

# "Committed" to being heard

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

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Check out Committed to being heard on the following website:  
<http://www.cure-sort.org/mn---committed-to-being-heard.html>

## STATE SANCTIONED SUFFERING... CONTINUES.

**How a \$100,000,000 Treatment Program Continues to Fail.  
And Serve its Original Purpose of Draconian Preventive Detention.**

By Sixx|R & Terry Branson

*"There is absolutely no oversight. Therefore, no accountability."*

It's not like we haven't been here before, but it's like the administration, including those at the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Minnesota Direct Care and Treatment, all have their heads up their asses, or each others.

Debwe - we call it like we see it. "Committed" to being heard touched on this briefly in our January issue. Prior to M\$OP cancelling all programming services within it's backwoods Moose Lake compound on January 17, 2024. Treatment programming had been cut to one group per week, and the implementation of modules, where the majority of unqualified and untrained clinicians were provided a packet of "treatment" information from clinical leadership to be handed out to the detainees. To then talk about that subject for an hour and a half. With the majority of conversations focused just reading the topic of the "treatment" module.

Then the program implemented "study groups" where detainees were directed to sit in an off unit treatment team room. They were provided their individualized treatment plans to look at for determining if they had any questions that they should ask their therapist for help in better understanding.

There are some detainees who do this already, throughout the week on their isolated cellblocks with one another. "Why would we want to go and sit in a team room and stare at a piece of paper, that the majority either throw on their cell desk, forget in their bins, or throw-away. What are we supposed to learn from this?" One detainee asked.

If we're being honest, which is the creed of "Committed" to being heard, Debwe. This agenda by M\$OP administration is to put on the façade, and display the image

*(Continued on page 3 State Sanctioned Suffering... continues)*

*"Most decisions we make are fear based... The reality is that of the 10,000 decisions we make every day, very few of them actually matter to your future."*

*Iliza Shlesinger*

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## "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 ("M\$OP"). 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 M\$OP'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

**THE TAMING POWER OF THE GREAT. Firmness and strength. Genuineness and truth. Brilliance and light. Daily he renews his virtue.**

*Ta Ch'u / The Taming Power of the Great, pg. 515, of the "Book of Changes" by Wilhelm/Baynes*



*"Insecurities are a personal thing: you should handle them and not project them on anyone else..." Iliza Shlesinger*

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### Commentaries

- ④ "Committed" to being heard expresses Gratitude to the few clinicians who are leading the way with recognizing the healthiest versions of community members (clients) who are finally progressing through the program. For those clients who are putting in work, I suggest that you observe the opinion of Comedian Iliza: I'm not going to downplay my strengths so you feel less shitty about your own shortcomings.
- ④ Read and comment on "Committed" to being heard letter to Prison Legal News. . . regarding Civil Commitment In The State Of Minnesota. By: Terry L. Branson.
- ④ It is rumored that the Department of Justice discovered a financial discrepancy involving \$200,000 unspent on patients food. How can such a travesty occur when you have the program manager (Sue Johnson) and others remaining unaccountable for how they budget patients daily meals? Another individual who should be held accountable is the dietician who approves each menu. This is just another example of how there are intentional acts taking place which fail to be beneficial to those being detained at the M\$OP-ML facility. This didn't happen over night, and took several months to accumulate.
- ④ We are having a quarterly meal and I wonder how many of the clinical team are going to be outside of their office participating in the 1E community activities?

(Continued from page 1 State Sanctioned Suffering... Continues )

that they are providing "state-of-the-art" programming. *Lipstick on a pig.*



But even before all of this, M\$OP complained that they were short on clinical staff, so they hired more, and "promoted" security counselors to "clinical" positions, to fill those vacant clinical positions, maybe in order to meet the detainee-to-clinical staff ratio required in a state hospital . . . But we know this isn't a state hospital as M\$OP is not licensed as a state hospital.

What we do know is that the overwhelming majority of M\$OP employees are security counselors. And we also know that any one can fill the position of security counselor; regardless of whether it's a clinician, education staff, recreation staff, vocational, or a maintenance worker. They've all assumed the position of "security counselor" throughout the M\$OP facility(s)

SIXX|R is always expressing to me that Debwe means "Truth"! And that is what "Committed" is always attempting to provide to everyone who reads our newsletter.

