

"Committed" to being heard

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A voice indefinitely
"Committed" to being heard
TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS

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Any questions and/or comments leave them at:
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FOR GEORGE

By: Terrence L. Cannon

I CAN'T BREATHE!

These are the words I choke out as I lay face-down on the hot, sticky, asphalt while rocks and dirt press painfully into the skin of my cheek, my chest, my dignity, my rights. My wrists begin to tingle and ache from the hand cuffs that are tight enough to cut through skin, veins, gristle, and bone. Through my fear I can vaguely hear voices intermixed with my own pleas for life, for mercy.

NONE IS GIVEN.

My nostrils are assaulted by the smell of burnt rubber from the police car's tires. I register the pungent smell of dry cleaning chemicals from the cop's pant leg that is wedged between my head and shoulders. I also smell the urine I have released uncontrollably as I am now close to dying.

On my neck I feel the weight of all those before me who were tortured and murdered over the past four-hundred years of oppression fueled by hate, driven by a misguided concept of racial superiority.

My vision is blurring, oh wait, it's clearing now.

I see a figure standing in front of me. There's something familiar about her eyes, the way they're filled with unconditional love.

I'm trying to speak, but the terrible weight pressed upon my neck in the moment forces me to silence.

With one final effort I will my heavy lungs open enough to make one final plea to the person I now fully recognize.

I reach for her.

I speak.

MOMMA!

MOMMA!

I CAN'T BREATHE!

I'm sure that many of you remember Security Counselor Josh Parker. He passed away back in February 2023. Many of you remember him because he wasn't afraid to treat you as a human-being. He wasn't afraid to joke and laugh with you and you could also openly talk to him with whatever was bothering you. He will be missed by many.

*Our first step is always to make people aware that they are human beings,
and deserving of dignity." Adolf Pérez Esquivel, 1981*

"Committed" to being heard → MISSION STATEMENT ←

This newsletter has the full intent and purpose of presenting a continuous uncensored, thought provoking informative service within the space it resides in. Its functions are to spread a message which offers a better understanding of what transpires within the Minnesota Sex Offender Program ("MSOP"). We believe every individual ultimately possess a natural ability to overcome every negative force which impacts their daily life. Through understanding and obedience of Universal Law we are afforded a more informed "freedom of choice". Freedom of choice allows each of us to encircle ourselves with those who share the same interests and values. Freedom of choice is making decisions for yourself; decisions which does not inflict harm upon another human being.

Disclaimer:

Statements, viewpoints and opinions expressed in articles, letters to the editor, or from other writers, are those of that individual author; and **do not** reflect the position/opinion of this newsletter. All submissions become the property of "Committed" to being heard and may be eligible for reprint without that authors consent.

Guidelines: This newsletter will attempt to perform research, conduct interviews and gather information in an effort to create content that will inform and educate its readers about activities, events of interest which transpire throughout the MSOP's detention facility. We possess the right to not publish any submitted materials. As editor(s), We may edit any submitted materials to bring the material into conformance with acceptable journalistic standards to the best of our knowledge, ability, and/or available space. This newsletter reserve the right to publish employees name based upon their relevant involvement to the circumstances pertaining to identified articles. All articles submitted for publication must include the authors first and last name. The editor(s) reserve the right to submit questions for reader's views and comments on any subject matter published within these pages.

Minnesota Constitution ARTICLE I—BILL OF RIGHTS

Sec. 3. **Liberty of the press.** The liberty of the press shall forever remain inviolate, and all persons may freely speak, write and publish their sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right.

Thought for the Month

It is the law of heaven to make fullness empty and to make full what is modest; when the sun is at its zenith, it must, according to the law of heaven, turn toward its setting, and at its nadir it rises toward a new dawn. In obedience to the same law, the moon when it is full begins to wane, and when empty of light it waxes again. This heavenly law works itself out in the fates of men also. It is the law of earth to alter the full and to contribute to the modest. High mountains are worn down by the waters, and the valleys are filled up. It is the law of fate to undermine what is full and to prosper the modest. And men also hate fullness and love the modest. The destinies of men are subject to immutable laws that must fulfill themselves. But man has it in his power to shape his fate, according as his behavior exposes him to the influence of benevolent or of destructive forces. When a man holds a high position and is nevertheless modest, he shines with the light of wisdom; if he is in a lowly position and is modest, he cannot be passed by. Thus the superior man can carry out his work to the end without boasting of what he has achieved.

