

"Committed" to being heard

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

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Addressing Identifiable Treatment Needs

By: Terry Branson

The MSOP unit directors and administration have made minimal effort to help those few individuals who've been identified as struggling with addictions. Whether it is popping pills or drinking hooch. MSOP's clinical team has removed any form of chemical dependency counseling from within the Moose Lake facility. Their recommendation is to have patients "journal" about their chemical addiction. They have another opportunity and are often told to attend a client run—client organized AA "group".

Those of us who are treatment participants attend a community meeting on a weekly basis. A part of the curriculum is expressing any community concerns. Week after week I hear the same community concerns being expressed, and listen as the IE's clinical team fails to provide any commentary beyond "we'll look into it".

Monday thru Friday, our clinical team and unit director enters onto the unit to head straight for a staff meeting which is to address any identifiable incidents which warrants staffs attention. These incidents could be anything from hooch being found, someone sexually acting out, verbal abuse etc. These meetings usually last anywhere from 15-20 minutes with some staff seen arriving several minutes after the meeting has started.

But what I also find interesting is - once the meeting is over with the two clinical supervisors and unit director very frequently head straight from the meeting to their offices. And, from that point on they are rarely seen again until time to head home.

"Unit 1-C's Clinicians follow the program in place. They are under my direction as to what services to provide to the client. The clinicians are not here to provide the patients with services that would address specific treatment needs. Your *Primary Therapist* is not responsible to meet your treatment needs. It is your decision whether or not you actively participate in the treatment services being offered. This is not about problem solving." The above is an excerpt taken from Volume 3 Issue 9 of "CTBH".

I resubmitted the above paragraph to demonstrate that it is never about treatment at MSOP. Ms. Lockie's statement remains exactly the same today as it did when orig-

(Continued on page 4 Addressing Identifiable Treatment Needs)

There are two kinds of power. One is obtained by fear of punishment, and the other by acts of love. Mahatma Gandhi

"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.

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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

He splits with them. No blame.

An individual finds himself in an evil environment to which he is committed by external forces. But he has an inner relationship with a superior man, and through this he attains the stability to free himself from the way of the inferior people around him. This brings him into opposition to them of course, but that is not wrong.

Splitting Apart pg. 95 of the "Book of Changes" by Wilhelm/Baynes

Leadership is not about being nice. It's about being right and being strong.
Paul Keating

Commentaries

- ④ **Are we breathing a decades worth of dust buildup or is it Black mold?** When will Maintenance clean the ventilation system and replace the filters? When will Maintenance vacuum off the dust from the overhead light fixtures on the cellblocks? When will Maintenance vacuum off the cellblock overhangs below the cellblock windows that have a decades worth of dust and dead skin cell buildup!
- ④ **Manliness consist not in the bluff, bravado or loneliness. It consist in daring to do the right thing and facing the consequences.** Mahatma Gandhi
- ④ *I'm sure that many of you watched the news. Aron Jones was convicted for assaulting a MSOP security counselor with the motor form his fan. He specifically asked the judge to give him the maximum sentence allowed by law, because he'd rather do time in prison than here at MSOP. That surely says a lot about MSOP's shadow prison and the abusive, neglectful environment.*

At What Point?

By Terry Branson

At what point does this administration stop punishing the entire community for the actions of an identifiable few individuals? I believe that this administration chooses to punish the entire community because of sheer laziness.

Once again the entire community is suffering at this administrations inability to identify and prohibit a select few individuals from making hooch. The administration already knows who many of these individuals are and yet they choose to prohibit the entire population from obtaining certain products because of their laziness.

I find it irresponsible that all those that are in charge has failed to provide chemical dependency treatment to those who truly need that type of treatment. I'm also amazed that those who do have chemical dependencies haven't done more towards promoting various MSOP employees to bring in a variety of chemical substances.

It's been rumored that Terry Kneisel has commented that fentanyl has been brought into the facility, yet no one has overdosed on the product.

