

SCOTT COZZA, LCSW, PRISON HEALTH CARE REFORM ADVOCATE 707-778-0564

2-7-98

To: Members of the Ad Hoc Prison Health Care Reform Committee
From: Scott Cozza, Prison Health Care Reform Advocate

On Wednesday, March 4th, 4:30 pm at [REDACTED] you are invited to attend a planning meeting to advocate for the medical health and mental health care needs of the transgendered incarcerated prisoner. The meeting will be held for approximately two hours so bring food to eat for yourself. Parking is on Mission between 5th and 6th streets. Cost is about \$4. for parking.

Please review the attached materials. I will present a brief slide presentation summarizing the transgender focus group material I gathered while working at CMF. A letter has been sent to the Warden of CMF. We have been referred to the Medical Executive Committee and are now awaiting a response.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the issues being addressed (refer to the attached documents), identify which members of our group will represent our group with prison officials, to discuss and plan a possible demonstration outside the prison if our issues are ignored, strategize how we will approach prison officials if a meeting takes place. Your attendance at this meeting is greatly appreciated. Your expertise and compassion for our m-f and f-m brothers and sisters will assist us all in our advocacy for this marginalized community.

CC:

Judy Greenspan
Willis Johnson
Courtenay Keough
Lauren Michaels
Dominique Leslie
Cseneca Greenwood
Patricia Felie
Nancy Nangeroni
Ryan Clary
Shadow
Major Griffin-Gracy
Shannon Mentor
James Green
Shoshanna Gillick

Sincerely,



Scott Cozza

1-31-98

To: Mr. Weeks
Medical Executive Committee
California Medical Facility

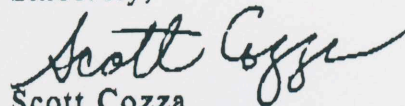
From: Scott Cozza, LCSW,
Rep. Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Health Care Reform

Dear Mr. Weeks,

Per our conversation last week, I'm have attached the letter from the Prison health Care Reform Committee sent to Warden Olivares, dated 1-21-98. Warden Olivares has referred our request for an investigation of the stated health care issues facing the incarcerated transgendered person. As noted in our letter to the Warden, we are also requesting a formal meeting to discuss our concerns and develop solutions to this serious deficiency in health care delivery to the transgender prison community

Please contact me to schedule a meeting. We are looking forward to meeting with your staff to discuss the issues we have addressed.

Sincerely,



Scott Cozza
Prison Health
Care Reform Advocate

Petaluma, CA. 94952

T/F: 707- [REDACTED]

State of California

Memorandum

Date : August 26, 1996

To :

[REDACTED]

From : California Medical Facility, Vacaville 95696-2000

Subject : FIRST LEVEL REVIEW CMF APPEAL LOG # [REDACTED]

Your appeal has been referred for the first level of review. On August 22, 1996, you were interviewed by A. Sumner, SRNC concerning your appeal.

In your appeal, you have indicated that you are a transsexual undergoing hormone therapy and were transferred to CMF from two different prisons to start hormone therapy. You also state you have a chrono from Dr. Friedman and Dr. Levitt, as well as, DMH Acute Program referral form stating that you need hormone therapy.

You have requested to speak with medical doctor to start hormone therapy and to have a health care examination for hormones.

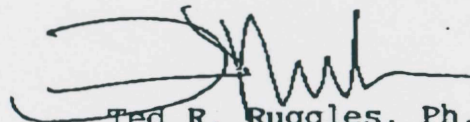
A thorough review of your appeal, in conjunction with examination of supporting documents, reveals that you have been on hormone therapy since prior to incarceration. The chronos you cite from Dr. Friedman and Department of Mental Health referral form do not state you need hormone therapy, only that you have been on hormone therapy prior to incarceration. You saw a physician in B-1 Clinic on July 24, 1996 regarding this issue. The physician did not prescribe hormone therapy at that time. Title 15 Section 3350(1) states the Department of Corrections will provide medical services that are based on medical necessity as deemed by the attending physician to be reasonable and necessary to protect life, prevent significant illness or disability, alleviate severe pain and are supported by health outcome data as being effective medical care. The current California Department of Corrections policy as outlined by Dr. N. Khoury, Assistant Deputy Director of Health Care Services is that female hormones are to be prescribed only to patients with medical indications for the drugs. Current medical indications include treatment of menopausal symptoms, prevention of osteoporosis, control of fertility, management of dysfunctional bleeding or treatment for breast or prostate cancer. No additional patients will be started on hormonal treatment unless they have one of these medical indications.


Mr. [REDACTED] is a transexual who was shipped from his Cat "B" program (apparently at Solano) to serve a SHU term, for assaultive behaviors, at Pelican Bay State Prison. Inmate carries a diagnosis of Schizoaffective and Gender Identity Disorders. He has had substantial hormonal therapy as well as silicone implantation in both the breast and facial areas.

A chrono from his former CDC psychiatrist, Dr. Freedman, speaks of Mr. [REDACTED] being targeted as a victim in G.P. lines. Indeed, the inmate complains of having been assaulted, raped and sodomized here at PBSP.

After Dr. Levitt held a telephone conversation with Dr. Freedman, who is now CMO at Wasco, it was decided by the Treatment Team to recommend that Mr. [REDACTED] be transferred to a CAT "B" program, and that treatment be continued.

cc: CCII
C-File
Medical Record
Psych File


Ted R. Ruggles, Ph.D.
Senior Psychologist


George C. Levitt, Ph.D.
Staff Psychologist

DATE 08-29-95

[REDACTED] B8-111 PBSP GCL/gs PSYCHIATRIC

MENTAL STATUS EVALUATION