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13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
14 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15

16 RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,
17 Plaintiffs,
18 v.
19 EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., et al.,
20 Defendants.
21

Case No. 2:90-cv-0520 LKK DAD

**PLAINTIFFS' POST-TRIAL BRIEF
REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF
COURT ORDERS AND
AFFIRMATIVE RELIEF
REGARDING IMPROPER HOUSING
AND TREATMENT OF SERIOUSLY
MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS IN
SEGREGATION**

Judge: Hon. Lawrence K. Karlton

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TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASU	Administrative Segregation Unit (“Ad Seg”)
ATOM	Alternative Treatment Option Models
CCCMS	Correctional Clinical Case Management System
CCI	California Correctional Institution
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CIM	California Institution for Men
CIW	California Institution for Women
DAI	Division of Adult Institutions
DMH	Department of Mental Health (now DSH)
DSH	Department of State Hospitals (formerly DMH)
EOP	Enhanced Outpatient Program
GP	General Population
LAC	California State Prison—Los Angeles County
LOB	Lack of Bed
MCSP	Mule Creek State Prison
MHCB	Mental Health Crisis Bed
NDS	Non-Disciplinary Segregation
PSU	Psychiatric Services Unit
RC	Reception Center
RJD	R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility
RVR	Rule Violation Report
SAC	California State Prison—Sacramento
SHU	Security Housing Unit
SNY	Special Needs Yard
SVSP	Salinas Valley State Prison

1 INTRODUCTION

2 In defiance of numerous orders of this Court, Defendants continue to place
3 *Coleman* class members at reckless and needless risk of suffering, decompensation, and
4 suicide in CDCR segregation units.¹ Twenty years ago, Magistrate Judge Moulds found
5 that the placement of class members in segregation “exacerbates the underlying mental
6 illness, induces psychosis, and increases the risk of suicide,” and that Defendants’ failures
7 to provide adequate mental health treatment to class members in segregation and to
8 implement sufficient screening mechanisms violated the Eighth Amendment. *Coleman v.*
9 *Wilson*, Case No. CIV S-90-0520 LKK JFM P, 1994 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20786, at *71-72
10 (Dkt. 547). Two decades later, these constitutional violations persist. Defendants continue
11 to vastly overuse and over-rely on segregation, eschewing more humane and cost-effective
12 disciplinary sanctions and refusing to implement straightforward, well-established
13 measures to reduce the suffering and death of class members.

14 *Coleman* class members suffer disproportionately from Defendants’ ill-advised
15 disciplinary and segregation policies. The number of class members in segregation
16 continues to climb systemwide, even as the overall CDCR population has decreased.²
17 EOP patients, the most acutely ill class members, are more than twice as likely to be in
18 segregation as other CDCR prisoners. Ex. 2032.³ Current CDCR data shows that more
19 than a fifth of all EOPs are in segregated housing. *Id.* Moreover, the average length of
20 stay for CCCMS patients in ASUs exceeds that of non-caseload prisoners. Defs’ Ex. PPP;
21 T. 2998:25-2999:14. Suicide rates in segregation continue at levels the Special Master has
22

23 ¹ A summary of the Court’s orders regarding segregated housing can be found in Plaintiffs’
24 Notice of Motion and Motion for Enforcement re Segregated Housing, Dkt. 4580 at 4,
25 nn.2 & 3. These orders date back to 1999 and address, *inter alia*, staffing ratios,
26 programming space, length of stay, population caps, and suicide prevention measures.

27 ² Since April 2000, the overall CDCR population has decreased by 19.6%. Ex. 2035.
28 During the same period, the number of mentally ill prisoners in CDCR segregation units
has increased 124%. Ex. 2037. The number of EOPs in ASUs has increased 401%. *Id.*

³ EOP prisoners represent 4% of the total CDCR population and 9% of the segregated
population. Ex. 2302.

1 described as “staggering,” and data show that in the last five years, well over half of the
2 suicides in segregation have been identified class members. First Half of 2012 Suicide
3 Rpt., Dkt. 4376 at 16; Exs. 2781, 2800, 2801, 2802.