I do know that this administration in the past has encouraged the patient population to identify and regulate who is making hooch. Are those in these administrative positions admitting that they are incapable of performing the duties assigned to them, and their only solution is to continue taking items that the rest of us use responsibly?

Sue Johnson has stripped us of many products that we would normally be provided during meal times proclaiming those items are being utilized to make hooch.

Now the vendors have been ordered to take all Snapple products out of the vending machines. What's next? Those making these decisions need to be removed from their positions. They've repeatedly demonstrated their level of incompetency.

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.

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inally reported on Sept. 2017.

We have MSOP employees who know only one solution to a problem. And, their solutions fails miserably. Let's stop the hooch by taking all the ingredients which can be utilized to brew it. Good job Sue Johnson! I wonder if it would be okay to ask the question of who you know and supported your promotion to becoming a program manager?

Let's not forget the dietician in our issues. Trying to find out this person's name is like me getting the dentist to take impressions so I can have a set of teeth to eat with. I don't just want to complain about someone. But it is hard not too; especially when the person who is in charge of providing us quality meals allows others to dictate to her what can and cannot be on our menu. There is no way in hell that anyone can convince me that the entire food budget is utilized to provide us quality meals. Especially when there are an ever increasing number of patients being diagnosed with diabetes due to the number of carbohydrates being served at each meal. Either our dietician doesn't care about those she provides a service for, or she is being bullied into lying about items served during meals.

A recent study was talked about on the news involving aspartame and how it's been discovered to cause cancer. Yet the number 1 sugar substitute here at MSOP is the very substance which has been a major concern for several years. Does she not know, or does she simply not care.

What should happen is an audit be performed by an independent agency. I know for a fact (from previously working in the kitchen) that they reuse food products from previous meals. I know for a fact that when the production sheet calls for a specified number of products are required, that number is not always met. But someone always signs the production sheet. And, signing that production sheet implies that that specified ingredient was included in the meal. Cutting corners has always been a way towards impressing their superiors of how efficient that person can become. An audit would demonstrate how various MSOP employees have manipulated a budget which specifically serves the patient population.

I'm still wondering where the money came from for each staff appreciation event held since my arrival at this facility. I'm almost positive that staff appreciation day is not budgeted at the legislative level. So where does thousands of dollars miraculously appear from every time Sue Johnson wants to through another party for all the MSOP employees?

When we talk about accountability and responsibility shouldn't that include those who are signing their names proclaiming services are being provided? Immunity has been a major protective factor for quite some time. But always relying on immunity requires someone else to believe that your actions wasn't malicious.

It is rumored that Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) is to take over control of MSOP's operations. It is reported that there will be major changes implemented throughout the program. And I am sending a copy of this newsletter to Mr. Smith.

It's time for the changing of the guards.

Many of us are sitting around waiting for the 8th circuit court of appeals to once again render a decision which will dramatically effect our lives in a positive manner. I don't believe we can rely on any stakeholder to do the right thing. Especially when it comes to reforming MSOP from punitive to civil.

Mental Health Assessment

By: Terry Branson

In October 2022, I was participated in a mental health assessment (MHA) administered by Dr. Amy Farmer Psy.D. Treatment Psychologist. The assessment took about an hour to perform with me doing the majority of talking. Dr. Farmer did not write her 6 page report until six months (4-2022) after the interview. She was out on some form of medical leave. I provided both verbal and written consent to participate in this assessment on Sept. 27, 22. Dr. Farmer is not authorized to submit a report without the approval of a licensed practitioner signing off on her report. In this case it is Julia Cease, PhD, LP, Assessment Psychologist; who digitally signed the report (with or without reading it?)

I then requested to have a MHA feed back session with Dr. Farmer. This ended up being rescheduled multiple times. I finally got to meet with her on 6-22-23 with my primary therapist.

During the meeting I expressed several concerns involving the MSA Dr. Farmer wrote. The following is a brief narrative of the concerns I discussed with Amy.