With everything that we write about in our newsletters; we both wonder how it is that nobody else recognizes that M\$OP is one of America's **largest** Shadow Prisons in existence? Isn't M\$OP supposed to be Minnesota's "state-of-the-art" residential treatment facility?

Do you remember the images from the Northern News Now KBJR-6 Investiga-

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### 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.

*"I've seen enough fuckups at my own expense that I've chosen to be on the offense to mitigate any impeding poor decisions being made on my own behalf."*

*Iliza Shlesinger*

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(Continued from page 3 State Sanctioned Suffering)

tion: "Behind Barbed Wire", A 3-Part Series investigation on M\$OP.

A drone flying up from an impenetrable forest of pine trees, an even-tempered lake on the northern side barricading the sea of trees and a impassive freeway restraining the publics view from the hidden compound already surrounded by layers upon layers of razor-wire, locked units and cell doors for the two manned 6x9 cells with gun slot windows with double panned glass. Contaminated by a steel toilet and sink.

M\$OP is a prison compound which Minnesota State Legislators, DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead, DCT Executive Marshall Smith, M\$OP Executive Director Nancy Johnston and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, want you to believe is a "state-of-the-art" residential treatment facility.

Fast forward ahead. On January 17, 2024 administration made the decision to stop **ALL** programming, which is enforced idleness - a severe symptom of forced institutionalization - under the guise of "preventing the spread of COVID." Come to find out, the program director did not notify St. Paul that the facility had gone on lock-down.

Serious questions need to be asked by honest, hard working taxpayers, and legislators Why is it that a \$100 million dollar "state-of-the-art" residential treatment facility is indefinitely stopping all programming services in one of Minnesota's max shadow prisons?

It is not simply because of a virus, it can't be blamed on short staffing levels, and it is definitely not about not having enough resources, at least financially, when its cost to state has not decreased. But in fact, has increased. And will continue to increase each year.

Is it, could it be that the overwhelming influx of detainee petitions for progression through the program to either Community Preparation Services (CPS) where detainees are to begin a step-down process to reintegration, or release on Provisional Discharge (PD) to work towards demonstrating the skills for a successful transition and reentry into society. Is it that all these petitions are having a humbling impact on the administrative court process - the Special Review Board, and the Commitment Appeal Panel (formerly known as the Judicial Appeal Panel).

And this has triggered these judges to dictate to the MN-DHS, the DCT and M\$OP administration to find ways to slow - if not cease - all services and programming within its shadow prison in Moose Lake, Minnesota. . .

But, we're permitted by Minnesota statute 253B and 253D to submit and have our petitions heard every six (6) months, *right? More to come . . .*

### Looking For Help

By Terry Branson

I know this newsletter is being circulated in a lot of different directions. I am searching for some legal assistance from someone who believes it's time to put an end to civil commitment - in the state of Minnesota. Like many others I believe I have an idea worth pursuing, and I know that it never hurts anyone to consider whether an argument is worthy of representing.

So, if you are a law firm willing to take a complaint in a pro bono capacity, then I'd surely like to hear from you. I will mail you a rough draft of the complaint upon receiving your address. Thank you for your time and consideration.

*"Just because someone is in charge doesn't mean they should be."*

*Iliza Shlesinger*

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## Open for Interpretation... It's all about Perception.

By Sixx|R & Terry Branson

**Words of Sixx|R** : It's not that we dislike the people who work for the system, or that we dislike the program itself . . . It is the overall systemic failure as a whole - which we have a grievance with. Of course, we have a few choice words for those at the very top of this iceberg who are pulling the strings without even knowing that those they pull are choking off lifelines for the few who are literally on the ground. Putting in hours of determined, altruistic hard work to try and bring some functionality to a historically culturally dysfunctional system.

But this article isn't meant to rag on the systemic problems we address in every issue. Extraordinary as it may be, we are actually writing to express our heartfelt appreciation for those rare few who go way out of their way - to see us, speak with us, listen to us, and help us to become the healthiest versions of ourselves. Who do in fact, see us as human beings. For those of you who know who you are - we truly, with every beat of our hearts, express our deepest appreciation for all of the time, energy, and resources, and to give back the energy that we put in. Thank you!

Thank you for seeing and acknowledging our sorrow. Thank you for stopping and talking with us, whether we are having a bad day or whether we are having a good day. You make the time to greet us with your bright presence, a presence that brings hope to our day, even if momentarily. Thank you for inspiring change!