4 The Court must issue immediate, bright-line remedial orders to exclude class
5 members from dangerous segregation units, to strictly limit class members’ lengths of stay
6 in all segregation units, to ensure minimally adequate conditions and mental health
7 treatment in all segregation units, and to implement essential suicide precautions.⁴

8 **I. DEFENDANTS’ SYSTEMIC POLICIES AND PRACTICES VIOLATE THE**
9 **RIGHTS OF CLASS MEMBERS**

10 **A. CDCR’s Segregation Units Are Harmful and Dangerous Settings for**
11 ***Coleman* Class Members**

12 It is undisputed that CDCR segregation units are dangerous, high-risk environments
13 for the mentally ill. The harm caused by isolation is exacerbated by inadequate treatment,
14 excessively long terms of segregation, unnecessarily punitive custodial measures that
15 discourage class members from receiving needed mental health care, insufficient outdoor
16 exercise, inadequate suicide precautions, inappropriate use of segregation for non-
17 disciplinary purposes, and dangerously deficient screening and exclusion procedures.

18 The conditions of confinement for class members in segregation are not contested.
19 The 3,569 *Coleman* class members in CDCR segregation units spend their days and nights
20 in a series of cages: small steel and concrete cells to which they are confined for nearly
21 every hour of the day, “walk-alone” exercise yards in which they are fenced into enclosed
22 outdoor spaces, metal cages to which they are confined for mental health treatment, small
23 holding cells where they are placed when in acute psychiatric distress, and barren
24 management cells into which they are locked when considered “unduly disruptive.”

25 ⁴ In addition to relying on the evidence presented at trial, the Court should, as it has in the
26 past, rely on the long record of constitutional violations in this case in reaching its findings
27 and ordering remedial relief. *See, e.g., Coleman v. Brown*, 428 F. App’x 743, 744 (9th Cir.
28 2011) (“The district court expressly relied in its orders on the expansive record in this case,
spanning over two decades and thousands of entries. This record contains ample evidence
of the unconstitutional conditions”).

1 T. 2185:17-2186:25, 2454:2-13, 3283:12-3284:15; Ex. 2302; Title 15 § 3332(f) (use of
2 management cells). Simple diversions such as checkers, chess, playing cards, and dominos
3 are prohibited, and even personal clothing, shoes, and undergarments are deemed
4 contraband. T. 2978:13-2979:6, 2976:5-21. All class members in segregation are strip-
5 searched each time they leave or enter the housing unit, cuffed for all out-of-cell
6 movements, and caged for treatment, without regard to their psychological vulnerabilities
7 or the security risk they pose. T. 2274:8-20, 2784:3-11, 2803:20-24.

8 Dr. Edward Kaufman testified that the absence of social contact in segregation units
9 frequently leads to regression and decompensation among class members. Without
10 external stimulation, they “turn further and deeper into their own psychotic inner
11 selves. . . . [T]he less contact they have with the outside world, the more likely they are to
12 hallucinate and have delusions.” T. 2459:20-2460:7. He described Prisoner F, a class
13 member who started to experience auditory hallucinations, psychiatric distress,
14 hopelessness, and suicidal ideation during the first four years of his indeterminate SHU
15 sentence. T. 2497:10-2505:12. By the time Prisoner F was removed from the SHU and
16 placed in an MHCB, his level of mental health functioning was so low that he was
17 “incapable of caring for himself or providing for any kind of basic needs.” T. 2500:8-13.

18 Prisoner N was a CCCMS patient placed in the ASU at CIM for non-disciplinary
19 reasons. Faced with the stressors of segregation, he began to experience intensified
20 auditory hallucinations and acute suicidal ideation, leading him to report to a mental health
21 clinician that he “just can’t take being in here, ad-seg.” Ex. 2205 at 1, T. 2467:13-2468:3.
22 Only when Prisoner N was finally released from ASU, more than ten months later, did his
23 acute psychiatric distress abate. Ex. 2205 at 6 (clinical note indicating that his psychiatric
24 “[i]ssues have largely resolved with his release from Ad Seg”). But, as Dr. Kaufman
25 observed, the harm caused by such episodes of psychotic decompensation is permanent,
26 doing “measurable damage to the brain” and predisposing the patient to “more severe
27 episodes . . . [and] more frequent episodes in the future.” T. 2471:7-16.

