

Hello, my name is Jodi and I am a member of Return Strong Families United for Justice for the Incarcerated AND my husband is incarcerated at Warm Springs Correctional Center. Since the outbreak started on November 5th, life has not been the same on either side of that gate.

Director Daniels depicts a story of business as usual. The prison is running efficiently and smoothly. Our loved ones are treated humanely and receiving the food and hygiene and medical care they need but that is just a lie. We have a support group for families with a loved one incarcerated at Warm Springs and we share information with each other AND our loved ones have written about their experiences directly to Return Strong.

It has been a strange experience, to feel the fear of so many people hang in the air. I can only imagine how deeply it is felt inside. I know we talk a lot about Rapid Release and thinning the population, but that is only one side of the conversation because not everyone is going to be eligible for that. What about the trauma for people that have lived this experience.

We have had letters from WSCC, and from WS families that are horrific. Sick people begging for pain relief and medications for the symptoms of COVID for days with no response from medical. By the time they received any medication, the symptoms were gone. They suffered with the pain and fevers and illness for days. Yesterday I heard Director Daniels talk about losing his father to COVID. I wanted to have sympathy for him, but it is hard to do when he has turned his head to our cries for help for our loved ones and they are alive by a miracle, not because of anything that NDOC did. No medication, no medical treatment. No compassion, I remember one story where the nurse told the person that if they weren't on their deathbed they were not going to be able to do anything for them. And if they were on their deathbed, they only have one ventilator.

Daniels said that they are giving people PPE. Masks and hand sanitizer. One of our families received a mask from their loved one and it is like gauze. Not close to CDC guidelines and the ear loops won't hold the mask in place. And hand sanitizer isn't taken to cells on request AT ALL, there hasn't even been any unless CO's are taking it home.

One of the big complaints at WSCC was lack of food during the outbreak. They went to tray feeding from NNCC and people were not getting enough food to sustain a healthy person let alone a sick person. A week or two ago, there was a shortage apparently and their meal for the day was a corn tortilla with peanut butter on it.

WE need an independent investigation, these stories do not stop coming and will be verified by letters from people who are not even in the same unit. It is chaos. And Daniels continues to keep his story of everything is great. We are doing great. We care. And incarcerated people and the people that love them, call bullshit. When will anyone listen to us? When will this COVID task force do something about the pandemic in our prisons? We need your help.