

Hello,

My name is Kimberly, and I am a formerly incarcerated woman who was recently released from NDOC Florence McClure Women's Prison where I served a total of 4 years.

During those four years I had the privilege of attending college. Something that I know changed my life and my outcome. As I said I am one of the very few lucky ones that got the opportunity and head start that CSN Prison Education Program afforded me. However, there are so many women that do not get this opportunity or any type of opportunities while in there.

The prison system is set up to warehouse women until such time that they are released. Most only leaving with the same mindset and skill set that got them there in the first place. Most of them in an even worse state than when they came because they have been mistreated and mentally abused for the time that they have been warehoused. Most of the staff there treat us as if we are nothing more than rabbit animals. They talk down to us they disregard us as human beings and they themselves have no leadership skills or anything to offer. They are simply there for paycheck and we are no more than animals that they are paid to babysit.

Because most of the guards that work at Florence McClure women correctional center are in their early 20s with very little or no training, they themselves do not know how to mentor or motivate women who are incarcerated for whatever reason. They are intimidated and feel that we are less than, so they treat us with no dignity and no respect.

When asked do I think that the NDOC needs an oversight committee my response was absolutely! NDOC needs someone to make them accountable for the horrible treatment that they show us women, they need someone to hold them accountable for the poor medical treatment that they offer or the lack thereof. They need someone to oversee disciplinary action against the guards and the counselors when they misstep so that they realize that they cannot treat in an inhuman manner. They need someone to oversee the food and the nutrition and the quality of the food that we are served daily that is some time expired or below USDA standards. They need someone to oversee their lack of concern for our release date. Putting our release date further than what it should be because they failed to do their paperwork.

They need someone to oversee the programs that they are supposed to be offering however somehow, they get lost in the system and the programs are never started. So, when asked is this committee needed, I say yes, it is not only needed it is imperative. I believe that a committee like this would not only change the system, but it would give the women in the system greater hope for rehabilitation and not just a set up to fail and return.

Thank You

Kimberly