

11-5-97

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you to generate support to improving conditions for the transgendered person behind prison walls. Please review the attached letter Judy and I will be sending the warden at Vacaville State prison. Please sign and print your name on the letter, if you support our efforts. Also if you know a program which would support our efforts ask a representative of the organization to sign the name of the program or organization on our letter. After Judy and I gather a sufficient number of names we will send the letter to the warden with the names.

Please indicate if you would be interested in meeting with the warden and or if you would be willing to demonstrate in front of the prison if the warden chooses not to adequately address our concerns.

\* I will demonstrate with you in support of the transgendered prisoner if the need arises. - depends on timing

\* I would be willing to meet with the warden as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Health Care Reform. depends on timing

\* I would like to be a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Health Care Reform to advocate on other prison health care issues such as HIV and or mental health care.

Please return this cover letter and the attached signature letter to either:

Scott Cozza, Prison Health Care Reform Advocate/HIV Health Educator at FTI: 707- [redacted] or [redacted] Petaluma, CA. 94952

Judy Greenspan, HIV/AIDS in Prison Project, [redacted] Oakland, CA. 94607-3592 F: 510- [redacted] T: 510- [redacted]

To

Scott Cozza

to be approved to receive hormones while incarcerated And it can take months for hormones to be approved in the very rare cases when they are.

7) TGs living with HIV/AIDS are denied hormones. They were also denied being able to attend a TG sensitive support group There was no support group offered in their area addressing their unique needs

8) The CMO of the HIV program was quoted in '95 as saying. " I did a research review and found nothing in the literature to support the notion that hormone therapy improves the mental health of the transsexual. I do not support giving hormones to the transsexuals at CMT."

10) CDC needs to develop an official policy in the DOM Department Operations Manual which addresses the psychosocial-bio needs of the incarcerated TG community. To date there is no such document

11) TGs who are incarcerated should be provided HIV/STD peer education which is sensitive to the TG community They receive no HIV or other health information.

12) The incarcerated TG should be protected from sexual assault, physical and verbal abuse and discrimination. The experience of the TG prisoner is feeling unprotected.

13) All transgender prisoners whether they are HIV positive or not are disciplined more harshly than the general population for the same offenses.

14) TGs are not allowed to wear make-up or feminine clothing. Many who have developed breasts are not allowed to wear bras. They are strip-searched by male officers.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Health Care Reform is requesting that the California Medical Facility investigate the health care concerns identified above. We are also requesting a formal meeting with you to discuss our concerns and develop solutions to this serious deficiency in health care delivery. Please contact either Scott Cozza at (707) [redacted] or Judy Greenspan at (510) [redacted] ext [redacted] to set-up this meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Scott Cozza*

Scott Cozza  
Judy Greenspan, HIV/AIDS in Prison Project

Additional names:

Karen Shain, Calif Coalition for Women Prisoners

Dorsey Nunn, Legal Svcs for Prisoners w/ Children

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