

Honorable Committee Members:

Public Comment SUBMISSION Regarding the Nevada Department of Corrections:

RE: Suicides
Mental and Physical Health
Law Library Access in NDOC

1) Are NDOC SUICIDE NUMBERS RISING AMONG YOUNGER PRISONERS WITH NO PRIORS?

Yes, lack of mental health care, in my opinion.

Complete update to suicide data unavailable though requested of NDOC's Mr. [W.C. "Bill" Quenga](#) 04 May 2022.

NDOC History of Suicides Overview:

1905 - April 13, 2000==49 NDOC suicides.

Jan 01, 2000 - June 4, 2007== 16 suicides

See attached for incomplete suicide data 01 Jan 2020 - 05 May 2022... including 2 older suicides from my film The Hole.

Can a Nevada prison sentence become a death sentence? Yes. is this a silent, backdoor elimination of a poor class of individuals who do not receive the mental and physical health care that they need in NDOC? In my opinion, yes.

Here are a few suicides of way too many in our Nevada prisons... See some attached photos...

Will each of you please stop this largely unpublicized, silent slaughter,,, due to deliberate indifference, and or what else? Still not certified to standards operations in NDOC?

Please find compassion, kindness and make new laws as checks and balances that can propel us forward into a healthier and more productive, instead of destructive, society where our prisoners would rather die than live in our uncertified to standards Nevada prisons?

Hernandez, Victor Manuel, Age 41
Case#: 20-01119

Bass, Christopher Lee, Age 30
Case#: 20-06735

Smith-Redondo, Anthony Jesus, Age 36
Case#: 20-06112

Goicoechea, Tarik, Age 36
Case#: 3 22-00263

Hutchinson, Michael Ian, Age 28
Case#: 21-04817

Pinto, Liliana Geneva, Age 35
Case#: 21-04783

Tom, Michael Lee, Age 36
Case#: 22-03238

Cano, Daniel Joseph, Age 35
Case#: 22-03142

The NDOC used to publish information on each prisoner's death with the causes of each death. No longer. NDOC press releases no longer contain the causes of death.

Link for the past NDOC death history format.

Source:

Prior study presented to the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice November 19, 2008:
(No answer received to this day.)

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/20213?rewrote=1>

Researching current data on our NV prisoner causes of death has presented great difficulty.

Why? I could find no centralized depository for NDOC causes of prisoner death data.

Only by individually contacting each coroner office in each county is it possible to assemble this state data.

Please find out the current number of suicides...

beginning from June 4, 2007, the last date of official data that I was able to assemble, please.

Where does NDOC send dead prisoners from the many facilities in the many counties where they passed away?

What is the coroner's office of choice for each NDOC facility, please?

CCC
CGTH
ESP
HCC
HDSP
LCC
NNCC
NNTH
PCC

SCC
SDCC
TCC
TLVCC
WCC
WSCC
CGTH
FMWCC
JCC
NNCC

Will you please do an audit of NDOC after death procedures and where the individual prison facilities send our deceased prisoners,,, and find out the costs?

Do we need a centralized coroner's office to compile all of this valuable death data?
I think so. Do you?

2) Legal Library Issues...

Is \$\$\$ from the Inmate Welfare Fund properly administered to provide each NV prisoner with fair legal library access and help?

No, not based upon the prisoners who report to us.

With so much money coming in from the prison stores and telephones and from expensive songs (what percentages does each bring to NDOC as profit) one would think that there is enough money to provide enough law library time and service to our prisoners, the majority of whom must fend for themselves the best they can with almost no law library access since they cannot find attorneys to take their cases and represent them post entry to NDOC. Many do not begin to know how to approach their cases because of their low levels of education, do you agree?

1 such NDOC document of importance, in our opinion, astounding about the lack of access to NV prison facility law libraries is available upon your request.

3) Ongoing medical deliberate indifference lawsuits? Have you seen these?
NV prisoners need attorneys now.

<https://washoelegalservices.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/WLS-Fed-Case-Summaries-2.8.2021.pdf>

In closing,,,

Environment shapes our inner harmony. We all want and deserve peace and harmony so that we can fulfill our creativity in being of loving service to ourself first, and to others. May peace and health prevail for the benefit of us all.

Sincerely yours and thank you for all you do to help others.
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Mercedes Maharis MA MS MA