According to the report there is a list of documents which have been reviewed including *select Phoenix and Avatar Records from admission to present*. I presented the Psychological Interview/Mental Status Exam performed back on 6-8-94 identifying that my then current criminal charges was not a sex offense. No one, including Amy can identify how those criminal charges occurred out of sexual motivation or correlate to my sex offending behavior. I find it quite interesting how identifiable women have determined that a crime which has no sexual acts occurring continue determining that a non-sexual assault was a sexual assault. Especially when an evaluator assessed me right after the criminal act and determined that it wasn't a sex offense.

My diagnosis has changed over the years (again depending upon who is diagnosing me) from Antisocial Personality Disorder to Sexual Sadism, In a Controlled Environment (referencing Dr. Farmer's Diagnosis pg. 4). While examining this report and asking the question what justifies such a diagnosis Amy's response wasn't very clear.

Upon re-reading the records I can see how the facts have become so distorted over the years. I can relate it to telling one person one thing and that person repeating what they heard to someone else and so forth. The story gets completely twisted, and unless someone is willing to put forth the effort, they just keep on getting the story twisted.

The reality is - I believe that they do not give a shit. They can write pretty much whatever they want without being held accountable. Hell they work for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program and that in itself says a lot about their professional abilities as wannabe psychologist. It suits the stakeholders purpose and intent to intentionally muddle the facts to support continuous detention.

There is another reality to the narrative being set by those employed at MSOP. As long as "I" am willing to do what I need to do to move forward, nothing that they do can stop my progression. They may be able to interfere slowing my progress down, but ultimately it's up to me. As long as I strive to move forward in a positive direction, then the record will reflect my positive changes. Can't control what happened in the past, but I can control the now.

Apologizing Honestly is a Vital Dynamic of Accountability.

By Sixx|R

Within the world of **Transformative Justice** (TJ), accountability is the ecosystem in which apologizing breathes. Accountability is all together complex and simple, real and ever changing.

I began my journey for accountability nineteen years ago. But it wasn't just me saying, "I take accountability/responsibility for my actions," it was more than this simple verbal expression. It involved really reflecting on and internalizing the mental, emotional and physical harm I caused. Not only upon those who I deliberately harmed, but every aspect of the ripple effects, family, friends, communities, social services, the list can go on.

In a sense, I also see serving time in prison as a form of avoiding taking accountability. Because once we return to the community, we can say "I served my time, I took accountability." Maybe for the rare few, this applies. But for the vast majority, there's no reflection on the actual emotional harm afflicted, the hearts we've broken, family and friends we've disappointed.

For some, accountability requires really wanting to understand the impacts of our own internal traumas. It requires gaining an understanding to all of the contributing factors to why we have harmed others, and in this there is significant degrees of shame, guilt and remorse.

Accountability is not merely admitting what you've done; it is a habit that must be practiced. It works within relationships and though there are key common threads, accountability will look different depending on many changeable aspects such as the kind, severity, and length of harm, violence, and abuse; the nature of the relationship(s); the quality and consistency of prior accountability work done, if any.

Apologizing truthfully is a vital part of accountability. It is a skill that we must all understand and practice consistently. You can't take accountability if you do not know how to apologize well.

For most of us, we have been taught to fear accountability and clutch to know how to perceive of it outside of punishment or revenge. Accountability does not have to be intimidating, though it will never be easy or comfortable. And it shouldn't be comfortable. True accountability, by its very nature, ought to push us to create and transform, to change. Transformation is not to be romanticized or taken lightly.

Remember, true transformation requires a death and a birth, an ending and a beginning. True accountability requires vulnerability and courage (C-Our-Age) - two qualities that we are not readily encouraged to practice in our society. Or comfortable doing so.



INDIVIDUAL

If we cannot handle the small things between us, how will we be able to handle the big things? Learning how to address these smaller hurts or breaks in trust., can help us learn the basic skills we need to address larger harms. It can also help reduce and prevent larger forms of harm and violence. For example, hurt becoming conflict, conflict becoming harm, harm becoming violence.