We apologize for all of the stress and frustrations that you take on day after day. We see that too. For the assholes who are mean, who are verbally assaultive. To a degree we wish we could be that shield for you. But you reassure us that it's the role you've chosen, it doesn't deserve to be treated less than or that such maltreatment is justified.

Thank you for sitting with us and hearing our concerns, promoting our triumphs and allowing us to cry vulnerably. If there were one thing we could do to show our appreciation, I feel that it would be to pay forward the altruism you demonstrate so intentionally! Thank you for the determined investment you all have put into so many! Thank you.

For you rare few, we want you to know that . . . **We do see you!** And we appreciate you for everything you do. The time, energy and resources, the mental fortitude and spiritual resiliency you demonstrate just before you roll out of bed to commit your heart and soul to undertaking the seemingly endless work. Day in and day out, the impact you have on all of us may not be visible immediately, some changes you may never see because you unicorns have stretched yourselves so thin trying to help as many people as you possibly can, which, let's be honest - Debwe - is pretty awesome!

You are an inspiration, an encouraging breath of freshness, a *hello* in the morning, a smile to brighten seemingly endless days of darkness, and an early morning sunrise that gives many of us reasons to know that there really are those out there that actually do fulfill the basic human nature to fully demonstrate compassion, care and concern.

Like 2PAC said: "**You Are Appreciated!**"

**"Committed" to being heard** expresses Gratitude to the rare few clinicians who are leading the way with recognizing the healthiest versions of community members (clients) who are finally progressing through the program. We express our respects to those community members who have taken accountability for their past harmful choices and have mitigated their risk in demonstrating the healthiest versions of themselves.

But the gratitude goes to those rare few clinical who, in a way, have taken a risk to

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voice their support. The culture of the program was once, "no clinical support for anyone," no matter the consistent pattern of demonstrating the healthiest version of oneself. Thankfully, that culture is slowly changing. You have our **Respect!**

We thank all of those who put pressure on the SOCC to expose this draconian system and administration which has spurred the changes in a lingering punitive process. For those putting in work, I suggest that you adhere to the opinion of Iliza Shlesinger: "**I'm not going to downplay my strengths so you feel less shitty about your own shortcomings.**" *Girl Logic. Iliza Shlesinger*

**Terry's take . . .**

I've experienced a lot of negativity by a number of staff. When a staff member (especially a clinician) provides his/her support for what a person is attempting to do in moving forward, then I'm given a more realistic opportunity to confide in someone capable of establishing a level trust.

It still isn't a perfect world where I can solve all those issues that may arise during the course of the day. But I also no longer have to be concerned with looking over my shoulder with that feeling of paranoia of being targeted.

I realize there are always going to be issues where my developmental growth continues being restricted as long as I'm being detained. But it's also different now that there are individuals who actually listen to me and have a vested interest in my progressing forward in positive directions.

The one thing that a person realizes while being detained is how others gather into groups of like minded people who share their opinions and attitudes believing that they have something positive to offer others.

These specific groups of individuals are extremely limited within an environment where people tend to take advantage of another's kindness; as they often see it as a sign of weakness. But this behavior also transpires within the world outside of these barbed wired fences.

It is my personal belief that in order for a person to be able to move forward, that person must step outside of their comfort zone. I must not only face what I did in my past, but must also accept to continue those types of behaviors will only result in continued deprivations of freedom.

There are over 400 employees work at the MSOP-ML facility. Yet, there are only a handful of identifiable employees who actually put forth an honest effort towards the daily progression of their assigned patients. Why is that? Why is it so easy to identify those who strive to make a difference in this environment from those who simply show up for a pay check?

What is noticeable is the demonstrated attitudes by those who show up every day only to sit hidden in their offices, or attend their meetings with others who constantly hide in their office.

I wonder if the level of hopelessness that is being communicated throughout the facility is actually being experienced by those staff who are unwilling to strive towards making positive changes? Is that their rationale for hiding in their offices every day? They choose to remain safe through their daily demonstration of inac-

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## ATTITUDE IS 95% OF EVERYTHING

By SIXX|R  
"THE SUPERIOR MAN"

This correspondence was received from my uncle in 2013.

