

APWA
Hamilton College
198 College Hill Rd
Clinton, NY 13323-1218

Jan 16, 2021

Drunks

I've written several essays on how the MDOC (Michigan Dept of Corrections) is doing little to actually "correct" anything - in fact, mostly, the inactions only promote the very behaviors society expects ~~to~~ ^{are} being corrected.

One such problem is the growing drunkenness amongst prisoners. It's everywhere - in all facilities - approaching about half the prison population using alcohol.

I, like many, have enough to deal with in my incarceration without the unreasonableness of drunks. I believe this treatment of their behaviors, to us non-drinkers, borders on being cruel and unusual for it to be part of punishment. And how is continuing alcoholism "helping" those individuals to better themselves in any way - what's being "corrected"???

The MDOC employees pretty much just ignore it. Officers can't seem to smell it. They aren't able, it seems, to observe the behaviors. They can't stop the drinking! (Although the smell and behaviors are very obvious.)

It's just a "cop-out" by frustrated (and probably lazy) employees (state employees) to think that this drunkenness "is just part of prison". Is prison supposed to be a place where it's "ok" to practice bad behaviors? If so then "Joe public" is sure

pg 2-drunks-11/16/21

being fooled!!! Does the public (the tax payers) want their ^{...}hard earned money to keep going to promoting bad behaviors?

The MDOC's recent change in the prisoner mail policy - copying then discarding originals - has stopped the influx of drugs - thru the mail. (Now its just staff bringing them in - since its not thru visits right now, as there are none.) To stop the ^u"drinking" problem takes some drastic steps (and some work):

1. Breathelize every prison twice-a-day; morning and night.
2. If found "dirty" by the test - write major misconducts, search areas of their control, take their privileges.
3. If those found "dirty" want to challenge the the test, give blood tests to them - paid for by them, If the blood test comes back as positive for alcohol.
4. requires that after more than one positive alcohol test a successful completion of AA be made - and evaluate for substance abuse classes.

So its NOT "rocket science". And its not very costly. Society would benefit, and no one could say the MDOC was promoting that behavior anymore! All prisoners would benefit and staff, too, in the long run.

PS 3-drunks-1/16/21

If the MDOC would impliment a policy, such as above, it wouldn't take long for there to be no more drunks in prison or at least a drastically reduced number of them anyway. Even those "hard-headed" would get tired of negative reinforcements the misconducts would bring-including raised security levels-after a while.

There would be less "protection" lock-ups for money owed for drink. Less items stolen from the kitchens to make it, and eventually-less "work" by the officers to stop it. This would be a win for everyone-prisoners, officers, and society as a whole!!!