

JAN 17 2007

January 15, 2007 Monday

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regards to how the Mental Health Unit is run and it's breaking of D.O.C. Policy and Procedures 807.13 (check policy A and policy D) for pointers. But reading the whole chapter would be helpful.

The inmates are not treated fairly according the rights and benefits of the rest of the prisoners of Hiland. I understand precautions with mentally ill persons, I am labeled as one. When I was back on the M.H.U. I would see how the staff of that particular unit would manipulate, antagonize and physically threaten inmates on the Mental Health Unit. Example:1 IF another mentally ill inmate has a situation and smears feces all over the walls, the M.H.U. staff make other mentally ill inmates clean up the feces when it is the nurse on duty's job to clean it up. Example:2 During medication time, if a new inmate refused to take the suggested drugs, they would be told, "We have a doctor's order, you have to take these medications." If the inmate still refuses she would get held down by the correctional staff and injected against their will with (usually) psychotropic medications.

The inmate is not told of their legal rights beforehand and after being violated by the correctional staff. If there is an urgent emergency that exists, then the M.H.U. staff per D.O.C. policy have the legal right to inject someone with medications against their will if: a. the person is gravely disabled or b. a danger to him/herself or others. A doctors order can mean nothing but the M.H.U. staff call down the goon squad to intimidate, threaten and force inmates into taking drugs against their will. So the M.H.U. staff calls a "hearing" together against the inmate with "outside" doctors to get a court order (which they needed in the first place-before injecting anyone) to put the individual on medications against their will, called "Involuntary Mandatory Medications". By the time of the "hearing" the individual is not in their proper frame of mind; hurt, defensive and possibly angry enough to be verbally and physically abusive; so then of course the consensus is "Yes, this person needs medications". And then if they are here at Hiland for a long enough time, they are not even told that the Involuntary Mandatory Medications order expires after 6 months and they are lead to believe they have to keep taking these drugs or get physically assaulted time and time again.

I personally was lead to believe that I had to keep taking the medications for about 6 months after the order expired because I was told by the Clinician III, David Sage that he was going to get it "permanent" (for the forced medications order) against me. Later I was told by Dr. Lothian that I am taking them voluntarily, but if I start to refuse to take these medications I would be brought back on to the Mental Health Unit against my will. And the M.H.U. staff there, do lie and exaggerate even on paper, about my behaviors. I have specific paper work (cop-outs) as evidence and there are digital cam cord recordings of the correctional staff forcibly injecting me against my will. Aside from the "hearing" on cassette tape (which could be used as evidence against them) in opposition to me, the Hiland staff have abused their job positions and quite a number of inmates from both in M.H.U. and the R.S.A.T. (Residential Substance Abuse Treatment) programs believe it's "brainwashing" because it is forced.

Example:3 Some inmates are not even mentally ill and are forced on the Mental Health Unit and neglected to the extent of unreasonable health care. Inmate Terria Creech (not mentally ill, was injected against her will in December 2000) would be willing to speak about the inhumane treatment because she has witnessed and suffered it herself. The only reason I am taking these dangerous anti-psychotic medications is because I don't want to go the M.H.U. for the rest of my stay here in D.O.C. custody when it was Mr. David Sage's lies and exaggerations about me, that got me put on the mental health unit for the 2<sup>nd/3rd</sup> time.

Example:4 Some inmates have been on their medications for as long as 10 + years on the outside and the M.H.U. staff just cut them off cold turkey and puts them on medications that fit their D.O.C budget if they put then on any at all. Then there are inmates like myself who do not like taking the medications and I am "forced" to take them. I would appreciate someone coming to interview me regarding the illegal activities and the inhumane treatment by the M.H.U. staff done to inmates. I also appreciate the time you've taken to read this letter and hopefully I will get a response.

Thank You.

Sticking up for Mentally Ill Rights...

Sincerely,  
Etta M. Bavilla



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