



DOC FINES ARAMARK FOR OVERFAMILIARITY, FOOD SCREW UPS

About three months after Aramark took over food services, the Department of Corrections is fining the company \$98,000 for breach of contract.

The fines include \$1,000 for each of 12 employee rule violations, including overfamiliarity. The remainder of the fines stem from food shortages and substitutions.

More than 30 Aramark employees – 10 percent of all hires – have been placed on stop order, according to a letter the Department of Corrections sent to Aramark. Dozens more have walked off the job. In the last five years state employees ran food service, three workers were put on stop order.

The DOC's letter claims there's been overfamiliarity, food shortages and substitutions, and insufficient training.

As corrections officers know, frustrated inmates aren't taking this lying down. About 200 Kinross Correctional Facility inmates staged a protest last month to protest Aramark food. Inmates at Baraga Correctional Facility and Marquette Branch Prison have tried hunger strikes.

In January, MCO sent a letter to the Department of Corrections detailing Aramark employee rule violations, overfamiliarity complaints and food shortages. When the letter

went public, the DOC said many of our accusations weren't true or were overblown. Now, two months later, the Department sends a letter specifically chastising Aramark workers for overfamiliarity, including "sexual relations with prisoners," improper handling of dangerous tools and food shortages. The Department's public relations team is doing some fancy footwork to gloss over this.

MCO believes Michigan residents deserve to know the truth about the myriad of problems Aramark has caused. MCO is continuing to share our concerns with the public and the Department.

WOODLAND INMATE OBTAINS RAZOR, CUTS HIMSELF WHILE POAs 'WATCH TV'

Two Prisoner Observation Aides at WCC allowed inmates to pass a razor, and one of the prisoners sliced himself so bad he was sent to a hospital.

It happened last week. The inmate on observation told his POA he wanted a razor. The POA said, "I don't care," then he continued to watch TV," the prisoner wrote in a grievance filed this week.

An inmate in the dayroom slid a razor wrapped in paper under the cell door. The prisoner in the cell cut himself. A new POA came on duty, and the prisoner asked the POA to let him keep cutting.

When the inmate stopped hurting himself, he pushed the razor under the door. The POA kicked the razor to an inmate in the dayroom.

Later, the injured inmate panicked

and asked the POA to call an officer. The inmate credits the responding officer for saving his life.

"This injury would not have happened with an officer watching me," he wrote in the grievance.

The two POAs have been shipped out.

Several POAs have quit since this happened because they don't feel safe, officers say. At WCC, POAs (all Level I inmates) are required to sit outside cells in the dayroom where Level IV inmates are walking around.

One WCC officer aptly said, the DOC administration "put their faith in convicted felons to watch and protect the mentally ill prisoner from self-harm, and in this incident the POAs took part in allowing it to happen."

ATTENTION CFP MEMBERS: SECONDARY BARGAINING SET

The Department of Community Health has asked for secondary bargaining. MCO isn't sure exactly what OSE will propose but suspect it concerns separating overtime between the security FSAs and nursing FSAs.

MCO members at the Forensic Center received a mailed survey this week. Please fill it out and mail it back to MCO by March 18. If you have not received a survey, please email jeff@mco-seiu.org.

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