

## **Mental Health Neglect at S.C.I Greene**

By Sadot Williams

Prisoners that suffer with serious mental health problems make up just under half the total population of the long term control unit at S.C.I. Greene, which is located in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

This is the easy low cost way for the PA Department of Corrections to deal with the hundreds of prisoners that may need some form of psychotherapy. This lock them down and medicate approach creates an environment of non-stop 24/7 confusion that administrators and correctional officers use to their advantage as they strategically place these prisoners with serious mental health needs on the long term control unit for years at a time.

Prisoners with serious mental health needs are very unlikely to complain or file grievances on the numerous policy infractions that are taking place on this unit daily! To name a few: Things like scalding hot showers in the summer months and ice cold ones in the winter; computers in the mini R-H-U Law Library being broken for 2 and 3 months before someone comes to fix them; undercooked meals being served on unwashed trays caked with the food from the previous day!

No one from the Psychology Department does rounds on the long term control unit, so the prisoners with serious mental health needs are basically neglected and soon come to realize that in order to speak with a counselor from the Psychology Department, they must first do something very extreme. Like threaten to do harm to themselves, flood their cell and pod or refuse to return to their assigned cell from the yard cages!

Things of this nature must take place before the unit officer will even consider calling the Psychology Department.

Unfortunately, by their actions, the administration here at S.C.I-Greene has made it clear that prisoners with mental health issues will not be receiving much needed rehabilitative psychotherapy and instead will get medicated to the point of being incoherent!

December 2008

Sadot Williams

DQ 3608

S.C.I. Greene

175 Progress Drive

Waynesburg, PA 15370

(typed by Lois Ahrens)