28 Dr. Pablo Stewart testified that class members frequently decompensate in CDCR’s

1 segregation units due to their inability to withstand the psychological stressors. T. 2782:7-
 2 14. Dr. Stewart described a “perfect storm” in which class members are unable to comply
 3 with disciplinary rules because of their mental illnesses, get placed in segregation, and then
 4 suffer from inadequate treatment and “the antitherapeutic effect of being within a
 5 segregated housing unit.” T. 2771:16-2772:17.⁵ The predictable result is psychiatric
 6 decompensation, more rule violations, and more segregation of the mentally ill.

7 Dr. Craig Haney testified that class members suffer due to extraordinarily and
 8 unnecessarily long terms in segregation. Although administrative segregation is explicitly
 9 designed to be “temporary,” class members routinely spend months and years in ASUs.
 10 T. 2127:21-2129:12; Exs. 2044 & 2045 (showing 124 EOPs and 689 CCCMS in ASU for
 11 greater than 90 days). In CDCR’s extremely harsh and deprived SHUs, class members
 12 spend months, years, and even decades. Ex. 2058 (491 CCCMS in SHU greater than 90
 13 days).⁶ Dr. Haney opined that it is tremendously dangerous and harmful to place mentally
 14 ill prisoners in these “extremely isolating environments ... that really deprive the
 15 prisoners ... of meaningful social contact at almost every level.” T. 2118:13-2120:24.

16 Defendants’ witnesses and experts do not dispute that segregation units can be
 17 dangerous settings for mentally ill prisoners.⁷ Defendants’ sole retained testifying expert,
 18 Dr. Charles Scott, did not opine on the specific conditions inside CDCR segregation units,
 19 _____

20 ⁵ This cycle is exacerbated by chronically insufficient mental health input into the RVR
 21 process. *See* Stewart, T. 2772:18-2781:1 (Prisoner V at SVSP had untreated psychosis;
 22 clinician documented that “mental health factors seem to very strongly contribute to the
 inmate-patient’s alleged acting out behavior,” but the ICC found “no mitigating factors”);
 23 *see* Ex. 2136 (same); *see also* Martin, T. 1854:10-24 (“perfect storm”); Belavich,
 T. 3691:8-14 (need for expanded mental health input into the disciplinary process).

24 ⁶ *See* Haney T. 2211:3-17 (class member in SHU for 23 years, misreported to Special
 Master as 269.1 days in segregation because MHCB placement had “restarted the clock”).

25 ⁷ The Court should reject Defendants’ assertions that CDCR segregation units are not
 26 solitary confinement. T. 3108:5-6, 3466:17-3467:3; *see* USA Statement of Interest, Dkt.
 27 4736-1 at 5 of 39 (defining “‘isolation’ or ‘solitary confinement’” as the “state of being
 28 confined to one’s cell for approximately 22 hours per day or more, alone or with other
 prisoners, that limits contact with others”); Kahn Decl., Dkt. 4582, Ex. 11 at 5 (Chase
 Riveland, Supermax Prisons: Overview and General Considerations, U.S. Dep’t of Justice,
 1999) (describing CDCR SHUs as “highly restrictive” and “isolat[ing]”).

1 or any individual class member cases. T. 3334:7-13.⁸ He claimed no knowledge as to
2 Defendants' compliance with Program Guide requirements. T. 3344:17-3345:6. Dr. Scott
3 did not provide any rebuttal to the testimony of Plaintiffs' psychiatrist experts, Dr. Stewart
4 and Dr. Kaufman. His limited rebuttal opinion as to Dr. Haney concerned only the
5 interpretation of published studies and did not address Dr. Haney's assessment of CDCR
6 segregation conditions or their impact on class members. T. 3333:12-3334:6.⁹

7 Dr. Scott himself acknowledged that segregation units are more stressful than
8 general population units by design and may be psychologically damaging to some
9 individuals. T. 3367:12-19, 3370:17-19. Dr. Belavich admitted that "segregation can be a
10 high-risk environment for both mentally ill and nonmentally ill." T. 3564:11-16. He also
11 testified that if given the power, mental health clinicians would be very reluctant to place
12 patients in segregation on account of the risks it poses to their safety and mental health.
13 T. 3685:2-24. CIM's Dr. Jordan testified that extended placements in segregation can be
14 harmful and acknowledged that *Coleman* class members' lengths of stay in segregation
15 units are concerning. T. 3132:22-25, 3137:2-4.

