

When the Minnesota Sex Offender Program was created in the 1990's, it was designed to be a treatment program that was to last 3 to 4 years. This program has evolved into high security prison that 745 people languish for 30 or more years with the longest being held for 45 years. The state has deemed these people mentally ill when in reality, they have been misdiagnosed and have not been evaluated by qualified psychiatrists that are trained in this field. These people are detained indefinitely, not because of what they have done in the past, but for what they may do in the future. However, the studies have shown that the recidivism rate for offenders is 3%-7%, with incarceration and treatment.

Minnesota has the most Civilly Committed persons per capita, in the United States. But does Minnesota have more sex offenders? The answer is no. Statistics show that in most studies that Minnesota falls in the middle to low range in comparison to other states for the overall number of sex offenders. This shows that Minnesota has too many offenders confined, and most of them until they die. How would you feel if this was your son or your brother or your father. Children are missing out on fathers that have been lied to and scammed into this place after serving their sentences. There are many offenders that have done far worse, but are walking the streets because the county of commitment doesn't want to pay the 25% of the costs, for the rest of the clients existence. Where does this end? Is the plan to build building after building and keep warehousing this population?

So why are we keeping these people locked up? They always say "follow the money" so let's do that. This program costs the Minnesota tax payers over \$110 million plus per year. 3 times as much as an inmate in a DOC facility. In addition the clients only get half of their earned income, and the rest goes to fund for their care. Meanwhile the salaries are crazy. The records state that the Medical Specialist, Dr. John Berry makes over \$400,000.00 per year. He had his first tour of the facility last fall. He's never seen a client.

There is also a licensed therapist, who is also a licensed pharmacist and works part time dispensing medications at the local pharmacy, that contracts all medications for MSOP. Is this not a conflict of interest? And nobody's watching. This information is easily found through public records. Without oversight the corruption is allowed to run rampant and the money pit becomes deeper.

This scheme has had many recommendations on how to fix this program through audits, law reviews, task forces, Amicus Briefs, the Minnesota Supreme Court, and the Department of Justice, but the recommendations are not put into practice. What is needed is honest evaluations done independently from those affiliated with MSOP, in order to weed out those that are no longer dangerous and can take care of themselves, along with those that have been locked up since they were teenagers, and the population who are aging and using walkers and wheel chairs and in need of medical attention. These peoples human rights are trampled on continuously. The treatment program is not accredited by any standard and is now only held for 2 hours a week. The therapists are not trained or qualified and the clients are not evaluated even on an annual basis, as required by statutes. Even orders from a three judge panel are not heeded to. I ask again, how would you feel if your family member was railroaded into a scam that did nothing but drain money from the state, does nothing to make anybody safer and there's no way out!

What is desperately needed to start fixing this scam is:

1. Honest and fair evaluations for every client.
2. Oversight

Psychiatrists, Law Professors, Judges, and Professionals from across the Nation, along with the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice have all said FIX IT! The time is now to do just that!

Thank-you
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