Modesty pgs. 63/64 of the "Book of Changes" by Wilhelm/Baynes

"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed." Stephen Biko, 1971

Commentaries

- ⑥ Another clinician has decided to leave recently. Allison Collins is no longer providing treatment here at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.
- ⑥ We are all appointed attorneys who supposedly represent us for all civil commitment proceedings. Yet how many of these attorneys have forensic training and actually know the procedures for civil law? My own attorney is a criminal attorney and has a very low approval rating. He tells me he's filing documents, yet I am unable to validate his filings are actually filed.
- ⑥ I've recently heard that all the County Social Workers have been informed that patients being detained within the Minnesota Sex Offender Program are "NOT" under the authority of the Department of Corrections. Apparently this has been their justification for not becoming involved our individual treatment. Personally I believe this is a bunch of crap, as whenever the Court civilly commits someone to MSOP they state in the finding of fact that we are under the authority/jurisdiction of the Commissioner for the Dept. of Human Services.
- ⑥ The question was brought before me as to why the Legislative body isn't having a Congressional Hearing involving how Gov. Walz, Keith Ellison, Jodie Harstead and Nancy Johnston are violating Minnesota Statutes when it comes to operating the Minnesota Sex Offender Program.
- ⑥ Don't know if this is factual; or not. It's rumored that individuals at CPS are only allowed to order food once every ninety days from an outside food vendor just like here at MSOP's highest security facility. They also must be escorted whenever they want to go for walks. And, they can only go for walks once a week. How short of staff are they at St. Peter?

*Discretio est discernere per legem quid sit justum.*¹

Attempted exploitation of a moral panic and spread of misinformation. Sixx|R

Sixx|R recently learned of a website titled: the voices of LAND. The voices of OCEAN co-founders have been accused of spreading misinformation and slandering MSOP staff. We encourage the voices of LAND founders to share this alleged misinformation. In addition, we seek clarification as to whose names have slandered? OCEAN stands firm on what has been shared with their community allies, as well as with local, national and international allies who are learning the truth of what the MSOP really is—A Shadow Prison that is based on myth, panicked legislation and exploited moral panics. We encourage our readers to read Panicked Legislation by Professor Catherine L. Carpenter. This Professor, like the many she references, lays it bare.

I am interesting in hearing feedback and or comments on this article. Please leave a voice message at 218-351-1900 Ext. 70887. Mii gwech! Thank you.

Have you finished reading your copy of "Committed" to being heard?

Why don't you give it to someone you know; let them read it; and keep sharing it. Leave it behind at the laundry mat, grocery store, bulletin board, or courthouse. Why not mail it to a friend. If you are interested in getting your own copy you can leave me a voice message at 218-351-1900 ext. 97666 or you can write me at the address listed on the front page. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Criminal Justice System Harm.

Sixx|R

Incarceration, in any form, never made any sense to me. As a child, when I misbehaved I would be whipped, yelled at or put in "time-out" and told to "think about what I did?" As if some understanding was supposed to manifest in my mind. When I was raising my own children, and they had "misbehaved" or acted out some behavior that could have harmed themselves or one of their siblings, I never was one to spank or raise my voice or even put them in time out. Just didn't make sense to me, I never learned shit when I was whipped, yelled at or put in "time-out" and told to "think about what I did".

What did make sense to me was to lower myself down to their height so I didn't appear scary or intimidating. I softened my tone and asked questions to nurture some understanding as to why what they were doing was wrong or may have hurt themselves or their sibling. What I observed from this was, when my two youngest children had gotten into an disagreement and one told the other "you hurt my feelings" and the others response was "I'm sorry" and they went about playing. I knew I was training my children to have an awareness for how their actions affected others and how to resolve these minor conflicts at a very young age.

Had I resorted to the aversive childhood experiences I'd suffered growing up, when I was directed to go out and find a whip, to return and have it used on me, or to be yelled and screamed at, instilling negative messages, lowering self-esteem, self-confidence and negatively influence my self-perception. Or being yelled at to go and put a mark on the wall that was taller than me and to tippy toe to it and think about what I'd done. The compounding results of these different methods of abuse would only have instilled confusion, sadness, anger, shame, guilt, and resentments. Abusive patterns of behavior by parents can be viewed as maladaptive responses to stressful situations and feelings of powerlessness. As such, they represent the warped efforts of adults to master situations that are out of their control and to regain a psychological equilibrium through the imposition of their will on defenseless children.