16 **B. Defendants Fail to Provide Constitutionally Adequate Mental Health**
17 **Treatment to Class Members in Segregation**

18 The harm to class members is exacerbated by chronically insufficient mental health
19 treatment in CDCR segregation units. By Defendants' own account, mental health
20 treatment, even by primary clinicians, is often administered through the doorjamb of
21

22 _____
23 ⁸ It is telling that Defendants did not offer testimony from the three other termination
24 experts to defend their use of segregation. Dr. Dvoskin, for example, was responsible for
25 the experts' review of CDCR's segregation units and has published widely on the subject.
26 *See Kahn Decl.*, Dkt. 4582, Ex. 12 (2006 Metzner & Dvoskin article).

27 ⁹ Dr. Scott testified about a Canadian study and a now-repudiated Colorado study, which—
28 as Dr. Scott conceded—looked at strikingly distinct and less severe segregation systems
and explicitly caution against generalizing their findings to other systems. *See Scott*, T.
3359:25-3374:22; *see also Haney*, T. 3359:25-3374:22, 2373:20-2374:16 (discussing
Colorado's recent decision to "take[] their mentally ill prisoners out of administrative
segregation and put them a residential treatment program").

1 locked cells.¹⁰ The treatment spaces for segregated class members are, by and large, the
2 same “makeshift facilities” that the Supreme Court found in 2011 to “impede the effective
3 delivery of care and place the safety of medical professionals in jeopardy, compounding
4 the difficulty of hiring additional staff.” *Brown v. Plata*, 131 S. Ct. 1910, 1933 (2011).

5 Both individual and group contacts frequently take place on the dayroom floor of
6 housing units, with no auditory or visual confidentiality. Consistent with the findings of
7 the 25th Round Report, Dr. Stewart testified that he observed group treatment taking place
8 on the dayroom floor at the EOP hubs at RJD and LAC. T. 2761:15-25; Ex. 2778 at 36.
9 Dr. Haney and Dr. Kaufman also testified about inadequacies in treatment space that
10 seriously diminish the quality of the treatment provided in segregation units. T. 2161:4-23,
11 2475:7-2476:6; Exs. 2003 & 2005. Converted storage closets stand in for group treatment
12 spaces, and therapy takes place in rooms that also double as clinical offices and conference
13 rooms. T. 2170:12-2171:2, 2472:3-17, 2475:7-2476:6; Exs. 2011 & 2211. The few
14 treatment space projects Defendants presented include one that cannot be opened until
15 further construction to add cages, and another that fails to address major deficits in
16 treatment space for CCCMS prisoners in the SHU and ASU. T. 2891:24-2892:6, 3237:2-
17 10 (further construction required at LAC); T. 2654:7-12 (insufficient space for CCCMS
18 SHU and ASU at Corcoran). Meanwhile, major deficiencies persist in the segregation
19 treatment spaces at more than half a dozen other prisons, with no improvements planned,
20 or projects still years away from expected completion. *See* Ex. 2620 (Hysen Decl. ¶¶ 10-
21 14 (RJD, MCSP, CMC, CIW)); Ex. 2007 & T. 2163:2-2164:14 (CCI); Exs. 2003-2006,
22 2012 & T. 2159:4-2162:10, 2172:11-2173:19 (MCSP); T. 3128:8-17 (CIM).

23 Dr. Stewart testified that the mental health treatment provided to class members in
24 segregation is inadequate to address the harsh conditions and deprivations of these
25

26 ¹⁰ *See* Fischer, T. 2678:22-2679:4, 2682:3-11 (about 50% of primary clinician (PC)
27 contacts in Corcoran EOP hub occur at cell-front; cell-front treatment “is a challenge”);
28 Jordan, T. 3125:12-18 (40% refusal rate for out-of-cell PC contacts in CIM’s ASU).

1 disciplinary units. T. 2790:20-2791:4. He observed that in EOP ASU hubs and PSUs—
2 both ostensibly designed to deliver enhanced treatment to critically ill class members—
3 treatment consistently falls short of the Program Guide’s ten-hour minimum for structured
4 therapeutic treatment. *See also* Stewart, T. 2790:12-19, 2796:2-7, 2797:15-21, 2800:4-14
5 (inadequate mental health treatment in EOP hubs at RJD, LAC, SVSP, and SAC, as well
6 as SAC PSU). The Special Master found that ten of the eleven EOP ASU hubs failed to
7 offer the required ten hours of weekly treatment. Ex. 2778 (25th Round Rpt.) at 37.

