

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 9:35:57 AM

From: Texas Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset.website@brightleafgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 1:00 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission <sunset@sunset.texas.gov>
Subject: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Private/Before Publication)

Submitted on Mon, 11/18/2024 - 23:23

Submitted by: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Choose the agency that you would like to provide input about

[Texas Department of Criminal Justice](#)

Public Comments

1

First Name

Karen

Last Name

Franks

Email

City

Magnolia

State

Texas

Your Comments or Concerns

The conditions within TDCJ are reprehensible. The grotesque neglect is shameful, criminal even. The "Ad Seg " program needs to be reevaluated. It is literally a torture chamber... I have a loved one who spent 4 years... locked in a box, never getting opportunity to see the light of day, enduring the Texas summer heat in a concrete building with metal doors with little holes for breathing...like an insect in a jar, inside a bread oven..., temperatures so high that soda cans explode... on top of all this, their food is reprehensible... they are being starved and fed meals a mongrel in the street would pass by...

I never thought in a million years something like this could happen in the USA.

And the drugs! How in the world is there a drug epidemic within the prison walls??? There is a huge problem that is not being addressed, overlooked, everyday.. m. Guards turn a blind eye. How can it be there are inmates in the grad program who are so strung out on drugs they are passed out in the halls and overlooked by the guards... the addicts need to be recognized and treated appropriately. They take away from the inmates who are trying to move forward. This is supposed to be a facility for reform.

Air conditioning should be implemented before next summer. It isn't that hard... the funds are there... just do it.

The archaic metal doors with little breathing holes need to be replaced... the inmates are people. I could go on and on... PLEASE! Help make prison reform a prior!

Your Proposed Solution

I think our state representatives need to make regular SURPRISE visits to the Ad Seg departments of the units...they need to see, the showers, the meals, the sweltering heat... they need to recognize that the treatment of these inmates is inhumane and criminal... from experience I call out specifically Gurney, Ferguson, and Coffield(I am sure there are others) The bureaucrats in charge of running this shit show need to be called to task. They need to know that the smoke and mirror show is no longer acceptable and they MUST recognize and address the problems with vigor. Perhaps those who are in charge need to be replaced with fresh blood. People who care and want to make a difference.

Addiction and mental illness is a huge problem in the USA . It needs to be recognized and addressed and not exacerbated by the availability of drugs within the system. Perhaps if the obvious addicts were housed together it would be easier to regulate and control the availability of the substances? It would be easier to facilitate the rehabilitation process...AND... it wouldn't be a burden and blight on the inmates who are genuinely trying to move forward. Maybe welcome and encourage studies with progressive therapies such as emdr...

Perhaps if the guards were paid better they wouldn't be inclined to make money in the side hustle? I'm not really sure what the answer is . I know there is money being spent on stupid stuff... perhaps it could be allocated elsewhere?

Air conditioning... that is a no brainer... again..have the legislators and representatives visit the ad Seg departments during the summer and be sure the amplitude of funds earmarked for TDCJ gets allocated for the implementation of a/c in ALL THE UNITS. There is no reason why the pigs get a/c and the humans don't. Whoever allows that is vile and despicable.

The inmates of TDCJ are people who made mistakes, if they are treated like animals, that's what they will become...and then they will eventually be released into society ... more depraved and embittered. That's not good for anyone.

I'm attaching a letter that was sent from an inmate... it is just a glimpse into the attitude within TDCJ . I know it shouldn't be a cakewalk but... this is unacceptable.

I don't know all the answers but I know that if we all put our heads together with compassion, we can find a solution that will benefit the majority. Please read the attached letter to get a glimpse into the life of an inmate .

Thank you four your time,

Kind regards,

Karen Franks

Attachment

[Letter from Anthony .pdf](#) (2.8 MB)

My Comments Will Be Made Public

Yes