A majority of parents still believe spanking is an effective way to discipline children, but a study has found physical discipline actually makes children more defiant and more likely to have later alcohol, drug and mental health problems. After examining the findings of 75 studies involving more than 160,000 children, a team of researchers from the University of Texas and the University of Michigan found that children who are routinely disciplined with an open-handed smack on the bottom – a spanking – have behavior problems similar to those children who are physically abused.

In fact, the more kids are spanked, the more likely they are to develop low self-esteem and become aggressive, antisocial, and rebellious, the meta-analyses reveals. "Spanking does the opposite of what parents usually want it to do," the study's co-author, Andrew Grogan-Kaylor, tells NBCNews.com. The researchers suggest that parents use non-physical forms of discipline, and rely on positive reinforcement of desirable behavior, which research shows is far more effective than punishment.

Psychiatric and pediatric studies have shown that a large proportion of parents who abuse their children were themselves physically and emotionally mistreated during their childhood. Typically over-disciplined and deprived of parental love in their infancy, these parents repeat the pattern with their own children, often in the

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1. "That is, to discern by the right line of law, and not by the crooked cord of public opinion." 3

"You can contribute, and you can't be sure how great your contribution is, but you can contribute, so do it." Linus Pauling, 1990 4

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belief that they are legitimately exercising their parental right to punish a child. This unnatural cycle leads to a disruption of the developmental process.

So, now you may be wondering what this article has to do with the educational intent of *Committed to being heard?* Glad you asked.

As an Anishinaabeg man, my responsibility is to understand how to best promote healing when harm has been committed. In this, the long-term goal is to develop prevention skills and strategies for preventing harm and violence. Healing is sustained when the community comes together in a circle to explore healing together and sharing stories of abuse that happened in the community. Doing this will create a momentum which must be sustained by the community in order to develop paths for healing. As we continue sharing, we will develop a process of expanding our healing circle and reflect on what it means to work together to take responsibility, to walk a healing path, and as an Anishinaabeg, to follow the Seven Sacred Teachings.

A loss of momentum means that the healing will not occur and that our gatherings have failed and the healing regresses. We are constantly looking outward, exercising very little self-advocacy or community advocacy. It's time that we recognize that the outside systems are making us sicker and that we need to find ways to take community healing back into our hands. It's time that we share what this looks like. Those involved in this healing movement can start out by sharing our stories and creating space for others to do the same. It is up to the person sharing, but the harm we are speaking of is what we have experienced from the criminal justice system.

An Elder once put it this way to me,

"I think one of the reasons why, in our culture, we are able to reach you guys (offenders) is because we treat you like family, like human beings, like you and I. We have feelings. We have pains. We don't shun you or push you away. We treat you like family and talk and listen to you. Yes, at times we have to be tough but also to treat you like a human being."

What I discovered in this healing process was that, when victims and victimizers are not treated like family, healing deteriorates. But when a community finds creative ways to stay close to those who are suffering and to treat them like family, it seems that surprising healing paths start to unfold. This concept is wholly outside of the western concept of healing for the victim or rehabilitation for the victimizer. It is rare that a victim of harm and violence should ever be included with the healing process of the victimizer. I'm saying this concept must change. The healing path is sustained by learning together and healing together. We must pursue this path even when we are not supported by the western concept of justice.

Of note, those in this system are not criminal's, nor is our "incarceration" in this prison-type setting meant to be for retributive – punishment purposes. The justice systems sentenced us to a "hospital" until the "mental illness" has remitted. At which time we are to be immediately discharged to our community.

Sadly this is not the case. It is rare that any forms of healing occur in this system, there are multiple tactics to manipulatively instill shame and guilt, though they claim they don't practice the ancient model of "therapy". When the clinician's tell you that you need to trust them, or to work on putting trust/re-trust with the team,

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"Nothing counts but pressure, pressure, more pressure, and still more pressure through broad organized aggressive mass action." A. Philip Randolph. 1942

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then have written and enforce a policy that subjects you to the unscientific, unreliable polygraph testing to see if you're telling the "truth". Well, were did this trust we are supposed to develop go? In truth, it's ones-sided, we are to "trust in them" but they will never trust in us.