*Adopted with permission from
Philly Stands Up!*

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"Morale still seems reasonably high – and while the desertion rate has risen, it is still limited to those who can walk." Woody Allen

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"I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end." Alice Paul

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Accountability is generative, not retributive. If you want punishment, you must be upfront and obvious about that. Do not ask for accountability, when what you really want is punishment or retribution. Just as it takes work to be accountable, it also takes work to receive someone's accountability. TJ is a specific kind of approach to harm and it may not be appropriate or possible for every situation, especially if little-to-no preparation work has been achieved.

Something I was taught in shame-based therapy, is that it was *my* responsibility to hold others accountable. I still hear this today coming from others who I assume are using this as an excuse to avoiding responsibility for their own accountability.

We need to move away from "*holding people accountable*" and instead work to *support people to proactively take accountability for themselves*. It is not another person's job to hold you accountable - *that is your job*. People can support you to be accountable, but no one but you can do the hard work of taking accountability for yourself.

Additionally, don't wait until someone else has to bring up your behavior. Whenever possible, work to proactively take accountability for yourself. Name it the moment you know you've made a mistake, caused hurt or harm, or acted out of character with your own values. Check in with someone about your behavior *before they have to say something to you*. Communicate well. Build a strong moral compass and get clear about your values.

Accountability must be proactive. We need to be communicative about our mistakes, rather than hoping no one finds out about what we've done. In an ideal world, we would proactively communicate with others as soon as we know we messed up or haven't done what we said we would do. This is true whether someone has made us aware of what we've done (or not done) or whether we've come to the realization on our own.

We would care more about doing the right thing, then "getting caught." We would not put the labor of reaching out and checking in about our accountability on someone else, especially those we've harmed. We would proactively do the work to be accountable for ourselves including the work to not get angry, run away or hide.

For instance, if you didn't do the job you said you would do because you took on too much, you would communicate about it the minute you realized you would not be able to get it done. You would apologize and proactively let people know when you would be able to get it done, or take the time to think of ideas for other ways it could get done. You would recognize that you took on too much and promise to work on doing better next time, which may mean that you invest time on learning how to say "no," on your time management, or your need to please others, or your habit of procrastination.

Proactively taking accountability for our actions is an important way we can build trust with the people in our lives, family, friends, co-workers and our support system of community allies. It is a practice that reveals our character, our integrity, capacity for self-reflection, and the kinds of values that we are loyal to. It is a practice of interdependence, a way to care for those we love and our selves, and shows that we have done our own internal work and self-reflection to take responsibility for our actions.

The facilitators at Philly Stands Up! divide accountability into four main parts:

1. Self-Reflection
2. Apologizing
3. Repair
4. Behavior Change

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1. **Self-Reflection** runs throughout all accountability work, but I place it at the beginning because you must have enough initial self-reflection to know that you have done something hurtful or harmful and, most importantly, want to make amends or address it genuinely. You will need to - and should - continue to self reflect throughout the different stages of your accountability. But you must begin in a place where you can understand your actions and the impact they had, so that you can get to a place where you are willing to make things right (or vice versa). **True accountability must be consensual.** Accountability requires change and you cannot change other people, *only yourself*. In short, you cannot force someone to be accountable.

2. **Apologizing** is a chance to acknowledge and take responsibility for the hurt or harm you caused or were complicit in. It is a moment to present to those you have harmed that you understand what you did and what the mental, emotional and physical impact was. You may need to apologize more than once or many times, depending on the severity of the harm, how deep the hurt went, how badly trust was broken or if the hurt became a pattern. **Debwe (Deb-way) Truth:** Apologizing is a dominant part of the rebuilding of trust and because of this, it is a key place for you to practice vulnerability. **Remember, the only way to build trust is through vulnerability.** Trust is key in our work to end cycles of violence because when violence or harm happens, trust is one of the first things that gets broken. Because of this, apologizing and repair are often *interdependent* on each other.

