” or “often.” We’ve also received a lot of reports that guards wear masks below their noses, and that they may remove them entirely when their higher-ups are not around.

Information about COVID-19 is still limited.

Keeping the incarcerated community well-informed about COVID-19 is essential for keeping them safe. SCIs are responsible for providing their populations up-to-date about the spread of the disease, about how best to prevent transmission, and about prison policy related to the pandemic.

Unfortunately, less than 17% of respondents reported feeling “satisfied” with prison communication about the coronavirus, and upwards of 60% were either “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.”

Time outside of the cell has improved, but only minimally.

At the start of the pandemic, facilities responded to COVID-19 by entering periods of intense lockdown. Incarcerated people were locked in their cells for upwards of 23 hours a day in many places throughout the state. As the DOC demobilization plan has been rolled out, time outside the cell has increased, though not by much.

Most survey respondents (29.5%) reported getting upwards of

two hours outside the cell per day. However, time outside the cell has not increased across the board: many respondents indicated that they are given less than 30 minutes of time outside the cell (22.5%, the second-most selected category). Yard access also remains limited, with most respondents reporting just 1-2 visits to the yard each week.

Access to prison resources & activities are still reduced.

Given the high number of hours that incarcerated people are made to spend in their cells each day, many facilities are utilizing puzzles, library book deliveries, and board games to pass the time. However, many respondents are frustrated with the limited activities being provided.

Similarly, access to prison resources has remained minimal. Most respondents reported that they were not able to access the law library (38.5%). Cleaning supplies, which are supposed to be supplied on a daily basis, are typically provided once a week (as reported by 53.2% of respondents).

Isolation is an ongoing theme.

With in-person visitation still suspended, incarcerated people rely on phones, emails, and video visits to speak with their loved ones on the outside. The number of free phone calls per week dropped from 5 to 1, but this reduction was not officially announced until over a month after it was implemented. The number of free emails per week was similarly reduced. Additionally, we have received frequent complaints about the unreliability of the new video visitation software, coupled with frustrations with scheduling video visits. Fewer than 1 in 4 incarcerated people had received a video visit in the week prior to filling out the survey, and of those that had (19%), nearly half reported bad video quality (8.7%).

Medical services seem to be inadequate.

Dissatisfaction with medical services has been consistent throughout the pandemic. Nearly 50% of survey respondents reported feeling dissatisfied with their access to medical services, and upwards of 50% of respondents indicated that they had not spoken to a member of psychological services since the start of the pandemic. This is a time of intense psychological pressure, particularly for those of you on the inside and mental health services are more necessary than ever.

The DOC continues to hold a policy of waiving medical co-pays for anyone with flu-like symptoms. 1 out of every 4 respondents were unaware of this policy.

Eight months ago, we reminded you that there is a community on the outside who care about you and are thinking about you. This hasn’t changed. We are listening to what you

and your loved ones who continue to call and email us each week tell us about the conditions inside. We will continue to push for and advocate for change where we can.

For the fifth issue in a row, we once again ask that you fill out the attached survey to continue our efforts to advocate for those of you behind bars.

SHOUT OUT FROM MARTY DUNBAR

It's Always Good to Say a Kind Word to Someone
SCI Somerset

I am writing this article to say that I and so many others here at SCI Somerset truly appreciate the leadership and concern that we got from Superintendent Tice and his administration when the Department of Corrections Secretary ordered that all state institutions be placed on lock down over the COVID-19 disease.

Superintendent Tice and his administration went on the Institutional Channel and told the prisoners that he was working to submit a plan for the institution to the secretary and wanted us to submit ideas to him.

Each week, Superintendent Tice came on the Institutional Channel with prisoners from various housing units informing us about meetings that he was having about SCI Somerset as we did not have any cases like any other state institutions had.

We all know that the COVID-19 disease came so fast and is not a joke. Every day we watched the news on TV; heard stories about how the disease was killing people left and right.

Here at SCI Somerset, we laid back and were not worrying about ourselves as much as our brothers at SCI Huntingdon because this disease was making our brothers sick left and right.

I would like to see other superintendents do what Superintendent Tice and his administration did: use your institutional channel each week with prisoners from different housing units to get ideas from the prison populations on how to keep everyone safe.

PRISON SOCIETY

A call for immediate, safe reduction of the prison population

Pennsylvania has only reduced its prison population by 5,000 since the start of the pandemic: less than half of what officials said was necessary.

The underwhelming impact of Governor Wolf's executive

order establishing temporary reprieves is one reason the state has fallen short. Though officials estimated about 1,200 would be eligible for release under the program, only 159 were ultimately granted reprieves. Moreover, the criteria for eligibility were too narrow to begin with. Even people at higher risk from COVID-19 due to a medical condition were eligible only if they would otherwise have been released within one year. That made the reprieves unattainable for many of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable people in custody.

