4-24-20

Prison University Project
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Dear Pop:

Thank you and all others in your organization for the large zip lock bag full of goodies and correspondence supplies. The articles/essays were more in depth than a PBS documentary. I'm not in a position to make a monetary pledge but perhaps the enclosed article/journal I call 'Another Way to Think: Our tile Death Row Population at San Quentin?' The Resilience Pilot Program can be a contribution toward your efforts to keep attention focused on conditions inside...

All I ask is to remain anonymous "A Death Row Prisoner at San Quentin". You may share it with the world on whatever platforms you use.

P.S. (on back)
The article enclosed is updated periodically. If you would like to receive those updates, please let me know.

Also, if you have questions, comments or suggestions, please present them to me in writing via the anus provided in the margin on the reverse.

Please acknowledge receipt if you can. I have reason to believe my outgoing/incoming mail is being arbitrarily censored.
So here we are in San Quentin's Death Row experiment. The latest twist as we go head first into the COVID-19 pandemic may be described as a new method of execution. Many may not know most prisoners here die from something other than the "official" method of execution or that all sorts of ailments permeate the aging population. But saying the elderly here are now more at risk than before the outbreak would be an understatement.

As this report begins there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases among the Death Row population at San Quentin. There is however one confirmed case of the virus within the ranks of SQ staff. With visits suspended, the only remaining vector for COVID-19 is CDCP employees. They may bring it into us without even knowing they're in feets or spreading it. So it's only a matter of time until it spreads.

Despite knowing there are only possible.vector, SQ custodial staff are not wearing N95 masks when security reasons require them to be within 6' of Death Row prisoners. Instead of halting the spread by taking precautions, the higher-ups set up a "window dressing display." That consists of pretending to be complying with Newsom's shelter in place order by implementing a rotating yard schedule for Death Row. Half of East Block 2/D block prisoners go to their 7 different yards one day, then the other 1/2 (which includes 10 other cells in Downey section) go the next day. That may sound like it facilitates social distancing but where prisoners are celled and which of those 7 yards each is assigned to is not balanced in any way. One day we see upwards of 35 prisoners on some yards, the next day some yards have only 3 or 4. Again, don't forget there are no COVID-19 cases among prisoners, while the only vector is conducting these yard release/re GNRS in close proximity to all of us, without N95 masks. That means the rotating yard schedule is in no way conducive to stopping the spread of COVID-19 among Death Row prisoners (or among other staff for that matter).

While nobody in any California prison is NOT at risk, Death Row prisoners at SQ are intentionally being put at risk when exposure is avoidable. Oh, by the way, as for those who say reason Death Row prisoners don't deserve to be safeguarded from COVID-19, consider the fact that when we start taking up space in hospitals and precious supplies are being used up when this pandemic really takes off, you can thank the disrespectful souls and their lack of urgency regarding this national emergency for Tom’s update/appendix.

On the morning of 3-29-20 it was announced over the PA system that a medical quarantine is now in place and there will be no yard program. The reason for the quarantine is not yet confirmed but it only applies to Death Row. One corrections officer, on 3-30-20, did supply a simple answer to the question about why there was a medical quarantine — a breakout of influenza NOT COVID-19. Shortly after April Fool's Day the Center for Disease Control decides to issue guidelines recommending everyone leaving their homes for essential functions
TRAVEL TO WEAR A CLOTH MASK. THAT DECISION WAS MADE DUE TO EVIDENCE THAT ASYMPTOMATIC CARRIERS OF COVID-19 CAN BE CONSPICUOUS 48 HOURS BEFORE EXHIBITING ANY SYMPTOMS. UNFORTUNATELY, INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING CDC GUIDELINES, THE UNEFFECTIVE SOWS EMPLOYED BY CDCR ASSIGNED TO WAREHOUSING ITS DEATH ROW POPULATION CONTINUE TO SNORT IN PROTEST, REFUSING TO WEAR A PROTECTIVE MASK OF ANY KIND. SICKER THAN THAT, OR AT LEAST CLOSE SECOND, IS THE FACT CUSTOMY STAFF ASSIGNED TO DO IN-CELL FOOD SERVICE CONTINUE TO BE IN WILLFUL NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE 113767 (HAIR RESTRAINTS) (SEE ALSO 15 CR 3052 (b) (f)). CONSIDERING THE FACT COVID-19 CAN BE SPREAD BY ASYMPTOMATIC CARRIERS COUGHING, SNEEZING, TALKING OR JUST BREATHING; COMMON SENSE DICTATES... COME ON THIS ISN'T BRAIN SURGERY! THESE DISRESPECTFUL SOWS WALK HANDCUFFED PRISONERS BY THE ARM ANYWHERE THEY GO. SO MUCH FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING... NO MASK PLUS NO 6' SOCIAL DISTANCING EQUALS... THERE'S NO MATH INVOLVED! BUT THERE'S ANOTHER PART OF THIS RESILIENCE PILOT PROGRAM TO BE DISCUSSED:

