

Sherley, Laura

From: donotreply@legmt.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:42 PM
To: LEG Cmte-CJOC Comment
Subject: Public Comment for CJOC

Written Public Comment for the Criminal Justice Oversight Committee

Date: 21st January 2024 19:42

First Name:
May

Last Name:
Simmons

Email Address:
maysimmons1@hotmail.com

Subject:
overview

Comment:

There is so much wrong with Mt in terms of CJO. I have been a voice for much as early as 2010. However it's not been without cost to me in all areas of my life. I am talking about retaliation from DOC. It started with my reporting PREA. Now Jim Patelis can tell you I told the truth. But up until Sept 2017 DOC called me a liar. I was emotionally tortured while incarcerated until 2014 and then harassed by the Polson PP office. I've been laughed at both to my face and behind my back. I've had officers at the women's prison call me crazy. I've had official reports done by Warden Hansen herself which claimed I never worked for the USCG. Which has been proven wrong. I've had hundreds of dollars in Hobby supplies stolen at the direction of DOC employees. These were men and women who worked for the State of Mt. They were paid by the state of mt to harass me! I am being harassed by DOC now. Facing a revocation for talking to Offenders. The state AG has spend significant time in court over 4 hrs to ask over 100x 1) if I was a real advocate 2) if I held a degree in advocacy 3) work for a any non profit. He wants to make sure the judge sees me as a wacko just out to say stupid shit. Of course it wasn't mentioned about my full discrimination findings, my anti PREA work or the years of attending many many many hearings mtgs and such. I've been on conditional release for many yrs. I was found guilty of TALKING TO OFFENDERS. The amount of money the MT DOC spent to find me guilty of this is remarkable. I also know while on conditional release there are so many emails between DOC and the parole board it would cost me a small fortune to get them. There must be something they definitely don't want me to see. My better question is why do these emails exist? Because I was on probation then conditional release. DOC and BOPP would have no reason to discuss me at such length. My attorney says the state is wants jail time. FOR TALKING TO OFFENDERS? One of the questions the AG asked Of it's own witness was "is it true she was hard to control while on supervision"? only place that could have come was DOC and why was it asked? It had nothing to do with the matter at hand. That is what told me DOC was behind the matter. It was also filed the day after the session ended. Not a coincidence. And I am not the only one who thinks that. Members of this very committee think the same thing. I pled guilty of talking to offenders. I get dozens of calls a week from family. DOC has cut my access to speaking to offenders but their families contact me. I am sure the prosecutor thinks that's wrong too. THEY ask me all kinds of things. Report all kinds of thinks. I was contacted by family this

weekend over the conditions in AZ because people were told it was voluntary but it wasn't. They took on man from Deer Lodge who was saving DOC over 7000 a yr because of skills at auto repair and forced him to go to AZ. where they were shackled for 30 with no rest room breaks. Where they will loose the tablet availability. Where he had to toss away a \$200 pair of work books. Where canteen went from %1.50 a back of coffee to over \$7 + tax. And there are no jobs. I am mounting one hell of a defense at the sentencing. Do you realize that a revocation can be based on hersay? The rules of evidence don't apply? I plan on showing the letter from my 2010 State appointed District court lawyer where he admits he didn't do his job and alot more. Like Jail corruption at my sentencing and a witness who was committing insurance fraud not known till my parole in 2014. But I have made the decision, should incarceration be ordered, I plan on ending my life. Now don't worry about me. Several on this committee have heard me say this already. My therapist knows. My attorney knows. My friends know. I am done being the victim of DOC malicious when I thought ending rape of inmates was the right thing. And ending discrimination is the right thing. Or working my ass off to make Mt safer was the right thing. Lowering incarceration rates is the right thing. Or telling all of you, the committees both current and who have come before re entry has to be addressed or Mt will never move forward. Because fixing the magic system isn't just about building bigger prisons. It's about families, communities becoming healthy, drug free, economically vibrant, supporting local businesses.

Sent via leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/cjoc/public-comments-cjoc/