PRISON SOCIETY

A call for Medical Parole

In consideration of the growing pandemic, we urge the Pennsylvania legislature to quickly pass a broad medical parole law. In the meantime, Governor Wolf need not wait for the legislature to act. The governor must also act without delay to broaden the eligibility requirements for a reprieve before more people die. Anyone who is not a risk to public safety and whose age or medical condition makes them especially vulnerable to the disease should be considered for release. Doing so would protect individuals at high risk for serious disease and slow the spread of the virus for those who remain incarcerated.

We also call on all county and state officials to:

- Implement weekly, rapid testing of all staff that come into contact with people in custody;
- Require that every county publicly report prison testing results and virus-related deaths in custody;
- Test and quarantine every new person entering custody; and
- Eliminate the medical co-pay for accessing health care while in custody.

Wondering about the status of a submission?

We receive a large number of wonderful articles every month, but we are unable to print them all.

As we have gained more volunteers on our Graterfriends team, we are working to provide more personalized feedback to our authors. You should begin to see more letters with feedback on both your accepted and denied submissions. Our team, while growing, is still limited, so we will be doing our best to do this for each article.

Thank you to our authors, and for those of you who have not written for us yet, we strongly encourage you to. The more voices we have- the better!

ART BY SHANNON COPELAND



BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended by John Adams at Morgan County Jail and Clifford Karolski at SCI Camp Hill

Ithaca College Books Thru Bars
Ithaca College Library
P.O. Box 113
Brooktondale, NY 14817

Prison Book Program
Lucy Parsons Bookstore
1306 Hancock Street, Suite 100
Quincy, MA 02169

Providence Books Through Bars
42 Lenox Avenue
Providence, RI 02907-1910

Books Behind Bars
Prison Mindfulness Institute
P.O. Box 206
South Deerfield, MA 01373

Book 'Em
The Big Idea bookstore
5129 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Books to Prisoners Left Bank Books
92 Pike Street, Box Seattle, WA 98101

The Country Bookshop
Vermont Books to Prisoners
P.O. Box 234
Plainfield, VT 05667

Antioch College Books to Prisoners Project
One Morgan Place
Yellow Springs, OHIO 45387

Appalachian Prison Book Project
PO Box 601

Morgantown WV 26507

Ashville Prison Books Project
Downtown Books and News
67 N. Lexington Ave.
Ashville, NC 28801

Helpful Tips for Requesting Books

For Faster Delivery:

- You should limit your category/genre selection list to no more than six.
- Always specify if your facility allows used and hardcover books.
- Do not request books from the same donor for a minimum of 90 days (three months).
- Avoid messy hand-writing.
- Always include your address at the bottom of your letter.
- Always allow at least 90 days for delivery.

Sample Letter:

Wednesday, March 27 2019

Hello,

I am writing to respectfully request any softback books you can provide on the following True Crime, Fantasy, Poetry, Westerns, and Self-Help.

Thank you so much for your time and efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Adams #123456
Po Box 2000
Wartburg, TN 37887

*Reminder: Donations like books are expensive, and often not tax write offs. If it's within your ability to send a donation please do! Even if it's only one stamp. Anything helps.
Proverbs 3:27 - Do not withhold good from those whom it is due when it is in your power to do it.*

REPORTS FROM THE INSIDE

Re-entry During C-19

T.C. Barner

I have been at the Allentown mission for three months since my release from prison. Every day has been spent on the property except for the occasional ride with one or two others in the van to the store: what we call a “store run”.

Things have always changed as the people come and go. But, lately, there has been a difference in the amount of people and the type of people coming in. Many are young and have never been in a rescue mission before (when I was some of their ages, I had never heard of a rescue mission or shelter let alone be living in one) and then there are those who have been in the rescue mission more than once, once I became aware of this it brought to mind people who go back and forth to jail and prison repeat offenders

As this writer sees it, in order to be a true believer in anything one must witness or experience it for one's self.

When I got here, I only had my box of papers, underwear, the blues on my back, and \$69.00. I had to get to know people to use their phones, to get coffee and other such things. Now I have a phone, money in my pocket and in the bank. Some of the ones who come into the mission are worse off than I was, with only the clothes on their backs. More than a few have been turned away because they don't know they have to call 211 for a referral. Others choose not to stay because we are still on lock down, and then there are those who get benefits as I do and choose to live in a hotel or motel until their money runs low or they are out of money and have to wait for the next pay period

Some come into the rescue mission who will not wear a mask. Or, they'll start verbal altercations, and they are asked to leave. The younger ones have been asked to leave their homes by their families because they don't want to work or refuse to look for work. Then they come here for a night or two, but they would rather go out and commit a crime than be seen in the soup line. There are those who have cars living here in the mission. I think to myself: If I had a car, I would have a job.

Two days ago we found out the manager of the emergency shelter told one of my friends he needed \$1,000 to be in the program. The next week he told him it would be another \$600. And then again the next week. And then the manager left his job.

Things are still bad out here in the real world, and I'm wondering what kind of value money still has.