I received your recent letters and I can empathize with your attitude about your treatment. However, now is the time to probably retreat from that, it is not likely to improve. It is time to retreat from all the condescension, pettiness, and cruelty that is visited upon you. There is no indignity or slight they will not treat you to. They do this to get you to react and to reinforce the very attitude that will certainly keep you there. You need to have the attitude of, what is referred to by the Chinese as, the Superior Man. You can move beyond all reaction to what they say and do and retain your serenity and composure. You need to maintain your inner light while remaining outwardly yielding and tractable. Try to remain cautious and reserved. Avoid awakening negative responses by inconsiderate behavior. In spite of what your clinicians are doing you don't need to be all knowing. You should let many things pass without being duped.

When I was in the Marine Corps I had this practice. I hated the Corps for its unfairness, brutality and injustice. But my outward attitude was Mac Marine, Dress Blues, Tennis Shoes, and a light coat of oil. I was willing to play their silly fucking games. I kept my real attitude and thoughts to myself. I had to if I didn't want to die, or be beaten, or wind up in Naval Prison.

Begin to meditate upon what is to come, in the broadest possible sense, and to prepare yourself for greeter things. You will need all your best insights and qualities to deal with new things. The difficulty with where you're at, is that you are subtly victimized by your reactions to your treatment and those become reflexive. No matter how justified they may be, they can influence how you respond to new and changed conditions. I know something about this since I have a 70% disability at the VA for PTSD.

Another thing, try not to idealize anything about the future, not your family, friends, or your feelings. No matter what your enthusiasm most things and people will be mundane. The big thing will be to preserve the best of what you've learned and perceived in the face of the ordinary and mundane difficulties of life. Attitude is 95% of everything. If you let your attitude about the way you were treated by the state operate on the outside, things will go poorly. It's not easy. I still carry around some attitude from Vietnam and the military. I know you have more intelligence but feelings are habitual and more powerful than your thoughts. Your thoughts almost always fit the context of whatever mood you're in. So just watch out and devote yourself to developing an attitude appropriate for the outside.

Hoping to see you outside soon. Pax Vobiscum Your Uncle Bill

*When I was discarded into this system, my uncle became my biggest champion. His words and Mac Marine attitude played a significant role in the man I am today. Unfortunately I wasn't able to make it out there to spend time my uncle... Respects! Russell John Hatton, Rajah Sunday February 18, 2024*

**Remember, there's no reason you have to accept defeat.**

*Iliza Shlesinger*

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February 15, 2024

### Prison Legal News

I am writing this letter with my submission for consideration of publication into the PLN newsletter. I am not asking for legal advice nor am I asking for PLN to provide me with legal representation. All I am doing is telling my side of the story and providing my thoughts involving civil commitment in the state of Minnesota.

We have our own newsletter called "Committed" to being heard and we are being provided a site to have our newsletter and other materials viewed by anyone interested. The site address is listed below and CURE-SORT is kind enough to provide us with their services free of charge.

You have my consent to edit and publish this article should you choose too. Thank you in advance.

#### Civil Commitment In The State Of Minnesota

I arrived at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program on October 14, 2013 from the Minnesota Department of Corrections. The district court Judge Jammie A. Fredrickson of Anoka county issued the initial commitment order "Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order For Commitment on June 6, 2009. The final commitment order was issued on January 6, 2015 by the same district court judge.

In the state of Minnesota an individual can be civilly committed after serving his/her prison sentence as a Sexually Dangerous Person or a Sexual Psychopathic Personality. The criteria requires that a civilly committed person must suffer from a mental illness/disorder which then causes that person to be dangerous.

According to Minn. Stat. § 253B and § 253D Minnesota Commitment and Treatment Acts ("MCTA"); an individual cannot be civilly committed without being both mentally ill and dangerous to themselves or others.

Several facts were revealed during the Karsjens vs. Jesson trial. In October 2008 Nancy Johnston, CEO/Executive Director for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program utilized her professional judgment to break away from State Operated Services. She also utilized her professional judgment to break away from using the medical model approach when treating mental disorders. By doing so, she no longer provided medical treatment to those "sex offenders" civilly committed under the MCTA.

