

Aug 16, 2020

new submittal - Side Effects of COVID 19 Crisis at CMC West

A bona fide COVID 19 outbreak crisis has now emerged at CMC West and its sister facility CMC-East. Over 200 cases are now active, including prisoners and staff. Associate Warden K. McQueen admitted last week to the Mens Advisory Committee Reps that the virus is entering the facility via staff - a predictable outcome of CMC's flawed mitigation strategy. Last week an officer working at R&R tested positive and all prisoners working there were sent to quarantine, but no other officers. The chow hall ~~off~~ /ed officer also tested positive recently, and all prisoners working in the chow hall were also sent to quarantine, but no officers.

In the midst of all this, two weeks ago I began experiencing severe pain in my neck and shoulder. I formalized a request for medical services and saw the triage nurse who gave me an ointment that proved to be ineffective and a doctor's appointment. In the next week 3 different medical appointments were cancelled because the COVID outbreak is absorbing all the medical personnel of the facility and no one at all is receiving any medical care short of a life threatening emergency.

So I, because of unremitting pain, was forced to go "man down" in hopes of getting some medical attention to control my severe pain. Twice the oncoming nurses heard my story and brushed me off with no attempt of a solution.



Finally on my third "man down" they took me by ambulance to the CMC East Clinic. My neck was X-rayed and I was determined to have degenerated vertebrae in my neck, ~~but~~ probably due to age - I am 64 years old. I was given a prescription for a muscle relaxant, which does little good. I was told that in one could prescribe pain relief for me other than my primary care physician. I was told that I would see my doctor in five days.

So I am still suffering after 2 1/2 weeks. The indifference of medical ~~person~~ personnel to my pain would be shocking if I had not seen it as a constant pattern in other prisoners' cases.

But before the County outbreak reached ~~the~~ CMC, I would have seen my doctor within a day or two. The pandemic has shut down all chronic or even acute care here, except for life threatening emergencies but the flawed mitigation measures employed by the prison to keep out the virus keep on failing and yielding more cases and more quarantines. Dish II on Fox Yard was emptied completely last week and all ~~the~~ inmates sent to ~~quarantine~~ quarantine / treatment. Who knows what will be the next location of COVID 19 at CMC.

I just pray that I will get a doctor's appointment and some relief on Wednesday. I am almost at the limits of my endurance.