Unintended Consequences

Heather Lavelle, SCI Muncy

Living in prison during the COVID-19 health crisis is a scary thing. There is no good way to maintain social distancing in prison. The facility I'm in was built in the early 1900's. It was not designed to keep us separated. There is one dining hall and until recently, one infirmary to service the 1,400+ women housed here. While the prison is taking measures to keep us safe, we still live with the daily anxiety of what will happen if we have an outbreak. Dying in prison of COVID-19 has become another unintended consequence of committing a crime.

My life is full of unintended consequences. It all started with my participation in a robbery in 2005. If I had only known then what lay ahead, I never would have engaged in such a reckless act. The unintended consequence of that crime was my friend losing his life. I was convicted of his murder in 2006 and have been serving a life sentence ever since.

A homicide committed during the perpetration of a robbery in Pennsylvania is considered felony murder. The only penalty for felony murder is life without the possibility of parole. Pennsylvania is one of only two states in the country with such a severe penalty. A pending lawsuit is challenging whether or not this penalty violates the prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment in the Constitution. Any prison sentence that eliminates the hope of one day being released should be considered cruel. Unfortunately, in Pennsylvania, it is not all that unusual.

While I hope that sentencing reform will be a reality in my lifetime, living with a life sentence has created countless unintended consequences. Any woman can tell you that losing the right to bear children is devastating. Having that choice taken away feels like being deprived of what it is to be a woman. For those of us who do have children, the pain of not being there as they grow is equally as devastating.

Earlier this year, I lost my Mom. I always assumed that I would be the one to take care of her when that time came. I tried everything I could to get home to her - appeals, commutation, advocating for parole for lifers legislation, you name it. But sadly, it was not meant to be. My biggest unintended consequence became not being there for the person who was always there for me. I don't know what other consequences lay ahead for me, but I do know that they never stop.

Our country is in a state of unrest. Not only due to the health crisis, but also from people standing up and saying they won't take it anymore. Police brutality is one important aspect of the changes we need to make as a society. We need meaningful criminal justice reform in Pennsylvania. Be it through the legislature, the courts or the Board of Pardons, never ending

punishments and multiplying unintended consequences need to stop. We must find a way to move forward.

One Life Gained

Jacob Keiter, FCI Schuylkill

When that gavel slams down, you feel the whole world shatter around you. Looking towards a brighter future seems impossible, and you lose all hope. But, you can't allow this to happen.

Instead of using it as a crutch and an excuse for the things you can't do, use it as motivation for the things you can achieve one day. Since I've been incarcerated, I've strived to better myself mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Today, I love the man I've molded myself into. Instead of looking at my situation as the government taking five years from me, I look at the life I have now gained.

One Life Gained: COVID-19 at SCI Smithfield

Kasheyon Lee-Chima, SCI Smithfield

After months free of COVID-19, SCI Smithfield went into immediate lockdown on the afternoon of Monday, October 5th. I have to admit that has been (and still is) a very scary thing to be just feet away from the SCI Huntingdon, the prison with the most cases in the state. However, Superintendent Jamey P. Luther has been and continues to do a phenomenal great job.

We are 9 months into our lockdown and have only now had our first positive cases.

Since the 5th of October, this facility has been on a complete lockdown where we could not leave our cells for any reason what-so-ever. Yet, Superintendent Ms. Luther has been working, planning, and operating with not only the administration of this facility, but also with the DOC Secretary and the statewide administration to ensure that we can restore some form of restoration to our phone, kiosk and shower privileges. And, on the 9th, those privileges surely were restored as a 2-person cohort system.

People may wonder how this system has worked out, but it became possible. Of course, no one wants to deal with this unwanted, unwarranted situation, but being that COVID was forced upon us, I have to admit that I am truthfully satisfied with the handling from our Superintendent.

What am I saying?

I am absolutely proud of SCI Smithfield's Superintendent Luther and her administration on how they've handled our safety and well-being during these unprecedented times.

And even though the COVID prison hotspot is feet away, our first case came eleven months since COVID reached the USA. Unlike many other facilities, SCI Smithfield has done a very great job.

Upcoming Creative Issue!

Thanks to the numerous submissions by our readers, we have been able to put together a literary supplement for 2020. Look out in the mail for a creative issue from us at the end of the month featuring art, stories, and poems.

We will be looking for themes for our 2021 creative issue, so stay tuned and keep writing!

ADVOCATES

Aging Prison Populations

George Rahsaan Brooks, SCI Coal Township

More and more attention is being paid in criminal justice circles to the cost of aging prison populations. More advocacy groups are also calling for reforms in the wake of credible evidence that proves the nation's aging prison population has reached levels at growing expense to taxpayers, mainly due to the high cost of medical care for older and geriatric prisoners.

The state spends over \$254 million on prisoner health care in spite of the prison population having fewer prisoners than it did in 2015. Due to the cost of treating its elderly, one of the Department's main focus is on cutting medical costs to prisoners with life-threatening and chronic illnesses and diseases, who are receiving the worst correctional medical care. Correctional medical license carries with it a much lower standard than those issued to care for those in the general population in society.