3. **Repair** is a distinctively challenging component of accountability because it must be done in relationship and cannot be done alone, unlike changing one's behavior. Of course, you must do your own work on your own time in order to engage genuinely and effectively in the work of repair with those whom you have hurt or harmed (e.g. being willing to be uncomfortable and not confusing being uncomfortable with being unsafe). Repair includes making amends and rebuilding trust, so that you can assure family, friends and your support system that you will not commit the hurt or harm again. It is an opportunity to do the work to be in the right relationships with those you have hurt or harmed, and just as important, to also be in a right relationship with yourself. Repair can take a long time and usually demands consistency and a level of faith in the face of fear that we are often not taught. It takes a lot of work to build trust and to mend a broken relationship, especially when compounded by past trauma (for everyone involved).

You will most likely have to apologize more than once while you are practicing repair and the process of repair can also help to reveal more harm that was caused or a clearer picture of the depth of the impact of your actions (or inaction). Repair is not linear and does not follow a set path. It depends greatly on many factors such as: the quality of the relationship with the person you harmed prior to and after the harm, your previous track record of apologizing and accountability with that person, your consistency and commitment to repair, and timing.

4. **Behavior Change** is one of the hardest measures of accountability. Changing your behavior is not easy. We have all tried and failed to change our behaviors at one point or another in our lives. Often, even seemingly nonthreatening behaviors have deeper roots in trauma that will require some level of healing. For example, if you are struggling to practice self-care, you will inevitably have to confront why you time and again put yourself last. Our hurtful or harmful behaviors are also often part of patterns that we must break and require larger shifts on our lives than "just this one thing," which is why they tend to be so hard to change.

Transforming your behavior is hard work, and is easier done with support. Find people in your life with whom you can talk about your accountability, mistakes, things you're ashamed of or feel guilty about, things you need to apologize for, or time when you were-

"I believe it is every man's religious duty to get all he can honestly and to give all he can." John D. Rockefeller, 1850

"You'll notice that the term 'morale' is never used except in reference to soldiers or people in analogue positions, such as employees of large corporations or prison inmates."
P.J. O'Rourke

n't your best self.

My personal ability to accomplish this was, telling myself that I'd already experienced the *worst* in my life. Recognizing conflict means change, and awareness that it all depends on how I am choosing the react to the conflicts and accept accountability for change.

There really are only two options:

- 1) React negatively, with confusion, sadness, frustration and anger, which only leads to causing more hurt or harm, to self and others.
- 2) Take a proactive approach and learn how I can prevent harm or hurt through positive actions and promoting individual accountability. Vulnerability and support are essential in this process.

Everyone needs to build support for their accountability. Do not wait until you are being called to accountability to begin building your accountability support system, *put the time in now* so that you don't have to scramble. If you are not actively building and maintaining accountable relationships, you are proactively building an unaccountable life.

Additionally, it is important to practice *all* four parts of accountability. For you have apologized and repaired again and again, but continue to endorse the harm, people will stop believing your apologies and repair. They may begin to distrust anything you say or the wear and tear of getting their hopes up only to have them dashed again and again, could leave life-long scars.

On the other hand, if you only change your behavior and do not apologize or make amends

to those you have harmed. You miss an opportunity for your own growth, you dispose of relationships and people you care about, act out of alliance of your values, or throw away the chance to take accountability and aid in someone's healing.

Though accountability can aid in healing, your healing should never be solely dependent on someone else's accountability because they may never take accountability.

We are aiming for practice, not perfection. We will hurt, misunderstand, and harm each other. We are human and we live in an exceedingly violent and harmful world. The point is to learn how to be accountable *when we inevitably mess up*, so that we know what to do.

