

No Recourse

I Live in the Incentive Living Program at The Bent County Correctional Facility, We Were the only Unit to have zero cases of Covid-19 active.

This is primarily due to a shell game the Housing unit would play where if someone came up with a positive test they would move them to an Isolation Ward. On the surface, that sounds exactly like what should take place. It's just very misleading when we know they had to get permission from CDC to have our pod "Volunteer" for all of the essential work because they were understaffed.

Now that the Majority of the facility has had Covid-19 and gotten over it, they have enough people to staff laundry and the kitchen so we had about 2 weeks (After 8 weeks straight of working) completely separated from the rest of the facility.

Fast forward to Jan 28th 2021, All of a sudden we get 6 new people moved in from another unit. Not all that unusual except the I.L.P. has a vetting program, you can not be put into the I.L.P. If you have had a write up in the last 6 months.

4 of the people who were moved in had write-ups for inciting a riot from only 2 weeks prior. I spoke with 2 of those in Question who said that they were all moved out because their previous cell mates had positive tests for Covid only 5 days prior (Jan 23rd 2021).

Feb 3rd (1 week to the day) we go on an emergency Medical Lockdown and pack out 24 of the 119 people from our unit because of positive tests, 2 of which were from the group of 6 moved in the week before.

I had a Sergeant tell me to my face that she hoped we would all hurry up and catch Covid so they could go

Back to regular operations. To be fair she didn't say it as if she was wishing death on us, more of an expression of exhaustion over having to do so much extra to manage a satellite feeding schedule and keeping us separated.

I am high risk due to COPD and Asthma, somehow I have managed to stay healthy, but I can't help but feel that this facility is willfully putting my life at risk.

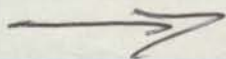
They lied to the newbies and said "D.O.R. selected them because they are the only people qualified to be in our program" whilst telling us that they were moved in as a 'facility need' and that the I.L.P. is temporarily suspended.

They are gambling with my life, I am sorry that my health is so inconvenient, but I was not sentenced to death by negligence. The worst part is that there is no recourse. Sure there is a grievance process but you're not allowed to grieve general occurrences with speculation.

The grievance process is so plagued with land mines and red tape trip wires that most times all you can expect to accomplish is to piss off a C.O. (control officer) and set yourself up for retaliation.

Case in point: A few months ago I had a run in with a C.O. who has a history of biased (racist?) behavior and who I have personally already had too many one on one issues with, that I was actively avoiding her.

She would target me, belittle ~~me~~ me, try to set me up for failure, etc. On this last occasion we had a verbal altercation that ended with me telling her to go fuck herself.



I figured "this is it, she finally got me to react" so in preparation of the possibility of her trying to write me up, I submit my grievance explaining our personal history at length and simply asking that we limit our interactions.

I thought everything was fine until I overheard a captain chastising her in the Chow hall using specific language from my grievance. The next day she left her unit and went out of her way to mine, specifically tried to pull me to go to work in a Janitorial closet with no camera.

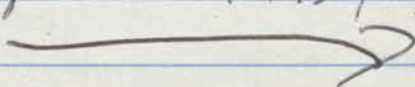
Thankfully I was unavailable. (Doctors appointment or something like that.) I had to do a second grievance pointing out how she left her assigned post to go to someone else's assignment and ask for me by name.

3 Months after the fact a Captain finally met with me about the issue. He seemed helpful enough though too little too late, the only solution I could see was assuring him that I wouldn't Rock the Boat as long as she left me alone from there on out.

She knew 2 weeks after I put it in the box but it took 12 for someone to talk to me. The Options they provide for us are mainly just procedural and for show, they are deliberately set up so they can be denied for the smallest of reasons but the ones in charge can arbitrarily change the rules, standards, and programs with no oversight.

Sometimes the stress is too much to take and I have panic attacks. I know that many people working in the Machine that is D.O.C. Do Care, But not enough, and certainly not enough in the position to do anything to protect us. I hide my panic attacks so I don't appear weak, weakness can get you killed.

Maybe not on this yard, BCCF is not known for being a tough Prison



But there are still plenty of ways that weakness can cost you here. It gets bad enough that it becomes hard to complete a thought or dedicate these thoughts to paper, so sorry for how disjointed this essay is.

I just hope it makes enough sense to help someone out there understand.

~~4/11/11 Rick~~