Part of the hybrid model that the Pa. Dept. of Corrections uses for their medical system involves signing contracts with large medical corporations that are run by non-doctors so that these contracts guarantee large kickbacks. These large medical, business corporations place cutting costs and making a profit over inmates' adequate medical care, subjecting inmates to calculated indifference and cruel and unusual punishment. Pennsylvania taxpayers are charged First World prices to give prisoners Third World medical

care.

To cut cost, the Pa. Dept. of Correction put in place several directives, including greater use of telemedicine services, close monitoring of pain-management drugs, and co-medical pay of charging inmates \$5.00 for being seen by a doctor's assistant and an additional \$5.00 if medication is prescribed, while paying those same prisoners between 19 to 42 cents per hour. Inmates who don't receive any funds from outside of prison elect not to get on sick call, purchase much cheaper and less effective medication that is available from the prison canteen, or live in pain.

This cruelty of placing budgetary concerns over adequate medical treatment and prisoners' welfare, and charging them a fee to be seen or treated by a non-doctor, not only violates the United States Constitution; the Pa. Dept. of Corrections' policies and actions are in direct contravention to the 1976 Supreme Court of the United States decision in *Estelle v. Gamble*, 97 S.Ct. 285. The high court ruled that "having custody of a prisoner's body imposes a duty to provide adequate medical care."

The State's extreme sentencing policies, and the growing number of elders and those serving life without parole sentences, have effectively turned Pennsylvania Prisons into veritable nursing homes, and our taxpayers are paying for it. Not only is keeping elderly and geriatric prisoners confined extraordinarily expensive, it amounts to "death by incarceration," illustrates cruelty and revenge, and lacks common sense.

As a caring and mature society who believes in second chances, we should look carefully at those aging behind bars and determine who can be released back into society without undue risk and at enormous saving in human suffering and dollars spent on keeping people behind bars that simply is not necessary or practical to achieve justice or public safety.

Taste the Rainbow
Juicy Queen Bee, SCI Albion

This is to all those out there who believe in what we believe. We in the life community are mothers, fathers, aunties, uncles. We want acceptance, love, freedom, peace like everyone else. We experience trials, tribulations, battles, obstacles, road blocks.

What I'm about to say may offend people. They may feel like I'm throwing shade. I'm not.

Being a Homosexual Queer Gay Transgender Intersex Lesbian doesn't make us different. We believe everyone should be equal and live their life the way they want to live. If your child tells you that they want to be a girl, or a boy, or that they are homosexual, beating them or throwing them out isn't going to stop them from feeling how they feel. Hating on them isn't going to

stop them.

In prison, the obstacles we face get much worse: We are singled out. We can't get all the things we need, can't get any of the things we want. We are targeted by staff, sexually abused by staff, raped by staff. We are lied to, abused, laughed at.

We are searched at a much higher rate. We are disrespected. Our literature gets denied. In certain jobs, we are looked at funny. Hating on us isn't going to stop us.

In Support of HB 135 and Senate Bill 942
Rodney "Shaheed" Derrickson, SCI Forest

This is an open letter for all state elected officials in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging your support of Representative Jason Dawkins' House Bill 135, and Senator Sharif Street's Senate Bill 942, seeking parole consideration for those serving life sentences in Pennsylvania.

This legislation would authorize the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole to consider parole applications from lifers after they have served 35 years for first-degree murder, or 25 years for second degree murder.

As a young juvenile entering prison at just seventeen years old, it was rehabilitated lifers who helped me grow and transform. These lifers encouraged and challenged me to become a better thinker and find meaning while facing a life sentence. Lifers often tutor other prisoners in educational and vocational programming, and implement or help facilitate programs and self-help groups geared towards helping rehabilitate short term prisoners before their release back into society. Lifers also hold leadership positions in civic and social awareness organizations approved by the DOC that emphasize the importance of turning one's life around, and host charity events for outside communities and nonprofit organizations.

Many of those sentenced to life have committed the ultimate offense against society, but I ask you to consider the circumstances of the vast majority of men and women convicted of murder. Most of the time, these crimes are not carried out by experienced criminals. In the majority of cases, these crimes were triggered by domestic violence, substance abuse, physical and emotional trauma, peer pressure, or combination of these. Many were given life sentences even if circumstances may have only warranted a third degree murder conviction, or if they pleaded guilty, which in most cases would have made them eligible for parole after serving 10 or 20 years.

Over 5,250 lifers are incarcerated in the Pennsylvania DOC. Pennsylvania has the second largest population of individuals serving life sentences without parole in the country. 51% of them were between the ages of 18 and 25 years old when sentenced. The average age of those who would be eligible

for parole consideration under this bill are now over 40 years old.