Involuntary civil commitment is a substantial barrier to our healing and greatly impacts our community healing. But of course, all forms of incarceration were not designed to promote healing. The Anishinaabeg perspective is that healing must be the basis for our community structures in addition to the healing process. Ultimately, incarceration whether it be in a county jail, state prison or civil detention facility, interrupts this process. It takes people out of the community and returns them, sometimes, more dangerous than when they left. Furthermore, the rhetoric around incarceration is that once you have 'done your time, you've paid your debt'. Let's relate this back to the previous story I told of my children, and the devastating impacts of aversive childhood experiences, and how this rhetoric runs counter to the need for healing, for taking responsibility, for making things right for the victim, for learning about identity and for offering your gifts to the community.

There are really two good quotes I recently came across:

"I am actually dying on my feet because I am giving every moment, almost night and day – every little crevice I can get into, every opportunity I can get to whisper into the ear of an upper official, I am trying to breathe my soul, a spiritual something, into the needs of our people." Mary McLeod Bethune, 1938

And...

"I think there are few opportunities for one person to really influence history. The opportunity is very rare. But if you give people a new, important way of thinking, this thought itself can change the world." Wie Jingshen, 1998

Why do the "Work"?

Sixx|R

Simply question right? Mahatma Gandhi would say:

"You assist an evil system most effectively by obeying its orders and decrees. A good person will resist an evil system with his or her whole soul."

The reality is that the MSOP vocational system does nothing to teach real life job skills. The vocational industry does not give any training. It does not give any certification of any kind. 50% of earned wages is stolen every pay period as a lie to say it goes towards cost-of-care and yet each detainees cost-of-care is up in the \$100 millions—if not more. The truth is the wages earned are recycled back and the detainees who do work (chores) in the MSOP are actually paying themselves and each other with their own earned wages. [involuntary servitude]

Clinical will coerce you to believe that it will "look good" for you when you petition for SRB. Maybe, I'd say. But let's take brief look at this. The vocational positions that are filled in the MSOP are only available to sustain the operation of the system and program. One would think that a system/program that is about rehabilitation and some sort of restorative justice, then the work that is done internally would offer the sense of improving self-esteem and healthy self-confidence through giving back to society in one way or another. Rather, we clean up after each other and the MSOP employees, feed each other, and maintain the operations in countless other ways. The biggest scheme is the sign shop. The next question is: **Who's really profiting off your involuntary servitude?**

"You assist an evil system most effectively by obeying its orders and decrees. A good person will resist an evil system with his or her whole soul." Mahatma Gandhi, 1930

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***Whose Steve Sandell?
He's Fighting For You!***

**A letter from retired Honorable Minnesota State Representative Steve Sandell
written to the Minnesota Members, House Ways and Means Committee.**

Sixx | R

April 12, 2023

To: Members, House Ways and Means Committee

Re: Minnesota Sex Offender Program

cc: Human Services Vice Chair Bahner
Minority Lead Neu Brindley
Speak Hortman
Rep. Cha
Sen. Mitchell

Thanks very much for taking time to read this note and consider its appeal. I've written to some of you during the session and testified at both the House and Senate Human Services Committees regarding the Minnesota Sex Offender Program, a complex, ineffective, and deeply flawed project administered by DHS.

MSOP has been the subject of repeated critical reviews in professional, media, and legislative studies during the last 35 years. Its cost have risen in every biennium – now at \$210 million dollars. There is no regular independent assessment of the program. Legislative discussion has been avoided due to the nature of its subject. Minnesota's program is the largest and most expensive in the country. The number of individuals incarcerated (now at 750) continues to rise. The average length of stay is the longest in the country. Yet it has had no statistical effect on reducing sexual aggression and assault in Minnesota.

Few legislators are familiar with MSOP, yet should the Omnibus bill pass out of your committee as it is, your DFL members will vote to endorse the program and spend another \$210 million dollars for this grab-bag of ineffective policy and practice.

It is just irresponsible to continue spending more taxpayers money every year just because legislators find the subject politically threatening. ***You can change that!***

Before passing the Health and Human Services Finance Bill out of your committee, strip the bill of its MSOP appropriation, suspend its allotment until the 2024 session, and require Human Services Committee members to attend a series of discussions based on a contemporary assessment of MSOP during the interim.

Let's pay attention to preventing sexual aggressions, supporting victims and their families, paying attention to issues of mental health leading to assault, search for the most effective treatment and therapy for offenders, and re-evaluate the process of commitment and rehabilitation.