This is not to let anyone off the hook or excuse or justify harm. Instead, this is a push for us to acknowledge the reality of harm, rather than continue to live in the fantasies we've created about harm. We will all mess up and make terrible mistakes. We will all hurt people we love and care about at some point. We will all have our time on the chopping block. We want to try to reduce harm whenever we can and that is different than trying to avoid conflict or pretend away hurt. The only way to get skilled at accountability is to practice it and the only time we can truly practice accountability is when we have messed up or caused harm.

I ask now...when will you take the step towards your own individual accountability and be a role model to demonstrate for others what true accountability looks like?

In doing so, pay heed to these two quotes:

"Only he can be taught who is willing to learn." B.C. Forbes

"I believe the risks I take are justified by the sheer love of the life I lead."

Charles Lindberg

A man should be able to hear, and to bear, the worst that could be said of him.
Saul Bellow

Is it a decade of dust and dead skin cell buildup or is it Black Mold?

By Sixx|R

For several weeks now I've been coughing trying to clear my throat from whatever is causing the irritation I started experiencing the health problems after Terry Kneisel and Nancy Stacken forced us into the retaliatory week-long lockdown. I shared this with Tanya Effieler at my Annual Exam, who prescribed Mucinex for a week and told me to exercise, drink plenty of fluids, drink hot tea, and eat sour candies and cough drops to help loosen up the flem in my throat. None of this has resolved the symptoms.

I've recently started realizing that many others too are suffering the same symptoms. It's like flem that can't be coughed out. My celly sounds pretty rough in the mornings. We have all taken notice to the daily assault of dust coming out of the cell vents that coats everything in the cell. The other day I turned on my lamp and held it at an angle against the wall to see that it was coated with thick dust. The day before maintenance was on the cellblock changing lights when the guy carelessly wiped and blew a heavy layer of dust off which spread throughout the cellblock. A client asked if he wanted a wet rag to wipe it off but her refused and continued to just blow it off for everyone to breathe in.

Unit Security Counselors tell us they put in a work order to have the vents cleaned. That was months ago. Maintenance is getting paid so do the damn work!

When was the last time Maintenance cleaned the vents and replaced the filters?

When was the last time Maintenance vacuumed off the light fixtures hanging throughout the cellblocks?

When was the last time Maintenance vacuumed the upper overhangs below the windows on the cellblock? We can all clearly see the thick layer of dust that has accumulated since the Complex was opened.

Staff should be concerned about this as well because we're all breathing the same contaminated air.

A year or so ago, a security counselor rumored to clients that when he conducted his A-Team rounds in the upper areas of the complex, areas we are restricted from accessing. He discovered that there is Black Mold all throughout those walkways. When asked if these walkways are connected to the complex cellblocks, he claimed that they are, and not only are they connected.

But the ventilation system is contaminated with black mold as well.

It's not difficult to miss. Looking up now at the vents above the computers, one can see what looks like dust buildup or black mold growing alongside the vents.

We need to find out what the long-term health consequences are for breathing such contaminated air. We know it can't be healthy. It must be certain that there will be long-lasting negative health impacts, physiologically, as well as mentally and emotionally as we deal with the stress of consistent coughing and headaches.

Until the work order has been completed, we will all continue to breathe this horrible air that is polluting our bodies. The unfortunate thing is, the vast majority of this population are so institutionalized that they refuse to even acknowledge this maltreatment and think that following the orders of health services to drink water, be active and move around, or take ibuprofen, will be the cure, at least temporarily. The other problem is if we complain "too much" we are subject to some malicious form of retaliation. That's just the nature of the MSOP. Simply because there is no accountability.

Power always thinks it has a great soul and vast views beyond the comprehension of the weak. John Adams 10

Locked down again because of COVID-19!

By Terry Branson

For eight days now we have been locked in our cells due to what medical staff are identifying as another outbreak of COVID. The question that comes to my mind is how is COVID once again entering into a secure perimeter?

I know that the MSOP uses a swamp cooling system to filter the air and cool the facility down. I also remember hearing on the news one day where the COVID virus can remain dormant in water.