These bills would not pose a public safety concern because the only lifers that would be considered are those who have been rehabilitated. Neither of these bills creates the right to be released; each eligible person would still have to go before the PA Board of Probation and Parole, who will review their requests on a case by case basis, and the board could deny any lifer who does not deserve parole. This legislation would only allow eligible lifers the opportunity to apply for consideration, undergoing the same process for juvenile lifers incarcerated in Pennsylvania.

Citizen or Slave?

Augustus Enoch, SCI Coal Township

The Constitution clearly states in Article XV, “the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged... on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude,” and Article XIX protects voting rights on account of sex. Further, Article IX states, “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”

From what you just read above, does it make any logical sense that incarceration revokes this right? A country that claims to not be systemically racist supports and enforces this seizure of our rights to vote with slavery. How, you ask? Article XIII, section one states, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime... shall exist within the United States.”

What is interesting about this Constitutional paradox is that we are incarcerated so we can learn to follow and respect the law, to return to society rehabilitated, but we are denied the most fundamental tool of citizenship, the tool that allows citizens to take part in this country’s social and political affairs.

Elected officials shape the laws that affect those imprisoned. So why don’t we have the right to vote? When we register to vote, we receive a license to vote within our State of residence. This is the same process we use to register to get a driver’s license, a license to practice medicine, and a license to carry a firearm.

Each of these licenses are only taken from those who abuse them within the context of the license itself. You can go to jail and keep these licenses, as long as you reapply and remain registered, with the exception of a firearm license, because criminal deviance is within the context of a firearm license. You must abuse your license to lose it. What voter rights did we violate? Did we commit voter fraud? Ballot theft? Some form of treason? Any of these three would validate restrictions on our rights.

Without any logical cause, voting rights are taken from prisoners for reasons not within the context of the voter registry. Jim Crow voter laws were put in place to thwart the voting rights of Black Americans, Latin Americans, Asian Americans, and poor Whites. Who are the majority coming to prisons in the millions around the country? Who is specifically targeted to meet quotas every election year?

The question I ask you is this: Citizen or Slave? That is the question. I challenge you all to take action.

Is Justice an Old Myth?

Darrell Ameen McKelvie, SCI Benner

The judicial system knowingly convicts innocent individuals and claims that justice has been served. If a guilty person is sent to prison to pay his or her debt to society, who is the innocent person in prison paying his or her debt to?

Justice allegedly means to give someone their rightful place or position, to be fair and equitable. When justice is corrupted by persuasion, financial gain, politics, and favoritism, it becomes an illusion.

I have been unjustly incarcerated for 46 years for a gang-related homicide I did not commit. I was found guilty by a jury, not because justice was served, but because it does not exist. I came to the conclusion years ago that justice is a myth embedded in our minds. It is a word without verity, one that gives nothing but false hope.

We have been asking for justice for over 400 years, but our cries keep falling on deaf ears — not because we were not heard, but because Black Lives Do Not Matter. Our ancestors were promised 40 acres and a mule after emancipation, but that was 157 years ago, and that promise was never fulfilled. It was never intended to be.

Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois foresaw that struggle a century ago when he declared American Negroes greeted liberation from slavery as the day of jubilee, not realizing that emancipation only freed them for a long struggle, the end of which is still not in sight.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “For years now I have heard the word ‘Wait!’ It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This ‘Wait’ has almost always meant ‘Never.’ We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that “justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

Can someone explain to me what justice is? Because it is something I have never experienced or witnessed.

Individualized Sentencing (Part 1)

Raymond Solano, SCI Greene

The concept of an offender receiving an “individualized sentence” is not new to Pennsylvania’s judicial system. Anyone who is serious about bringing change to the way of offenders are being automatically sentenced to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole after being convicted of (non-capital) first-degree murder should pay very close attention to what I have to say:

The significance of an offender receiving an individualized sentence after being convicted of (non-capital) first-degree murder cannot be overstated or overlooked; it will be instrumental in bringing about the necessary changes to the current draconian practice that specifically singles out offenders solely on the basis of the nature of their offense. This is a concept that is contrary to the idea of individualized sentencing which drives Pennsylvania’s sentencing guidelines. Allow me to expound on that:

Under section 9721 of Pennsylvania’s sentencing code, prior to the imposition of any sentence, the sentencing court must consider numerous factors when imposing a sentence: one of these is the offender’s rehabilitative needs. A sentencing court’s disregard of this factor will result in an automatic remand for resentencing in accordance with 9721(b). This is a crucial point in my argument to change the practicing of sentencing men and women convicted of (non-capital) first-degree murder from an automatic life imprisonment without parole sentence because it is in complete contravention to Pennsylvania’s indeterminate sentencing scheme.

Pennsylvania’s statutes list that every offender, regardless of the nature of their offense, not only receives an individualized sentence, but that they are guaranteed one. Yet, in the case of (non-capital) first-degree murder, this is being disregarded. Such practices were abandoned in the early 1900’s, when Pennsylvania shifted away from the eye for an eye approach on punishment and instead adopted the indeterminate sentencing scheme which is based on the philosophy of individualized sentencing. This approach allows the sentencing court to consider an offender’s rehabilitative needs and, most importantly, it permits the court to not only punish the offender, but also to help rehabilitate them.