The Minnesota Civil Commitment and Treatment Act: Sexually Dangerous Persons and Sexual Psychopathic Personalities, Minn. Stat. §253D ("MCTA"), which governs the Minnesota Sexual Offender

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*"...I'd like to think everyone has something they have the potential to be both great at and greatly excited about. Iliza Shlesinger*

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Program ("MSOP") and was recodified from Minn. Stat. § 253B... It was drafted to function in a non-punitive manner and balance important and competing state interests, protecting the public from individuals who are mentally ill and as a result pose substantial danger to the public<sup>1</sup>.

Ms. Johnston also applied for and obtained a large number of variances which was essentially necessary for her to transition the governments' legitimate non-punitive interest to one that serves no other purpose beyond continuation of punishing those previously convicted of sex offenses.

Ms. Johnston's actions is another demonstration of her ability to violate Minn. state law without being held accountable. According to Minn. Rule 14.055 Variances, Subd. 2 (4) the agency may not grant a variance from a statute or court order.

It is important to understand that when a district court judge issues his/her commitment order that they must determine that there is a mental illness/disorder that causes the person to be dangerous; and that requires treatment.

I made a decision to participate in the MSOP's treatment program. The "Matrix Factors" was incorporated to replace the medical treatment utilized for treating diagnosed mental disorders/illnesses. It should be noted that the Matrix Factors are not utilized anywhere else in the United States. Nor have the Matrix Factors have received any type of peer review. I actively participated in the psycho-educational programming for approx. 14 months. I even managed to advance to phase II of the three phase program after approx. 9 months of treatment.

Upon my decision to withdraw from treatment participation (groups and modules), I decided it was time to challenge the level of care being provided at the MSOP.

I filed a Habeas Corpus petition into the Carlton (Court File No. 09-CV-23-2168) county district court.

My challenge is that I am not being provided the level of care as ordered by the committing court. The second part of my challenge is that the legislative intent is being violated by not providing me medical treatment for the disorders which keep me detained.

Prior to my filing the Habeas, I wrote Ms. Johnston a letter in which she directed her subordinate Nancy Stacken [MSOP's Clinical Director] to respond too. Ms. Stacken responded to my concern with the following response: "*You are correct in your citation of the role diagnoses play in the commitment process on the front end. They do contribute to the criteria to be civilly committed.*" Ms. Stacken also stated in her response: "*The statute that guides courts in providing liberty to persons who are civilly committed does not consider diagnoses*".

<sup>1</sup> "Legislative Intent" was defined in an Amicus Curie brief by the House of Representatives during the Karsjens v. Jesson trial. The trial was held in the U.S. District Court District of Minnesota by the Honorable Judge Donovan W. Frank; Case No.: 11-cv-3659 (DWF/JJK).

How is it that someone with the title CEO/Executive Director for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program can not only violate the legislative intent but also violate district court orders without experiencing any consequences? Her superiors, taxpayers nor the courts hold her accountable when she knowingly and intentionally violates the law. How is it that Ms. Johnston is above the law??

The Minnesota Supreme Court has already addressed the very issue surrounding civil commitment and mental illness stating: "Here, the state asserts that the district court properly dismissed appellants' action because SPP and SDP patients are not "mentally ill" and therefore [Minnesota] Sex Offender Program facilities are not regional treatment centers. The state's argument gives us pause because, when the state argued *Blodgett*, *Linehan I*, *Linehan III*, and *Linehan IV*, it argued that the parties suffered from mental disorders. We then upheld SPP and SDP commitment procedures as satisfying due process standards because the individuals committed under these procedures suffer from mental disorders. *Linehan IV*, 594 N.W.2d at 878; *Linehan III*, 557 N.W.2d at 184; *Blodgett*, 510 N.W.2d at 916. Without the mental disorder component, commitment would be based on dangerousness alone, which does not satisfy due process. *Hendricks*, 521 U.S. at 358. (citing *Hince v. O'Keefe*, 632 N.W.2d 577 (specifically 583), LEXIS 481; C0-00-49; Minn. Supr. Ct. (Aug. 9, 2001))." (emphasis added).

And; as faithful PLN readers know, an article was previously published involving Big Muddy River where it was determined by that court that: "Due process requires state officials{2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 30} to provide civilly-committed persons with access to mental health treatment that gives them a realistic opportunity to be cured or to improve the mental condition for which they were confined. See *Youngberg v. Romeo*, 457 U.S. 307, 319-22, 102 S. Ct. 2452, 73 L. Ed. 2d 28 (1982)."