With sincerity and respect,

Steve Sandell

Inability to Overcome

By: Terry Branson

We are all aware that we live in an environment that continues to punish us for past behaviors.

Recently I was thinking about how many of those making decisions which intentionally and knowingly demonstrate a hatred for those being detained here at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program ("MSOP") are women in positions of authority.

Jodi Harpstead Commissioner for the Department of Human Services, Nancy Johnston Executive Director of MSOP, Nancy Stacken Clinical Director of MSOP, Sue Johnson Program Manager Property/Kitchen/Canteen/Mail-Room, Sara Kulas Special Services Supervisor-Property/Canteen/Mail-Room.

I identify the above individuals as those who are professionals responsible for finding solutions pertaining to problematic areas that arise throughout this institutional setting. Instead I've discovered that they are more in tune with creating chaos which actually disrupts an individual's treatment progression. In other words these individuals are performing treatment interfering behaviors and the entire clinical treatment team is doing nothing to prohibit such actions or behaviors.

The rationale behind my making this statement is fairly simple. And, I provide the following examples to support my allegations.

There are a multitude of policies being continuously implemented and changed, by those individuals employed throughout the MSOP. These individuals provide a false persona that the changes being implemented are for the betterment of those being served (i.e. patients). So let's examine just a few of the counter-therapeutic changes that have occurred in the past.

I ask the reader to think about and examine what would be a realistic solution to any of the problematic area's I've identified below.

First I want to clarify something. I am not calling them idiots. But they appear to be very callused, unsympathetic, and counter-therapeutic to the objective of a patients individualized treatment. They cannot make a decision which impacts only the individual who exhibits the negative behavior. Instead they make decisions which impact the entire population as not only a means of punishment, but for staff convenience.

Televisions - Technology is rapidly advancing throughout society. The above individuals are aware of this advancement in technology and are responsible for authorizing what products will be permitted inside the secure perimeter. Yet they authorize televisions which must meet specific specifications (i.e. TV's only mounted on pedestals) knowing that such styles of televisions are virtually impossible to find. Let us also not forget that patients can only order from one of their handpicked vendors.

While they profess that they are aware of the problem and the only solution offered to me (personally by Sara Kulas) was to purchase a television from one of the approved vendors (which are sold in prisons) at a ridiculously higher price.

When asked what is being done about the issue? They respond we are looking into it. For months they have been looking into this problematic area without any viable solution offered.

X-Box 360's - These same individuals created an opportunity for patients to order gaming systems from GameStop located in Grapevine, Texas. But GameStop states they no longer have any systems available to sale. So what's the problem with those making decisions when determining what to authorize (i.e. gaming systems)

(Stimulus continued on page 9)

What I'm wondering is how these MSOP administrators picked a vendor which failed to have sufficient enough product to meet the needs of the MSOP population? But I also know that MSOP's upper management team also do not want to partake in any further discussion involving gaming systems. Apparently there isn't enough kickbacks being offered by other vendors which would allow MSOP employees to participate in staff appreciation benefits.

Where else would they get the money to provide these costly meals to all MSOP employees who work throughout the facility? We know that the legislature does not appropriate any money for such activities. Matter of fact when examining the financial records there is an account with the number 1052. Yet nobody will explain where the deposits for this account comes from. Why so secretive?

They tell us when a person being secretive and attempting to not provide a response are hiding something that could be considered an admission of guilt. MSOP facilitators repetitively expect all of us to be held accountable for our actions and/or behaviors. This includes taking anything from the kitchen, trading, loaning of property, and whatever else they consider rule breaking behaviors.

It seems to me as though there is a double standard when it comes to transparency surrounding accountability.

If your job and responsibility is to teach me how to become accountable when it comes to behaviors, wouldn't that mean you should be leading by example? Instead what "I" see happening many MSOP employees attempting to lay their responsibilities upon me. An assignment has been distributed asking how patients can challenge their old way of thinking by "doing the right thing"?

Dave Avrill had a handout passed out to patients throughout the facility. The following is an example of what he was asking.

1st Questionnaire Example: It's 3:00 a.m. and you wake up hearing a right tone of a cell phone and you hear your neighbor talking to someone. "I" question why can't anyone in this facility have a cell phone? And the other question would be how did staff allow a cell phone to get past their security. Why are you asking me to the job that MSOP employees are getting paid to do?