Sins of Poverty

Edward N. Wright Jr., SCI Mahanoy

The symbiosis between Poverty and Imprisonment is irrefutable. Indigence invites a subversion of the processes that govern the application of Justice. It is a cycle that commences long before Criminality is contemplated. When born to a reality of poverty, regardless of color, struggle is ubiquitous and all encompassing, school curriculums and dietary options are subpar, economic opportunity is limited, and the

stage is set for an introduction to the legal system.

True, not all interactions with law enforcement result in rogue conduct, misimplementation of force, or prove fatal. But this is because the brutalizations we experience aren’t just of the physical variety; they are also committed via the exploitation of our often lawful ignorance in the nascency of Judicial Process, post arrest. When appointed overworked, underpaid, and disinterested public defenders, unable to afford adequate or tolerable representation, we enter the proverbial legal arena at a woeful disadvantage left to the bidding of the court.

The reform we seek isn’t an assignment of blame. Placement of blame isn’t progressive, nor is it a panacea for the systemic injustices plaguing the urban experience. Reform should not be viewed with skepticism. The advocacy for reform does not call for limiting any persons, to think otherwise would be hypocritical. Equality lay at the core of the solidarity being exercised by the global protests. As the marginalized, we seek restoration of rights denied. This societal sojourn towards righteousness must be one of permanence, and not some scintillate of consciousness.

Justice should not be negotiable or arbitrarily offered to solely persons of a select class or creed. If we are aiming for justice in its most virtuous state, truly, all biases must be eradicated, all vestiges of superiority or imperialist ideology have to be removed. We must champion an agenda that balances the interests of society as a whole, rather than the few. Only then will we reach our potential as a just and humane nation.

A Quick Shout Out

Nickolas Stitt at SCI Coal Township would like to give a shout-out to E-Block counselor Jason Mordan for his work in helping Mr. Stitt with issues that other employees brushed him off about.

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RESOURCES

PA State Officials

Governor Tom Wolf

Governor's Correspondence Office
508 Main Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
P: 717-787-3391
F: 717-772-8284

Attorney General Josh Shapiro

PO Box 22653
Philadelphia, PA 19110
P: 215-886-7376

Senator _____

Senate PO Box 203 ___-__*
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative _____

PO Box 202 ___-__*
Harrisburg, PA 17120

*If you know the three-digit district number for your Senator or Representative, add it to the PO Box number. If you do not know, information for Senators is available at www.pasen.gov; information for Representatives is available at www.house.state.pa.us.

DOC Secretary John Wetzel

19020 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
P: 717-728-2573
W: www.cor.pa.gov
E: ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov

Prison Society Mentoring Program

Families and Individuals Reintegrating Successfully Together (F.I.R.S.T.), our mentoring program, is a voluntary program for men currently in the Transitional Housing Unit (THU) at SCI Chester and SCI Phoenix.

The program helps prepare incarcerated individuals for successful reentry mentally, emotionally, and logistically. After a series of workshops on relevant topics (such as social media, applying for medical benefits, securing housing, and obtaining education and jobs), mentees are assigned to mentors, to meet one-on-one for at least six months to develop and achieve a personalized goal plan. We are also working with soon-to-be-released Juvenile Lifers across the state to help them bridge into life outside in the community.

We are always seeking mentors and mentee participants. For more information, or for a mentor application, please contact:

Joseph Robinson, Mentoring Program Case Manager
P: 215-564-4775, ext. 1005

FAMM

FAMM, a DC-based sentencing reform organization, is working to fight mandatory minimums in Pennsylvania, but needs case examples to help convince lawmakers to support fair sentencing.

If you are serving a long mandatory sentence for a drug or gun offense, please send 1) your name, 2) your contact information, 3) contact information for an outside friend of family member, 4) a brief description of your offense, and 5) your sentence, to:

FAMM

Attn: Pennsylvania Stories
1100 H Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Note: FAMM does not offer direct legal assistance, but the organization will contact you by mail if they'd like to learn more about your case.

The Prison Society and Broad Street Ministry

The Prison Society at Broad Street Ministry is a collaboration providing reentry support for people returning to Philadelphia. At Broad Street Ministry, individuals can receive a P.O. Box, change of clothes and personal care items, as well as meet with a reentry associate. Broad Street partners with multiple non-profit organizations who offer on-site assistance with medical care, housing, employment, public benefits, and obtaining personal identification.

Broad Street Ministry

315 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
P: 215-735-4847
W: www.broadstreetministry.org

LAMBDA Resources for LGBTQ People in Custody

Lambda Legal's mission is to achieve full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, we do not charge our clients for legal representation or advocacy, and we receive no government funding. We depend on contributions from supporters around the country.