It has already been determined by a district court that Ms. Johnston has failed to follow courts' orders. So why is this individual still allowed to continue being the executive director/CEO of the MSOP facilities? Civil commitment isn't about providing mental health treatment! This is about hatred towards an identifiable group of criminals who continue being labeled "sex offenders". It's about continuing to punish these individuals for the crimes they committed - even though they've already served their prison sentences.

This is something that every taxpayer should ponder. If a person is deemed mentally ill and that mental illness is what causes them to be dangerous, then shouldn't the person be receiving treatment for the mental illness? How can you treat the dangerousness if you aren't treating what causes the dangerousness?

Here in Minnesota, the taxpayers are footing the bill for treatment which utilizes the "Matrix Factors". An MSOP employee submits a document stating: "*The above client resides at the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) in Moose Lake, MN. The MSOP is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and serves clients civilly committed by the courts for sex offender*

treatment. Since the MSOP is considered an institution for mental diseases (IMD) for purposes of health care coverage, we have been notified by the DHS Eligibility Policy Manager that MSOP clients should be reviewed for State Funded Medical Assistance (SM).

Wouldn't it be considered fraud to be billing for services which actually are not being provided to the patient being covered by that policy? It cost over \$125,000 per year for each patient civilly committed to the MSOP facilities. Minn. Stat. §253D.30 Provisional Discharge Subdivision 1. Factors. (a) A person who is committed as a sexually dangerous person or a person with a sexual psychopathic personality shall not be provisionally discharged unless the committed person is capable of making an acceptable adjustment to open society.

(1) whether the committed person's course of treatment and present mental status indicate there is no longer a need for treatment... (emphasis added).

It should give anyone who reads this article pause that the requirements are not being met when provisionally discharging those civilly committed from MSOP. This alone demonstrates how much of a scam civil commitment has become within the state of Minnesota.

Nancy Johnston and other state officials (including Minn. Courts) have gone out of their way to intentionally and knowingly violate the MCTA through misinterpreting the language. A person civilly committed has a statutory right to appear before the Special Review Board and the Supreme Court Appeals Panel every six months; yet, it takes years to appear in before either. Should a person be granted transfer to Community Preparation Services, then Ms. Johnston simply ignores the courts order without any type of consequence being imposed upon her.

Silence is what allows every perpetrator to continue victimizing another. When a person decides to break their silence by exposing those who are violating the law, then those found to be violating the law starts being held accountable for their actions. Those who knowingly and intentionally violate the law count on intimidating those being victimized into remaining silent out of fear.

There is a reason why our newsletter is called "Committed" to being heard. We refuse to continue being silenced or victimized any longer through stigmatizing labels.

Respectfully written by;

Terry L. Branson  
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tiveness. Rather they need to get involved to promote an environment that actually provides opportunities towards more successful developmental growth.

It only takes one person to stand up against those we consider bullies. One person can have a positive impact upon another person's life.

We don't want to paint an even bigger target on the backs of those who are striving towards positive changes in this environment. But, we do want to acknowledge that we appreciate the more accurate documentation through your daily observations that supports our efforts towards demonstrating our positive acts.

I hear constant preaching from your peers about how this is a community that is suppose to work together. Yet those very same individuals who constantly spew this concept are the very individuals who come to work and hide in their offices all day long - doing nothing more than verbalizing their thoughts. When no actions are behind these words being verbalized then their words lack any realistic meaning.

So I say, it can't be easy going against the grain. The old saying "Actions speak louder than words" is in fact what allows you to be accepted throughout this community. It is also what allows you to be more successful than your peers. We acknowledge and celebrate your accomplishments with you. It takes a lot of perseverance and strength to overcome an environment where you are consistently being stalked, talked about, or put down by those who have trust issues due to your peers ineffectiveness.

By participating in the daily routines and observing behaviors of those residing on the living unit, you know who is and who isn't blowing smoke up your ass. And; instead of stepping in their bullshit, you are willing to point it out.

"Committed" to being heard wants to congratulate you on your accomplishments.

And we will continue to strive to be the healthiest versions of ourselves.

*"If you aren't getting the respect you deserve, demand it . . . Or ignore that person for the rest of your life. OR go out and make your career infinitely better than all those muthafuckers combined. Any of those options should work."*

Iliza Shlesinger

*Russell John Hutton Royal*

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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*