8 Defendants admit that the number of treatment hours *received* by class members in
9 segregation consistently lags well behind the hours offered. Defs’ Ex. GGGG. Dr. Stewart
10 testified that high refusal rates are unsurprising given that inmates must endure strip
11 searching, handcuffing, cell searching, and caging in order to participate in therapeutic
12 groups, which include many that may involve nothing more than watching television
13 reruns. T. 2762:19-2763:14. Dr. Belavich acknowledged that Defendants’ blanket strip
14 search practices “could definitely be a factor” in persistently high refusal rates.
15 T. 3503:13-25. Dr. Fischer testified that some patients “object to being strip-searched and
16 sometimes for that reason don’t come out to group” or “decline to come out for one-on-one
17 treatment.” T. 2670:23-2671:7. Dr. Jordan testified that long waits in holding cells for
18 mental health appointments may have the same effect. T. 3169:15-17.

19 Moreover, treatment for EOPs in CDCR’s segregation units is getting worse, not
20 better. Seven of ten EOP hubs and two of three PSUs, reported that patients received
21 fewer structured therapeutic treatment hours in November 2013 than June 2013. *Compare*
22 Ex. 2120, *with* Defs’ Ex. GGGG; *see also* T. 3580:7-3583:10.

23 **C. Clinicians Cannot Protect Patients From Known Risks Of Segregation**

24 Defendants’ mental health clinicians are powerless to protect their patients from the
25 adverse effects of segregation. Clinicians are unable to prevent the placement of class
26 members into segregation or to remove their patients from segregation even if they
27 determine that the patient is suffering in that setting. *See* Fischer, T. 2688:19-2689:3,
28 2691:12-21, 2712:6-2713:3; Allison, T. 3208:17-25. Dr. Belavich testified that the

1 clinician’s only option is to wait until a patient’s mental health condition deteriorates
2 sufficiently to warrant referral to inpatient care in an MHCB or DSH. T. 3566:22-3567:3,
3 3571:22-3572:4. Then, upon discharge from the inpatient setting, clinicians lack authority
4 to prevent their patients from being returned to the same segregation settings in which they
5 decompensated. T. 3571:10-3572:4. Defendants insist that such decisions are “rightly
6 with correctional officers, and not with mental health clinicians.” Defs’ Ex. LLL ¶ 25.

7 **D. Defendants Use Segregation Units as a Stop Gap Solution for Persistent,**
8 **Systemwide Shortages of Appropriate Placements**

9 Defendants routinely use segregated housing as the default placement for class
10 members due to ongoing overcrowding. The Supreme Court denounced Defendants’ use
11 of segregation units to compensate for system wide shortages of appropriate placements
12 for mentally ill prisoners. *See Brown*, 131 S. Ct. at 1924 (“[I]nmates awaiting care may be
13 held for months in administrative segregation, where they endure harsh and isolated
14 conditions and receive only limited mental health services.”); *id.* at 1933 (“Mentally ill
15 prisoners are housed in administrative segregation while awaiting transfer to scarce mental
16 health treatment beds One correctional officer indicated that he had kept mentally ill
17 prisoners in segregation for ‘6 months or more.’”). These deplorable practices persist.

18 The reductions to date in CDCR’s overall levels of crowding have not reached the
19 *Coleman* class,¹¹ and Defendants continue to subject class members to extended
20 placements in segregated units merely because they have nowhere else to put them. This is
21 most evident in Defendants’ use of “non-disciplinary segregation” (NDS). Class members
22 who have committed no disciplinary infractions are routinely placed in ASUs for
23 prolonged periods.¹² Many are placed in segregation units awaiting transfer to SNY beds.

24 _____
25 ¹¹ Since April 2000, the total CDCR population has decreased by 19.6%, but the mentally
26 ill population has increased by 73%. *See Haney*, T. 2143:17-2145:18; Exs. 2035 & 2036.

