

Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medical copays equaling monthly wages, physical abuse, denial of necessary surgery, 18-month waiting with toothache, lead in water supply: the plight of people with medical conditions in Wisconsin prisons.

MILWAUKEE, WIS. – April 4, 2019 – Letter from Fox Lake and New Lisbon Correctional Institutions shared with Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC-Milwaukee).

Below are excerpts from the statement by Christian Aguirre-Hodge, dated January 1, 2019:

“In February [2018] I was involved in a “incident” with Dr. Charles E. Larson a doctor at Fox Lake Correctional Institution. During this “incident,” Dr. Larson became physical with me (see enclosed document and case no. 18-cu-995 filed in the Western District) and then denied a surgery which a specialist stated I needed. This all happened in the presence of two correctional officers who did not file incident report nor did they issue me a conduct report and to this day I have not been taken to segregation, why is that? I filed a complaint with FLCI which was denied and then I appealed to the corrections Complaint Examiner who also denied my complaint. [...]

[...] Further, for a number of years, the Administration at Fox Lake Correctional Institution was aware that there are heavy metals including lead in the water at FLCI [...]. I requested bottled water [due] to the fact that I have a preexisting condition (High blood pressure), but my requests and appeals were all denied. [...]

Other Issues that are destroying lives including but not limited to:

1. Inmates are charged a \$7.50 Copay for any and all health issues, however, each month most inmates only make \$8.00.
2. Any issues that are raised in an official [cut off] denied or rejected altogether.
3. Here at New Lisbon, I have been placed on an 18-month waiting list to see the dentist.
4. Courts have ordered certain programming, however, inmates are “housed” at institutions
5. where those programs aren’t available.
6. As an American with a visual disability, I was fired by Mr. Kind (New Lisbon Food Server) for wearing a Medical Alert Bracelet. We are required to wear an ID which hangs from our neck, but my wristband poses a safety threat.

I am disclosing these issues to bring to light the damage the Dept. of Corr. is doing to men and women. I hope and pray that this is a start of a conversation which other inmates will lend their voices to. I am fully aware once this is made public that there will be put in place a measure of retaliation, never-the-less, these are issues that I am willing to lay down my life for.

Sincerely,

Christian Aguirre-Hodge”

Help IWOC to end prison slavery in Wisconsin: email iwoc.milwaukee@gmail.com or fill out the volunteer form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jIToClitl8JErcqDRPNdOB_FY2jwgXINncV8nVI_81E/viewform?edit_requested=true

Thank you for taking the time to read and spread the word. An injury to one is an injury to all.

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