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Title: Community Outreach Fellow
Organization or Agency: The Coalition
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NA

Testimony:

I have been here for over 20+ years. I seen it all,I think. Some of the most important things go by the waist side and get neglected once in here. We are not look at as human but more of a animal or just a number on the count. Correctional policy/ mission statement is too bridge the gap between families and they don't. For me they continue to push the gap wider and make the interaction between love ones far and few while those hurdles become harder and harder to climb. The obstacles we go thru to get a friend or family member on the visiting list. Then they get denied for simple thing not remembering when you had a traffic infraction over several years ago that was dismissed. There shouldn't be any background checks. Long as there is no pending cases or warrants out you should be ,able to visit. The officers are assigned to the visit and that is a post where they should be there for the entire 8_ hours just like being in the unit. Visits should be at least 4_ hours. Because you put down no on the application they say you were less the truthful. Discouraging.. You get mentally ready and physically to visit with your love one. They come up sign in and sit out there for over an over to see you for an hour when it is no guarantee they will get in. Do you know how many times they cancelled visit because of a code in the facility that doesn't have nothing to do with the visiting area. Can keep going on that but want to give you other things. Days of training why do it at the facility on work time. We get lockdown, lack of out the cell time. No visit with love ones. No phone calls if you don't have a tablet for whatever reason,I.e. (lockdown, broken tablet,punitive sanctions) many of reasons. You sign up for medical and it is hard to get seen unless its an emergency. A lot of times can be staff burn out. Dealing with people going down there waisting there time with nonsensical issues just to get out the cell. It happens... The mail getting held up,going out and coming in. Getting cellmates that be into nefarious things that can potentially be hazardous to you when you been staying clear. Then you go ask for a, cell change,why?? What's going on?? That isn't my place. Everybody isn't meant to live together. You get a cellmate that get jammed and don't own the rap... All bad,down hill with out any brakes....Then you get co's that come in here and talk to you like you less then them. They come to work with they personal problems and use you as a scape goat or your cell as a Rage room. Co's pack property and dispose of people items or they come up missing and you have to be the one to figure out how to reacquire such things. Or get on the phone and be a burden to people that is already struggling to send you more of there hard earn money so you can repurchase things you already had that went missing due to a lack of care on the officer or a cellmate that steals with no regard. All a recipe for disaster....