27 ¹² Kaufman Prisoner L was held in CIM’s ASU for almost a year as an “LOB” (Lack of
28 Bed). T. 3146:16-23; Ex. 2617. Haney Prisoner WW was in ASU for no fault of his own
for about a year and a half. T. 2385:8-16; Ex. 2034. Haney Prisoner GG was held in the
(footnote continued)

1 Ex. 2019 (CIM ASU census board). DAI Directors Stainer and Allison also testified about
2 so-called “SHU kickouts,” who have served their full disciplinary terms, but get
3 transferred from the SHU to ASUs, rather than to GP settings where they belong, because
4 there is nowhere else to place them. T. 2930:8-25, 3312:4-13.¹³ Still other class members
5 are simply described by Defendants as “LOBs” (lack of beds) and held in ASUs for no
6 reason except the obvious—the lack of an appropriate bed for them. Ex. 2019.¹⁴

7 Defendants’ inability to manage their prison population causes class members to
8 pile up in segregation units. Class members are routinely retained in ASUs simply because
9 Defendants are unable to timely process and investigate their cases.¹⁵ Allison
10 acknowledged bottlenecks in CDCR’s process for endorsing transfers. T. 2949:17-21.
11 Allison and Stainer testified that even once available beds have been identified, some class
12 members remain in segregation units simply because Defendants cannot obtain a bus seat
13 to effectuate the transfer. T. 3190:1-14, 3314:19-3315:6. Ambulances and vans are used
14 for medical transports, but Defendants have no plan to use these services to get mentally ill
15 prisoners out of segregation. T. 3221:11-3222:7. Meanwhile, some class members are
16 held in segregation units awaiting transfer for so long that their transfer endorsements
17 expire—forcing them to start the process anew. T. 3408:21-3409:20.

18 Allison acknowledged that segregation units are used as overflow housing.
19

20
21 ASU for safety concerns for at least eight months, even as he began to decompensate and a
22 CDCR clinician documented “want[ing] to write a chrono indicating that continued lock-
up is adversely affecting inmate’s mental state.” Ex. 2050 at 17; *see* T. 2245:8-2252:7.

23 ¹³ Stainer testified that some individuals are also retained in the SHU indefinitely due to a
24 shortage of appropriate housing. T. 3288:7-3289:5, 3427:24-3429:22.

25 ¹⁴ For example, Kaufman Prisoner L’s mental health records stated that “[p]er custody I/P
26 unable to attend the movie group because he is LOB and unable to mix with ADSEG
27 inmates.” Ex. 2617 at 3. Dr. Jordan acknowledged that despite claims that all the LOB
28 inmates in Cypress Hall were Reception Center overflow, Prisoner L had been transferred
from the mainline and was not in RC status. T. 3111:5-16, 3144:1-3145:16.

¹⁵ Allison testified that CDCR routinely takes up to 45 days to write up and investigate rule
violations, and frequently extends those investigations. T. 3225:17-23. Dr. Austin
testified that this process can and should be resolved in seven to ten days, if not sooner, as
is standard practice in other states. T. 3043:13-15, 3054:8-3055:2.

1 T. 2980:18-2981:5. Dr. Belavich admitted that Defendants use ASUs as alternative
2 housing placements for class members in need of MHCBS when overcrowding and
3 shortages prevent transfer to a crisis bed. T. 3662:19-3665:9.

4 By warehousing class members in segregation units because appropriate beds and
5 timely transfers cannot be provided, Defendants' system fails to make the reasonable
6 accommodations necessary for mentally ill prisoners to be housed and treated in the most
7 integrated setting appropriate to their individual needs. In addition to violating the Eighth
8 Amendment, these practices constitute illegal disability discrimination. *See* 42 U.S.C.
9 §§ 12101(a)(2), (a)(5), 12132; 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.104, 35.130(b)(7), (d), 35.152(b)(2); *see*
10 *also Olmstead v. L.C. ex rel Zimring*, 527 U.S. 581, 597 (1999) ("Unjustified isolation ...
11 is properly regarded as discrimination based on disability.").