National Headquarters

120 Wall Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3919
P: 212-809-8585
W: www.LambdaLegal.org

RESOURCES

Expungements

Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity

1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
P: 267-519-5323

Expunge Philadelphia

Juvenile Expungement Hotline
P: 267-765-6770

Community Legal Services

Center City Office
1424 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505
P: 215-981-3700
North Philadelphia Law Center
1410 W. Erie Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19140
P: 215-227-2400

ACLU

Whether it's achieving full equality for LGBT people, establishing new privacy protections for our digital age of widespread government surveillance, ending mass incarceration, or preserving the right to vote or the right to have an abortion, the ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach.

ACLU Pennsylvania Central Office

P.O. Box 11761
Harrisburg, PA 17108
P: 717-238-2258
W: www.aclupa.org
E: hbginfo@aclupa.org

Prisoner's Rights

Abolish Death by Incarceration

c/o Decarcerate PA
PO Box 40764
Philadelphia, PA 19107
P: 267-217-3372
W: www.decarceratepa.info
E: decarceratepa.pgh@gmail.com (Pittsburgh)
E: cadbiphilly@gmail.com (Philadelphia)
E: decarceratepa@gmail.com

PA Institutional Law Project: Philadelphia

The Cast Iron Building
718 Arch Street, Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106
P: 215-925-2966 (Philadelphia)
F: 215-925-5337 (Philadelphia)
P: 570-523-1104 (Lewisburg)
P: 412-434-6004 (Pittsburgh)
W: www.pailp.org

E: alove@pailp.org

Prison Activist Resource Center

PO Box 70447
Oakland, CA 94612
P: 510-893-4648
W: www.prisonactivists.org/resources
E: info@prisonactivists.org

Reentry Services

Philadelphia Reentry Coalition

P: 1-215-683-3379
E: philareentrycoalition@gmail.com

Franklin County Reentry Coalition (Franklin Together)

533 S. Main Street Chambersburg, PA 17201
P: 717-263-5060 ext. 314

Life Without Parole

Women Lifers Resume Project of PA

PO Box 324
New Hope, PA 18938
P: 814-393-5400 (Cambridge Springs)
P: 570-546-3171 (Muncy)
W: www.wlrpp.org

Reconstruction Inc.

ATTN Fight for Lifers
PO Box 7691
Philadelphia, PA 19101
P: 215-223-8180

Pennsylvania Innocence Project

The Pennsylvania Innocence Project has a four-fold mission to: (1) secure the exoneration, release from imprisonment, and restoration to society of persons who are innocent and have been wrongly convicted; (2) provide clinical training and experience to students in the fields of law, journalism, criminal justice, and forensic science; (3) collaborate with law enforcement agencies and the courts to address systemic causes of wrongful convictions; and (4) strengthen and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania through public education and advocacy.

Philadelphia Office

1515 Market St
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Pittsburgh Office

914 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

W: www.InnocenceProjectPA.org
P: 215-204-4255
E: InnocenceProjectPA@temple.edu

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

PPS is partnering with FAMM, ACLU of PA, Americans for Prosperity, the Commonwealth Foundation and others to support positive reforms. In January, representatives from all five of these organizations spent a day at the State Capitol sharing their priorities with lawmakers and expressing their bipartisan support for criminal justice reform. The following are new legislative criminal justice initiatives introduced since August. For information on other currently pending criminal justice reform legislation, see previous issue. [Note: SJC = Senate Judiciary Committee, HJC = House Judiciary Committee.]

December 2020

November 30th ended the 2019-2020 legislative session in Pennsylvania! Governor Wolf signed the following bills into law prior to the close of the session:

HB 1538 was approved by Governor Wolf on Nov 25, 2020 and became **Act 124**. Act 124 requires people with certain convictions to wait three years to reapply for parole, modifying the previous requirement of one year. Included convictions include murder; voluntary manslaughter; kidnapping; trafficking in individuals; involuntary servitude; race; statutory sexual assault; involuntary deviate sexual intercourse; sexual assault; institutional sexual assault; aggravated indecent assault; indecent assault; incest; and people with convictions under 42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H or I.

Act 124 also requires a parole hearing examiner, hearing officer or member of the board to hear victim input in person, without the use of video conferencing technology.

Rep. Martina White (R) was the prime sponsor of HB 1538. HB 1538 (Act 124) was signed into law by Governor Wolf on Nov. 25, 2020. *The Prison Society opposed this bill.*

HB 440 was approved by Governor Wolf on Oct 29, 2020 and became **Act 83**. Act 83 provides that a person's record of criminal conviction be expunged if fully acquitted of all charges arising from the same event. Act 83 requires a person to pay all court-ordered restitution, fines, and fees to benefit from these clean slate provisions.