2nd Questionnaire Example: You see two clients getting into a heated debate and they are yelling at each other what do you do? There are at least two staff in the dining hall at all times during meals. It is their responsibility as trained professionals to determine when to intervene when patients are demonstrating behaviors that could be identified as counter-therapeutic. I do not carry a radio and am incapable of initiating the incident command system to get A-Team to take control of any counter-therapeutic incident.

3rd Questionnaire Example: You are in the medication line, and see a client cheek his medication (what do you do)? This is an insult to those nurses passing out medication. What is being implied by this question is that the nurses are failing to perform the duties assigned to them. "If" someone was capable of checking their medication then I would suggest that that nurse be held accountable and walked out of the facility for failing to follow proper security procedures as outlined in her/his position description. [S]he failed to ensure the safety of the not only that client but also others who could be harmed by his actions.

These type of questions demonstrate how much certain identifiable staff fail to perform the duties assigned to them. It's not all the staff, just like it isn't all the patients who aren't trying to make the environment a better place. Instead of focusing on those individuals who actually create problems; it's easier to hold everyone accountable and punish everyone as if they are just as guilty as those creating the problem.

"The power of a movement lies in the fact that it can indeed change the habits of people. This change is not the result of force but of dedication, or moral persuasion." 9
Stephen Biko, 1976

"I'm trying to show by my actions that you can make it a far better world if you just care enough. That's all you have to do. It's no big deal. One act of kindness a day can do it."

Betty Williams, 1995

Why the Arrogance and Apathy?

Sixx|8

I've always been someone willing to fight for those deemed powerless. Over the many years and experiences of my traumatic life, I've developed a vast degree of empathy and compassion. If I were ever told I could have only 1 goal in my life—it would be to instill an altruistic, unconditional degree of compassion in others.

In my days of maturity, I've made distinctions between empathy and compassion; Empathy is a verbal expression, "I can empathize with what you are going through." Compassion, compassion is so much more, Compassion for me is—"I can empathize with you, now, let me understand what actions I can take to lessen your suffering, while at the same time provide clarification to your confusion, sadness, frustration and anger—so that we can collectively work to improve the quality of your life and those around you."

.....
A few years ago I put in a lot of time, energy and resources into understanding what it will take, not just for creating a clear path home to release from the MSOP for myself. But creating a path that many others could follow. I was successful, initially, when the Special Review Board (SRB hereafter) heard my petition and granted transfer to a lesser restrictive setting—Community Preparation Services to begin a step-down process to reintegration and continue individual therapy for any remaining treatment needs.

I then raised the same constitutional concerns at the Commitment Appeal Panel (CAP hereafter) after the state appealed the SRB decision. I continued my arguments with supportive evidence for the DHS-MSOP forensic examiner Rachel Mack and DHS Independent examiner Tyler Dority.

From the start, Mack demonstrated an allegiance bias and adversarial allegiance in reporting to the SRB that my petition was premature. Mack utilized historical factors and my 1st Amendment protected rights to free speech when I protested that MSOP did not offer a clear path home for men who are no longer mentally ill and/or dangerous—with Mack claiming my protesting was a "demonstration of a [severe] "sexual disorder" alleging "dangerous" and a threat to public safety.

Fortunately, the CAP gave more credit to Dority's report and evaluation than Mack's and affirmed the SRB order, granting transfer to Community Preparation Services to begin a step-down process to reintegration and continue individual therapy for any remaining treatment needs.

I believed that the previous two years of work I'd devoted to "bridging-the-gap" between the individual work I had done with Dr. Amy Farmer, MSOP-ML psychologist, in collaboration with disciplined study, application and submissions of my self-directed neuroplasticity therapy, daily practice of Anishinaabeg traditions, customs and ceremonies, and countless hours of work I had done in the Risk, Needs and Responsivity model. In addition to submitting countless assignments and structured, disciplined weekly schedules to MSOP-ML clinician's Ross Peterson, David Averill, Bridestone Harris, William Halmon, and Charles Fai, sharing the near 16

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"We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again." Nathaniel Greene, 1781

years of rehabilitative work I'd been committed to showing that I not only understood the harms of my criminal sexual conduct afflicted 20 years ago—but also demonstrating that I did not suffer a mental illness requiring indefinite institutionalization.

Unfortunately, Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, and the Minnesota Attorney General, appealed the CAP decision to the appeals court who reversed the order under the claim that there was “No evidence of clinical progress in my records...”