I've been in this facility for 10 years now and have never seen maintenance or anyone else perform a thorough cleaning of the ventilation system. Why? How is this not classified as a health hazard. How is it that those in charge are not accountable for the health violations running rampant throughout this entire facility?

There is absolutely zero accountability when it comes to the operations of this facility. Why?

Throughout the history of the MSOP, numerous men who are warehoused in the Main building of the MSOP Moose Lake facilities, there have been with numerous diagnosis of different forms of cancer. The main building has been in operation since 1994. Who knows what building materials were used to construct it and the current conditions of the pipes for the water supply and if those materials can or are causing cancer. It makes you wonder if there have been any MSOP employees who have been diagnosed with cancer that may be related to their employment history with the MSOP?

"EXPECT"

By Sixx|R

expect no more due process rights... expect no more protected liberties...
expect no more constitutional freedoms...
expect more punitive practices... expect more illogical policies...
expect rules open to staff interpretation... expect more retributive instigation...
expect no more religious freedoms...
expect rehabilitation to be at staff discretion...
expect tactics employed to punish for staff convenience...
expect no more progress expedience...
expect more blatant heartache... expect more health complications...
expect more despondency... expect higher mortality...
expect more isolation... expect more micromanaging...
expect those receiving favoritism...
expect them to act as if they are better than everyone...
expect food quality and quantities to decline... expect your lifeline to wane...
expect the worst and nothing more...
Or... you can take control of your life and...
expect that it is your responsibility to fight for your freedom...
expect that you have every right to freedom of speech...
expect entitlement to every liberty...
expect your every constitutional right stands firm for you to stand upon...
expect that you will walk out of this place and not go in the ground...
But ... expect the worst and nothing more... expect to never walk out the door.

"I have my foggy and my fine days within me; my prosperity or misfortune has little to do with the matter." Blaise Pascal

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8th Circuit's Ruling

By Terry Branson

Many of us have been waiting and hoping that a positive ruling would be forthcoming from the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. Instead we've experienced a great deal of disappointment.

I have a friend whom I listen too. I remember him stating that our attorneys failed to raise *Youngberg* and build an argument around this particular case. Instead the attorneys raised the issue around *Bell*, and according to the 8th Circuit this is not the proper standard to raise for the claims filed.

Our attorneys failed to raise this argument and now according to the 8th Circuit's Order, we've done nothing but wasted our time hoping that we would be victorious on appeal. The 8th Circuit stated in their Order that "Appellants' argument that we should apply the *Youngberg* standard, raised for the first time on the third appeal, is too late."

In fact what's been explained to by my friend (Guy G.) is that we've actually been procedurally barred based upon the attorneys failure to argue *Youngberg*, but instead choosing to argue *Bell*.

In another statement the 8th Circuit stated: "For over one hundred years, our court has repeatedly barred parties from litigating issues in a second appeal following remand that could have been presented in the first appeal." More telling, if Appellants truly thought that *Karsjens II* directed the application of *Youngberg*, it would have made arguments based on that jurisprudence before the district court. Instead, they argued for the standard that they requested before the prior panel: the *Bell* standard.

Those of us who wish to continue pursuing a legal avenue towards obtaining our release have been stuck on hold due to the ongoing litigation of the *Karsjens* complaint. We have no idea what the attorney's plan on doing at this point. But what we do believe is it's pointless to take this case any further. It's fruitless to continue arguing an issue that was not properly brought before the Court.

Now there is conversations about what the Department of Justice will or will not do. To wait around on someone else to come to our rescue is absurd. We may be waiting for the remainder of our lives, especially since Minnesota's civil commitment has withstood the constitutional challenge.

It is my hope that someone outside of this facility will read this newsletter and be able to provide some information about how to go about finding a law firm willing to take on the challenge of civil commitment. We need expert help, and I believe that there is a firm out there who is competent enough to challenge Minnesota's civil commitment scheme and win. My address is below, so please write.

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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

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