ACCORDING TO 15 CR 3274 INMATE COUNT AND MOVEMENT: "AT LEAST ONE DAILY COUNT SHALL BE A STANDING COUNT WHEREIN INMATES SHALL STAND AT THEIR CELL DOOR, OR IN A DORMATORY, OR SIT... DURING THE DESIGNATED COUNT TIME." "SO, IF WE JUST IGNORE 15 CR 3274 WHICH REQUIRES "THE SAFE CUSTODY OF THE INMATES CONTINUED..." REMAINING CLOSE PROXIMITY IN THE MIDST OF A COVID-19 PANDEMIC WHEREB CDC AND CAN H-SC IS BEING RUTINELY IGNORED BY CDCR EMPLOYEES; IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE FOR THE DISRESPECTFUL SOW COUNTING INMATES IN BETWEEN COUNTING SHEEP THAT IS, IF THEY'RE NOT WATCHING TV, PLAYING CARDS, SHOOTING BASKETS IN THE TRASH CAN OR EATING). EVEN AMONG THEMSELVES, NO MACHINES, NO SOCIAL DISTANCING, NO RESPECT AND NO COMMON SENSE! NOW HERE'S THE FUNNY PART: ANY PRISONER NOT STANDING AT THE CELL DOOR TO BE COUNTED (AND EXPOSED) GETS A DISOBEDIENT A DIRECT ORDER VIOLATION REPORT. AGAIN, LET'S NOT CONSIDER 15 CR 3274 CHE, AND THAT THE CELLS ARE ONLY ABOUT 10' X 4' 1/2. UNLESS THE RATS ARE BLOODE OR THE PRISONER IS UNDER THE BUNK, ONE CAN BE SEEN AND ACCOUNTED FOR. THAT OLD OSTRICH WITH THE HEAD IN THE SAND TRUCK CAN'T BE DONE!

AND WITH THAT, THE HIGHEST USES NEWEST WINDOW DRESSING DISPLAY FEATURE DISTRIBUTION OF A 3-97-20 MEMO TELLING INMATES ALL INDIVIDUAL [WHO] ENTER A FACILITY... SHOWING ANY SYMPTOMS OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER AND "WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO KEEP EVERYBODY SAFE, AND THEY'LL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES FOR RESPONDING TO COVID-19." (BUT NOT REALLY)
On 4-7-20 the rotating yards schedule started up again. The only change is which side of East Block goes with the last tier of Down. It's a "same shit different day" scenario. There continues to be disproportionately numbers of prisoners on the group yards, which is not conducive to facilitating social distancing. When it was suggested that group yards be ran in a manner similar to SMS (some management yards or walk alone W/A), it met with mock confusion and resistance. There are around 100 prisoners assigned to W/A but there are only 31 cages (SMS) so to give all assigned to W/A a chance to go out, a list is made each morning by an assigned officer going cell to cell until the number of prisoners wishing to go meets the number of available cages. The next day the assigned officer begins the list where it became full the previous day. There is no reason the group yards should not be ran in similar fashion during the COVID-19 National Emergency.

All employees should be wearing masks as recommended by CDC guidelines and the (A)Warren Brownfield March 27, 2020 memo claiming SQ employees must follow [CDC] guidelines for responding to COVID-19 should not allow common sense to be swept under the rug. Getting into compliance with CDC guidelines and limiting the number of prisoners allowed on each of the 7 group yards to 30 makes sense under current conditions. Unfortunately, making sense proves to not be high on the SQ administration's list of priorities.

On 4-9-20 the Director of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) again announced that all employees (working in essential business) should be wearing cloth masks at all times. The CDC to "aw specialized housing" (Heatrow) remains non-responsive and CDC guidelines regarding masks continue to be ignored just as all other CDC (21)’s on this and related topics have been since at least 3-29-20. At this point in time the visiting restriction is out the possibility any future infection to death row prisoners came from any source other than a CDC employee not in compliance with CDC guidelines. Security cameras would reveal a few medical and custody staff do wear masks. It would also reveal most do not. Could this be an example of too little too late? It's definitely an example of CDCR staff endangering themselves and others in their custody.

Death row prisoners at San Quentin cannot spread COVID among themselves until CDCR employees spread it to them first.