Smith, Patrick

From:

Smith, Patrick

Sent:

Monday, February 24, 2020 2:39 PM

To:

Butler, Gayle; Guyer, Lynn; Hansen, Jennie; Keith Kaululaau

Michael, Reg; Peter Bludworth; Ray, Steve; Smith, Patrick; Tom Green

Wolken, Cynthia

Subject:

FW: [EXTERNAL] Prison Issues Committee Meeting February 25, 2020

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Follow up

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PIB members,

Please review the e-mail below as it is a comment from a member of the public for the Prison Issue Board meeting. Thanks, Pat

From: Kathy Stewart

Sent: Monday, February 24, 2020 2:00 AM

To: Smith, Patrick

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Prison Issues Committee Meeting February 25, 2020

02/23/2020

RE: Issues brought to the attention of the DOC

Attn: Mr. Pat Smith

My name is Kathleen Stewart and I have a son who has been incarcerated in the Montana DOC for over 12 years and has been at various places within the DOC but in Deer Lodge for about the last 5 ½ years. He has been incarcerated since the age of 18 and has worked very hard to stay out of trouble and not get mixed up in anything within the population there and it was his one main goal to get on the fire fighting crew so he finally EARNED his way to the Work Dorm (MCE) where he found a different environment in that there were Instructors/Crew bosses whose tactics were to bully and intimidate and while my son stayed away from any confrontation he also did not let himself get into that position and therefore, went to different crews while working toward his goal of getting on the fire fighting crew which he finally did and he did very well and was given good review but when during the off season he wanted to get his CDL license and waited on the list only to find the instructor for some reason did not like him and when he requested numerous times to get into this class he was responded to with verbal abuse and name calling which he ignored but when he did finally get to take this CDL test while driving and stopping at a cross road but not soon enough for the instructor and he was punched in the throat for no reason whatsoever so he reported this to the number given on the wall to report any issues. But instead of reprimanding the Instructor as there was also a witness that was taking this test in the same vehicle, it was my son who was punished for speaking up and he was sent back inside and re-classified.

So this now seems to be a pattern with MCE that if anyone speaks up about the bullying, the abuse and mistreatment you are sent back inside which is totally against the objectives stated on the Montana Correctional Enterprises website of preparing these guys for the workforce once they are out in society by giving them direction and work values but instead they are bullied, abused

physically and verbally and the Unit Manager does nothing except retaliate just because he knows he can. I have brought this to the attention of the Director Reginald Michaels, Deputy Director Cynthia Wolken, the Native American Liaison Harlan Trombley, Warden Lynn Guyer but nothing changes, nothing is addressed and there is absolutely no direction whatsoever for Rehabilitation and for my son it breaks my heart because I know he will be the one that is retaliated against over and over but as he has told me we still need to speak up and he is right so I will continue to work on his behalf as he cannot help himself.

Thank you, Kathleen Stewart