But, this article is not about me. It is for those who are making so-called gains of “progression” to transfers to the MSOP-St. Peter facility. Solely—not because they have become woke to “working” (gaming) the treatment programming to get transferred and eventually released on provisional discharge—but, because a group of men [inspired by the voices of OCEAN] had the courage to speak up against the totalitarian regime that is the MSOP.

Our one demand --- **A Clear Path Home!**

It is through and from our sacrifices that such movements are happening in this retributive system. But, again, this article is not about me, or the voices of OCEAN or associated parties.

I ask those making so-called “treatment gains”: Why the arrogance and apathy?

For those being “progressed” through the system. I see how you look at those who have languished beside you for years, many for decades, and how you look down on them. Others, many others, have come to me with concerns of your apathy, in the comments you've made and the arrogance you display. Again, acting as if you are better-than. You exhibit what the MSOP has conditioned into you through your verbal and behavioral displays of apathy and arrogance.

We get it, you sold your soul, sacrificed your personal identity to appease those in authority so you can claim “you've changed”, and they can claim the “program works”. But most likely your conduct will show if you are released to the community, to possibly afflicted more harm. I would say, lets hope and pray this is not the case—but we see what hopes and prayers are doing for the many suffering gun violence. Hope and prayers aren't the answer.

Compassion—we take action through our written words for our readers to question those in authority, to assure the Shadow Prison employs qualified therapist professionals who treat and support those for release. Are healthy people, and fully capable of making a safe adjustment to society. Or has MSOP identified those who are highly likely to reoffend and deliberately moving them through the system so when they do reoffend, they can alleged everyone in their system is the same?!

It's easy following, with full compliance, the institutional rules and policies, in an artificial environment, with minimal responsibilities and repetitious stresses which we've become conditioned to ---but none that come close to the stresses of real life.

“Truth has no special time of its own. Its hour is now – always.”

Albert Schweitzer, Out of My Life and Thoughts, 1949

My encouragement, none that you will take as you've displayed your selfish intentions, but, entertain me. Humble yourself, to have compassion for others. Take your knee off our necks. Stop acting as the oppressor and speak words of encouragement, and of support and demonstrate the actions of unconditional altruism of a great man.

“Life's most urgent questions is: What are you doing for others?”

Martin Luther King Jr.

“I am in earnest – I will not equivocate – I will not excuse – I will not retreat a single inch – and I will be heard.” William Lloyd Garrison

We Also Have The Right To Know

By Terry L. Branson

Why is it that when patients gather together to obtain information regarding a legal battle that has been ongoing for years (*Karsjens v. Jesson*) that a security counselor becomes determined to create a problem?

Recently after several days of waiting for the oral arguments to be downloaded onto the patient network (Scott Gianninni I-E Unit Director) directed another security counselor to order those peacefully listening to the arguments to unhook the speaker and disperse.

They determined that the gathering and hooking up the speaker violated a MSOP policy which prohibits patients from hooking up to the MSOP patients computers. When asked what policy was being violated the security counselor was unwilling to identify what policy was being violated. He also could not provide the policy number that was being violated.

The question becomes - why does security need to interfere in an activity which interests so many individuals within this facility.

I'm sure that any of thousands of MSOP employees can tune into the testimony being given before the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals whenever they want. They have the ability to listen to the oral arguments and discuss it amongst themselves while they are on duty ensuring that there is no breach in security measures.

This is just standard operating procedure within the MSOP facility. Certain MSOP staff have repeatedly demonstrated their level of fearfulness over the patient population obtaining insight into what MSOP's executive staff have kept hidden for years. They have built what we refer to as a shadow prison which they have intentionally hidden from society for decades under the guise of protecting society from individuals who are continued being labeled sex offenders.

It's the Executive Administrators who've intentionally created an environment which causes all but the strongest patients to surrender into a state of utter hopelessness. That feeling of knowing that the only end to a patients civil commitment is death.

There is a reason why MSOP staff don't want us to listen to the Oral Arguments presented by Dan Gustafson, the Dept. of Justice, and Assist. Attorney General Winters. It instills hopefulness that positive changes will be forthcoming in the near future.

AND IT'S MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT MSOP'S ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T WANT ANY OF US TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF EVER GETTING SET FREE!!!

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“Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot uneducated the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.” Cesar Chavez