

**ORIGINAL: 2544**

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Farney,

I am writing in response to Pa Bulletin Proposed Rulemaking, Department of Corrections [37 PA. CODE CH. 95], County Correctional Institutes [36Pa.B.3094] [Saturday June 24, 2006].

Comments:

95.223 Orientation.1. Written information should be provided. My question would be: Is this in prisoner's native language? (iv)(B) "The prisoner should know that he might make requests or enter complaints to the jail inspector during his inspection." It is my opinion that part of the inspection process should be that the inspector talks to staff and inmates, without the inmate making a separate request.

95.224[Rules and Regulations](7)" Other offenses may be accidental. "When it is discussed that such an offense may only affect the individual offender, and, therefore, simply reflect a deficiency on his part. This is a judgment call and who is the ultimate judge of this? This can be common type problem with individuals with disabilities and also can lead to an individual being pulled off of work release, for a behavior at prison. I feel unless a serious type of misconduct occurs, if an individual is working, paying room and board and fines, there should be a disciplinary process in place to keep the person working and implement the discipline during non work hours.

95.232Medical and health services. This section in my opinion is essential.

Since our county prison systems are becoming the catch all for individuals with a multitude of problems ranging from psychiatric, drug and alcohol, head injuries etc, I feel an assessment from a health care professional who can identify the needs of an individual is a very needed service, providing there are treatment programs available to implement, based on these needs. I see a lack of programming being a major issue in the county system. I also feel the guards need more extensive training with the above issues and agree that CPR training should be mandatory.

I see the county prison system, at least in our county, needing to focus more on rehabilitating individuals rather than punishment, which seems to be the core approach. I think programming needs to be in place for job training particularly, so inmates have a skill of some sort when they are released from prison. I do not think there is anything to be learned from playing basketball, cards, etc other than reinforcing dependency on the system.

From reading an article in the Phila Inquirer, June 27 it appears as if the State Prison Warden association does not support the changes, due to the costs of providing these

additional services i.e. a requirement that a counselor evaluate all inmates within 14 days of admission. I feel the cost to the community is greater by not providing these services.

95.235. Work Programs. This section in my opinion is also essential. I do feel this should be a core to prison programming along with treatment programs. The county prison system should be integrating services from Career Links and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation into the prison setting. I also feel there should be half way houses or other assistance given to find housing when a prisoner is being discharged from prison.

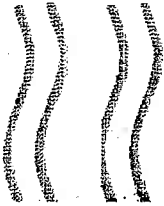
I have been a social worker for 30 years and truly feel, some positive changes need to take place in the County Prison System. I do not feel we, as a community, are meeting many of the needs of the individuals in the system and do not feel we emphasize the need for work and being a responsible citizen in the community. I truly hope you are able to implement some of this programming into the county system.

Cordially,

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