12 **E. There Is No Penological Justification for Defendants' Extreme and**
13 **Harmful Disciplinary Practices**

14 Defendants' disciplinary practices "bear little relation to security concerns."
15 *Madrid v. Gomez*, 889 F. Supp. 1146, 1266 (N.D. Cal. 1995). Defendants have failed to
16 establish a valid penological justification for the extraordinary rates at which class
17 members are placed in segregation or their extended lengths of stay. Dr. Austin testified
18 that CDCR sends large numbers of class members to segregation when less dangerous
19 punishments, such as loss of privileges or work assignments, would suffice. T. 3018:10-
20 16. Such alternative sanctions have proven to be effective in deterring rule violations, less
21 resource intensive, and far less psychologically damaging for mentally ill prisoners.¹⁶

22 By CDCR's account, class members are routinely assessed SHU terms for offenses
23 such as refusing a cellmate, indecent exposure, exhibitionism, and drug trafficking.

24 _____
25 ¹⁶ Plaintiffs' experts testified extensively about CDCR's overreliance on segregation. *See*
26 Austin, T. 3055:3-14 ("informal kinds of sanctions are very effective if they're done
27 properly"); Stewart, T. 2826:7-23 ("removing privileges in a clinically sensitive manner ...
28 can be effective"); Haney, T. 2290:8-2291:6 ("especially with the mentally ill ... there are
limits to what sanctions can be").

1 T. 3319:8-3320:15. Dr. Austin testified that these low-level offenses are “not SHU-able
2 offense[s] in any of the places I’ve worked.” T. 3067:13-3068:23. Defendants transfer all
3 class members charged with SHU-able offenses to ASUs, where they remain until the rule
4 violation is investigated and adjudicated. T. 3225:9-13. This process may not be
5 completed until the entire expected SHU term has already been served. T. 3273:3-9.
6 Dr. Austin condemned this practice as unnecessary and excessively punitive, opining that
7 pre-disciplinary segregation should be employed only in the very rare circumstances where
8 individual risk assessments absolutely compel it. T. 3019:1-10, 3055:15-3056:11.

9 Once assessed, disciplinary terms for class members are exceptionally long. As
10 Dr. Haney testified, the American Psychiatric Association defines prolonged segregation
11 as segregation lasting “greater than 3-4 weeks,” and the organization advises that
12 “[p]rolonged segregation of adult inmates with serious mental illness ... should be avoided
13 due to the potential for harm to such inmates.” Ex. 2054; T. 2284:7-14. New York,
14 Georgia, and Mississippi—states with which Dr. Austin has worked—cap their
15 disciplinary segregation terms for all prisoners at 30 to 40 days, with the end of that range
16 reserved for extreme and assaultive behavior. T. 3017:13-16, 3020:2-22. Upon
17 completion of this disciplinary term, the vast majority of prisoners in systems where
18 Dr. Austin has worked return directly to the general population, including (where
19 necessary) to a higher custody setting. The remaining 10 to 20 percent of prisoners are
20 sent to step-down programs after completing their disciplinary terms. These programs are
21 designed to be completed in about nine months and offer increasing levels of privileges
22 and freedoms whereby prisoners are guaranteed to achieve release from segregation
23 through compliance with behavioral rules. T. 3015:13-3016:18, 3017:21-25, 3078:11-
24 3079:9. A separate, parallel step-down program run by mental health clinicians exists for
25 prisoners with mental illness. T. 3023:2-17, 3034:9-12. Custody’s role in these special
26 mental health units is to assist the clinicians at their direction, not to dictate restrictions and
27 procedures. The states that employ this system—a short disciplinary sentence, followed
28 by, in rare cases, a longer stay in a special step-down program run by clinicians—have

1 seen no increase in violence or misconduct. T. 3027:12-15, 3031:7-21, 3072:18-24.

2 In CDCR, by contrast, class members routinely languish in the SHU for years, or
3 even decades in the case of gang members or associates. In California, even the most
4 minor SHU-able offense has a minimum term of two months. Defs' Ex. NNN (Title 15
5 § 3341.5). Although wardens may suspend SHU terms at their sole discretion, there are no
6 structures in place to facilitate class members' transition to greater freedoms and no way
7 for a class member to earn his way out of the SHU. T. 3310:9-3311:5.¹⁷

8 Defendants' practices are not only inhumane and wasteful from the perspective of
9 resource allocation,¹⁸ but also counterproductive. The purpose of segregation, Dr. Austin
10 testified, is to increase safety and security. Placing and leaving seriously mentally ill
11 prisoners in units where conditions exacerbate their underlying illnesses and preclude
12 meaningful treatment has the opposite effect. T. 2291:2-14, 3026:25-3027:11.

