Aboriginal Spirituality

During our February visit we learned that the spiritual grounds still have not been set up in the maximum security unit. The Warden had originally advised that the spiritual grounds would be operational by mid-February.

Access to Women

Although in January, we were still unable to meet with the women in the living area of the maximum security unit pods, we were able to do so in February. A PPA must be carried by one of us, and any access is subject to operational requirements and security concerns at the time of the visit.

Parole Board Hearings

In our discussions with the women, and at the Program Advisory Council, there was a great deal of concern expressed about the high number of women denied parole, despite having the support of their Institutional Parole Officers. The Warden indicated that she is looking at providing CSC’s women centered training to the Parole Board Members.

Increase in Prison Population

In mid February the count was 84, an increase of twenty women over January. The Warden explained that this was caused mainly by overflow from EIFW and GVI.

Max and SLE

The Warden provided a design for five double bunks being built for the Max Unit. They are designed to be taken down when they are not needed, and will have no suspension points on the bunks or the ladder. Non-compatibles will be screened.

She also spoke of the need for an environment which would meet the needs of low functioning, high needs women who need more structure than the SLE but less than the Max Unit.
We were encouraged to hear that a National Steering committee has been set up to propose an amendment to, or elimination of the *Two Year Max* rule for women convicted of murder.

**New Program Continuum/Correctional Plans**

We asked about women going up for parole without completing the programs cited on their old correctional plans. The Warden advised that the A4D (Assessment for Decision) which the Parole Board always sees would contain the information needed: i.e. which new program replaces the older one still shown on the correctional plan.

At the national level, CSC is preparing a Request for Proposal to contract for a *Suicide Prevention* program

Submitted by Pacific Regional Advocates
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