

LER: ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT

On behalf of the transgender community at CMF I am asking for your support. Dr. Joe Bick on 11-1-95 terminated a nationally recognized HIV health education program here at CMF. Only after several months of community advocacy pressure was the program replaced. The new HIV health ed. program is a mere shell of the previous program but at least it is something. Dr. Bick's actions were mean spirited and self serving. By closing the program he discriminated against the HIV prison population and the general prison population. He denied them access to quality HIV/STD and other health prevention education. In speaking to the HIV prisoners they are now receiving little if any health enhancing material from the current HIV ed. prog.

On June 14, 1996 I began a TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP. 95 % of the T.G. prison community reside in program 4. This happens to be the area of the prison which Dr. Bick is the C.M.O. I went through the proper procedures to get the group approved. But I was told no HIV transgender prisoners would be allowed to attend the group. On 7-15-96 I received word from my superiors that Dr. Bick is now not allowing any transgendered person residing in program 4 to attend the group. This is another discriminatory act on Dr. Bick's part. The group has become a valueable asset to the transgender community at CMF. I am asking that you advocate on behalf of the transgender community at CMF. They now need a voice! I'm sure many of them will be attempting to write you once they find out about this terrible decision. I worked as a social worker in program 4. The transgender community does not recieve any service from program 4 unless they are HIV positive. They receive no mental health / medical support unique to the transgender community. The TRANSGENDER SUPPORT^{Group} was an attempt to help meet some of the needs of this discriminated group of people.

Please network advocacy resources to demand that the Transgender community in prog.4 ^{be} is allowed to access this ^{support} group if they so desire. Right now they have been denied that option.