12 April, 2019

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Submittal by Stan Moore

Comments on Medical Services in California Prisons

I have been in California prisons since later summer of 2015, when I was sent to reception at San Quentin. I got off the bus with a urinary catheter and leg bag due to a presumed prostate problem that arose when I was awaiting sentencing at Marin County Jail. At San Quentin they diagnosed a bladder infection and put me on antibiotics for a week. The infection went away, the catheter was removed, and I could pee again, but still was ~~put on~~ treated daily with the prostate drug Tamsulosin.

I arrived at mainline California Men's Colony West in November, 2015. I still had weak urine stream when peeing, and Finasteride was added to my treatment regime and I went to an outside urologist for consultation. He did a digital rectal exam of my prostate and noted its enlarged state and recommended a biopsy and another procedure by which a camera is run through the urethra and the bladder is examined. Not long after, I received the bladder screening but no biopsy ever ~~occured~~. occurred.

I had more and more problems with my prostate over time. The doses of tamsulosin and finasteride were doubled. Still problems persisted. My PSA went up from 4.1 to 10.0 and finally an MRI was ordered. The MRI took place 3 years after the first urologist consultation and found a enlarged prostate estimated at 93 grams

weight compared to 25 grams for a normal prostate. And my prostate had a very large lesion, suggesting serious cancer, I was told.

Two months later, I received the prostate biopsy. It revealed a Gleason score of (5+4) 9, indicating advanced, ~~agg~~ aggressive cancer, which ~~indicated~~ the urologist indicated is incurable. He said that he could keep me alive for 5 years, but treatments would be difficult and likely have significant side effects. I am still awaiting a bone scan to help with determining the exact stage of my cancer.

What I have now experienced seems to follow a pattern with four other CMC West inmates who had symptoms suggesting cancer, but who did not receive a formal medical diagnosis until the cancer was stage 4 and incurable.

My Mens Advisory Council representative here at CMC West Gold Yard told me this week that consideration is being given to demanding that California prisons be placed once again under Federal receivership to help ensure adequate supervision of the prison medical care system. Apparently, CDCR has regressed since being removed from Federal medical supervision earlier. Perhaps my cancer would have diagnosed in time for effective treatment if the Feds were still in charge.