

Good morning ladies and gentleman,

My name is Barbara Smalls.

I live in Farmingdale, Long Island.

I would just like to address the subject of mental illness. My son is the topic, I would like to address inmate #4411404605 Wayne Smalls, AMK CENTER. My biggest fear is that my son will become a part of the proposed enhanced supervision housing unit.

My son has been fighting with mental illness all of his life. He's been struggling with comprehending how to live in a world where you make adult choices and decisions, he's not capable of doing that, he was in Schneider's Children's Hospital from the age of two, till the age of 5, where he went to main stream Kindergarten. In first grade, he was put into Special Ed class with children who suffered from the same issues.

He was socially promoted all the way to the 10th grade, without knowing how to read, or do fundamental math and English, or any subject for that matter. Wayne had to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals from the age of 12, until he turned 18. I could no longer get him the help he needed, I couldn't voluntarily admit him anymore, he was now considered an adult. I think the prisons are filled with thousands of people like Wayne.

Prison, solitary confinement, and abuse now becomes the new medication for mentally the mentally challenged. Gangsters, drug dealers, and the streets, are now their family. All I can say to you today, is please take my proposal into consideration, take these men's into consideration, and stop covering up the fact, that the ball was dropped on African American young men, when it comes to treatment of mentally ill inmates, and training of correctional officers, so that they can maintain a safe environment for Inmates and the Correction Officers. After care for inmates who are released, must be MANDATED to continue treatment on the off-site as well, in order to address this pandemic of a failing system.

Since his arrival to Rikers, he has been beaten by Correctional Officers on a daily basis. He suffers from mental illness, epileptic seizures and asthma. I've made numerous complaints to 311, since May of this year, to the Board of Correction, Public Advocates office, etc. His spine was injured, his teeth have been kicked out and chipped, while having a seizure, he hit his head on the metal bed frame, no guards tried to help my son, instead the inmates helped him. One female guard stood there and stated "Let him die" with other inmates, who have contacted me in regards to this violence against my son. I'm requesting this morning that he be given medical and psychiatric treatment, which he is entitled to. I am also requesting that he see a dentist, in order to replace and maybe save what is left of damaged teeth.

In 2007 Wayne was beaten Upstate and locked in the S.H.U where he was almost killed by Correctional Officers. I took the story to EYEWITNESS NEWS, Sarah Wallace did an Exclusive 2part series on Wayne's story. There is also a part 2 that was done when he was released, following lead story on Judge Sol Wachtler and his plight with mental illness. I did several press conferences on the subject of Wayne and the issue of the S.H.U Bill.

I'm asking today, to please get my son the medical attention that is required.

Thank you,

Barbara Smalls