

MEDIA ADVISORY
Date: February 3, 2017

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**BRIEFING ON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT
CONNECTICUT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

WHAT: Connecticut Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

WHEN: Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 10 a.m. EST

WHERE: Old Judiciary Room, Capitol Building, Hartford, Connecticut

HARTFORD, CT - The Connecticut Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a briefing to examine the use of solitary confinement in Connecticut correctional facilities.

Solitary confinement or “restrictive housing,” is used in Connecticut correctional facilities for both punitive and administrative reasons. Research and anecdotes show that long term solitary confinement increases rates of self-harm and suicide among inmates. Many prisoners develop mental health issues while in restrictive housing. At the briefing, the Advisory Committee will hear testimony to determine whether solitary confinement practices disparately impact inmates of color and what are the potential remedies to address these disparities.

Expert presenters include Scott Semple, Commissioner, Department of Corrections; Sarah Eagan, Child Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate; Dr. Reena Kapoor, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine; Dr. Bandy X Lee, Assistant Clinical Professor, Yale School of Medicine; Michael Mushlin, Professor, Pace University of Law; Dr. Homer Venters, Clinical Instructor, NYU School of Medicine. The Committee will also hear from former inmates, and family members of incarcerated prisoners.

The public is invited to the briefing, and will be given an opportunity to address the committee following the presentations.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency. The Commission, by Congressional mandate, establishes Advisory Committees in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Advisory Committee members conduct reviews and produce reports and recommendations concerning state and local civil rights issues. Appointees to the Committees serve four-year terms and are unremunerated. For information about the Commission and its Advisory Committees, please visit <http://www.usccr.gov> and follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/usccrgov>

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