

Medicare for All:

The Fight, the Obstacles, and the Benefits



*Wendell Potter (ex-CIGNA executive),
Nationally-known Author of
Deadly Spin, is coming to Charlotte!*

Friday, April 12, 2019

12 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch and Learn

Crown Room, Queens University, Charlotte

Bring your own lunch. RSVP: denisefinck@hotmail.com

Event co-sponsored with the Greenspon Center

for Peace and Social Justice. RSVP: denisefinck@hotmail.com

3:30 - 5:00 PM UNCC Public presentation

Fretwell Building Room 100, UNC-Charlotte

9203 Mary Alexander Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262

RSVP: denisefinck@hotmail.com

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Public Presentation

to members of Health Justice-NC and Charlotteans

Trinity Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall,

3115 Providence Rd., Charlotte, NC

RSVP: denisefinck@hotmail.com

Great opportunity to meet and hear from one of the courageous, executive "whistleblowers" from inside the insurance industry!

Wendell Potter is the President of the Business Initiative for Health Policy. He spent 20 years working as a public relations executive for health insurers, before leaving his position as the Vice President of Communications for CIGNA to become an advocate for meaningful healthcare reform. As part of that effort, he has testified at widely covered Congressional hearings, wrote *Deadly Spin: An Insurance Company Insider Speaks out on how Corporate PR is Killing Health Care and Deceiving Americans*, co-authored *Nation on the Take: How Big Money Corrupts our Democracy and What We Can Do About It*, and founded Tarbell.org, a reader-funded journalism project.



Health Care Justice

North Carolina

Advocating Health Care for ALL

www.healthcarejusticenc.org

Good evening everyone! It is great to see everyone! My name is Tera Long and I am here to speak to you about a brilliant idea that Sheriff McFadden communicated. Sheriff McFadden said he has an empty building that could be converted into a mental health facility. He needs funding to pay for staff and resources. The County Commissioners should seriously consider supporting Sheriff McFadden in this effort. An expert board could be assembled with key stakeholders, including officials, those with boots on the ground, and the people and families dealing with mental illness on a daily basis. With the board's guidance, a program could be built to help.

In Charlotte, we frequently use jails to try to correct mental illness such as substance abuse. Our citizens need health services to heal instead of imprisonment. Judge Steve Leifman said, "People are dying in jail when they could be getting the things they need for recovery." Sheriff McFadden's idea is a tangible solution to a criminal justice problem our city has been plagued with for years.

In the article, "Mentally Ill Get Caught in Revolving Door to Prison", Krystal Giles explains, "We have more and more people that are having psychotic breaks and you need to know how to handle it. Because what you think is somebody combative, it could be somebody in a manic stage and they just don't know what's going on."

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics Special report, 64% of the people in local jails have a mental illness. I have given you a copy of this data for your record.

I am taking my concerned citizen hat off and putting on my Health Care Justice- NC board hat on. The physicians are super excited that Wendell Potter is coming in to speak to us. We really want you to attend. This is a really big deal for us. He will be speaking three times April 12 at Queens University. This event is free and open to the public. As elected officials you have no idea how much it means to us, when you show up.

Thank you so much for the honor to speak and keep up the good work.



Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report

September 2006, NCJ 213600

Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates

Doris J. James and
Lauren E. Glaze
BJS Statisticians

At midyear 2005 more than half of all prison and jail inmates had a mental health problem, including 705,600 inmates in State prisons, 78,800 in Federal prisons, and 479,900 in local jails. These estimates represented 56% of State prisoners, 45% of Federal prisoners, and 64% of jail inmates. The findings in this report were based on data from personal interviews with State and Federal prisoners in 2004 and local jail inmates in 2002.

Mental health problems were defined by two measures: a recent history or symptoms of a mental health problem. They must have occurred in the 12 months prior to the interview. A recent history of mental health problems included a clinical diagnosis or treatment by a mental health professional. Symptoms of a mental disorder were based on criteria specified in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition (DSM-IV).

Mental health problem	Percent of inmates in —		
	State prison	Federal prison	Local jail
Any mental problem	56%	45%	64%
Recent history	24	14	21
Symptoms	49	40	60

More than two-fifths of State prisoners (43%) and more than half of jail inmates (54%) reported symptoms that met the criteria for mania. About 23% of State prisoners and 30% of jail inmates reported symptoms of major depression. An estimated 15% of State prisoners and 24% of jail inmates reported symptoms that met the criteria for a psychotic disorder.

Highlights

High prevalence of mental health problems among prison and jail inmates

Selected characteristics	Percent of inmates in —			
	State prison		Local jail	
	With mental problem	Without	With mental problem	Without
Criminal record				
Current or past violent offense	61%	56%	44%	36%
3 or more prior incarcerations	25	19	26	20
Substance dependence or abuse	74%	56%	76%	53%
Drug use in month before arrest	63%	49%	62%	42%
Family background				
Homelessness in year before arrest	13%	6%	17%	9%
Past physical or sexual abuse	27	10	24	8
Parents abused alcohol or drugs	39	25	37	19
Charged with violating facility rules*	58%	43%	19%	9%
Physical or verbal assault	24	14	8	2
Injured in a fight since admission	20%	10%	9%	3%

*Includes items not shown.

- Nearly a quarter of both State prisoners and jail inmates who had a mental health problem, compared to a fifth of those without, had served 3 or more prior incarcerations.
- Female inmates had higher rates of mental health problems than male inmates (State prisons: 73% of females and 55% of males; local jails: 75% of females and 63% of males).
- About 74% of State prisoners and 76% of local jail inmates who had a mental health problem met criteria for substance dependence or abuse.
- Nearly 63% of State prisoners who had a mental health problem had used drugs in the month before their arrest, compared to 49% of those without a mental health problem.
- State prisoners who had a mental health problem were twice as likely as those without to have been homeless in the year before their arrest (13% compared to 6%).
- Jail inmates who had a mental health problem (24%) were three times as likely as jail inmates without (8%) to report being physically or sexually abused in the past.
- Over 1 in 3 State prisoners and 1 in 6 jail inmates who had a mental health problem had received treatment since admission.
- State prisoners who had a mental health problem were twice as likely as State prisoners without to have been injured in a fight since admission (20% compared to 10%).