Rep. Sheryl DeLozier (R) and Rep. Joanna McClinton were the prime sponsors of HB 440. HB 440 (Act 83) was signed into law by Governor Wolf on October 29, 2020. *The Prison Society supported this bill.*

In Memoriam: Tributes to Those Lost During COVID-19

The Graterfriends team was greatly moved by Andrew O-Lock's piece *Lifers Lost* found on page 11. The large-scale impact of this pandemic has led to many individual's deaths becoming part of a statistic, especially inside our prisons and jails.

We would like to offer up the opportunity for others to write a tribute to someone on the inside that they have lost. We will feature these tributes in the next issue of Graterfriends.

Please write us a tribute with the following information:

Individual's name
Facility they were incarcerated at
A few sentences about their life and impact.

READER SURVEY

We welcome comments and suggestions from all readers. Please complete this form and mail it to Pennsylvania Prison Society.

Is there any information you would like to see in Graterfriends that is not already included?

We are in the process of working to make our resource guide more helpful to our incarcerated readers. Are there any resources we have not included in past issues that you would like to see included in future issues, such as resources you have used in while incarcerated and have found useful? They can be related to books, legal help, reentry, etc.

COVID-19 SURVEY

*As part of our continued efforts to monitor prison conditions, we are asking you for your help understanding what is happening on the inside. Since we have added some new questions, **even if you have taken a version of this survey previously, it would help if you would fill it out again.***

*Please fill out this survey and mail it back to us at:
230 South Broad Street, Suite 605, Philadelphia, PA 19102.*

1. Do you feel safe? Yes | No
2. How satisfied are you with the accessibility of medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic?
Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied
3. How did you get information from the prison about COVID-19? (select all that apply)
Paper Bulletin on Unit Facility Info Channel on TV
Verbal communication by staff Town Halls run by prison administration
I did not get this information Other, please specify: _____
4. Do you have access to a TV?
Yes, block TV Yes, personal TV Yes, block TV & personal TV No
5. How satisfied have you been with communication about prison policy from the prison staff?
Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied
6. How frequently do staff members wear masks?
Never Rarely Sometimes Often Always
7. Did the incarcerated people around you follow good health practices in the last week by washing their hands often?
No Yes Unsure
8. Did the incarcerated people around you follow good health practices in the last week by cleaning shared items after use (example: phones)?
No Yes Unsure
9. Did the common areas you have access to get cleaned at least two times a day in the last week (examples: dayrooms, showers)?
No Some areas, but not all Yes, all areas Unsure
10. How often did you get cleaning chemicals from the prison to clean your cell / sleeping area in the last week (examples: soap, bleach, or peroxide)?
Never Once last week 2 or 3 times last week Unsure
11. Did you get enough cleaning chemicals to thoroughly clean your cell / sleeping area in the last week?
No, I did not get any No, did not get enough Yes Unsure
12. Did you have enough soap to regularly wash your hands in the last week?
No Yes Yes, but I had to purchase some from the commissary Unsure

13. How many times in the last week did you shower?

None, I was not able to shower None, I chose not to shower
1-2 times 3-4 times More than 5 times

14. How satisfied are you with the size of the meals you were served this past week?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

15. How satisfied are you with the quality of the meals you were served this past week?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

16. What activities/services is the prison administration providing to people in custody? (select all that apply)

Board Games Puzzles Bingo Religious Services
Library Book Delivery Other, please specify: _____

17. Last week, did you access the law library?

No, did not try to No, was not able to Yes

18. How much time outside of the cell (not including yard time) do you get per day?

Less than 30 minutes 30-60 minutes 60-90 minutes 90-120 minute 120+ minutes

19. How many times did you go to the yard last week?

I did not go to the yard (did not want to) I did not go to the yard (not allowed)
1-2 times 3-4 times 5 or more times

20. How many free phone calls did you make in the past week?

None 1-2 3-4 5 More than 5

21. In the past week, did you send at least one free email?

No, did not try to No, was not able to Yes

22. Did you get a free video visit in the last week?

No Yes, but bad service Yes, & it worked Does not apply to me

23. Since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, have you spoken with anyone from psychological services?

No, have not tried to No, have not been able to Yes

24. Are you aware of the DOC policy change that medical co-pays are waived for flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, chest tightness, etc.)? Yes | No

25. How satisfied are you with the way your facility has responded to COVID-19?

Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied

26. If you'd like to add to your answers above: What is the atmosphere of the prison like?

27. If you'd like to add to your answers above: What is the attitude of the staff like?

28. If you'd like to add to your answers above: What are your concerns about how the prison is managing the coronavirus outbreak?

29. What facility are you in? _____

30. Are you in the RHU? Yes | No

31. What is your housing unit? _____

32. What date did you fill out this survey? _____

33. Have you taken a version of this survey earlier? Yes | No

OPTIONAL (your name will not be used in reporting our results)

Name: _____

PPN number: _____

Thank you for your feedback. We are here during these uncertain times.

PLEASE NOTE if you have other concerns, not related to the questions above, please write to us on a separate piece of paper. If you provide additional information on this survey, it may get lost.

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November & December 2020

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