13 **F. The Persistence of Staggeringly High Suicide Rates in Segregation**
14 **Demonstrates That the Units Are Dangerous and Anti-Therapeutic**

15 Tragically, in the final days of 2013, a CCCMS class member housed in
16 administrative segregation at North Kern State Prison committed suicide in his cell. *See*
17 Declaration of Margot Mendelson ISO Plaintiffs' Post-Trial Brief, filed herewith, Ex. 1.
18 The prisoner, who had no rule violation history, was placed in the ASU for safety concerns
19 on December 6, 2013—three days after Defendants issued their NDS Transfer Timelines
20 Memos. *Id.*; *id.* Ex. 2 at 1-3; Defs' Ex. RRR. The prisoner killed himself on the 22nd day
21 of his confinement in the ASU. Mendelson Decl. Ex. 2 at 3. His was the 16th suicide in a
22 CDCR segregation unit in 2013 and makes plain the inadequacy of Defendants' purported
23

24 ¹⁷ The only semblance of a step-down program from the SHU is the pilot Security Threat
25 Group program, intended to phase gang members out of the SHU. Stainer testified that the
26 program is only for gang members, takes a minimum of three years to complete, and does
not prioritize class members. T. 3295:21-3296:6, 3425:8-16.

27 ¹⁸ Dr. Belavich testified that "the demands of the Program Guide on my staff are more
28 significant when the patients are in administrative segregation," and that getting patients
out of segregation "should begin to free up statewide resources." T. 3563:1-3564:6.

1 solutions—which permitted this prisoner’s non-disciplinary placement in ASU and would
2 have allowed it to continue for 38 more days.

3 The harm caused by Defendants’ segregation policies and practices is starkly
4 illustrated by the astronomical suicide rates in CDCR’s segregation units. This Court has
5 directed Defendants to address the “escalating percentage of suicides occurring in
6 administrative segregation units.” Order, Dkt. 1830, 6/8/06 at 2 ¶ 1. The Court’s suicide
7 expert, Dr. Ray Patterson, concluded that “[t]he difference between segregated housing
8 and non-segregated housing with regard to their respective rates of suicides per 100,000 is
9 staggering.” First Half of 2012 Suicide Rpt., Dkt. 4376 at 16.

10 At trial, Defendants urged the Court to disregard the overall suicide rate in
11 segregation units because it includes prisoners who were not identified as class members at
12 the time they took their lives. T. 3610:1-2, 3646:16-20. In essence, Defendants ask the
13 Court to ignore their systemic failure to identify individuals in acute psychiatric distress in
14 their segregation units. Defendants’ failed mechanisms for screening for mental illness
15 have been at issue since the beginning of this litigation. *See Coleman v. Wilson*, 912 F.
16 Supp. 1282, 1296 (E.D. Cal. 1995). The overall suicide rate in segregation units is
17 important evidence that those deficiencies persist. It is well within the authority and
18 responsibility of the Court to consider and address suicides both among class members and
19 individuals whom Defendants failed to identify as class members.

20 Nonetheless, zeroing in on the suicide data for class members in segregation yields
21 important insights for suicide prevention. In the past five years, well over half of the
22 suicides in segregation units took place among *Coleman* class members (*i.e.*, prisoners
23 with CCCMS or EOP codes at the time of their deaths).¹⁹ In 2013, class members
24

25 _____
26 ¹⁹ Defendants insist that condemned units are not segregation units. T. 3519:5-12,
27 3706:17-25. This position has been rejected by Dr. Patterson. *See, e.g.*, 2011 Suicide Rpt.,
28 Dkt. 4308 at 26. Nonetheless, if suicides in condemned units are excluded from the
calculations, the data remain eye-popping: class members accounted for 54% of the
suicides in (non-condemned) segregation units in 2013 (Ex. 2781), 85% in 2012 (*id.*), 73%
(footnote continued)

1 represented 33% of the segregated population and 53% of the suicides in segregation units.
2 Exs. 2302 & 2781.²⁰ In 2012, class members accounted for 80% of the segregation
3 suicides. *Id.* In 2011, 69% of the suicides in segregation units were class members. Ex.
4 2802. In 2010, the figure was 54%, and in 2009, it was 75%. Exs. 2800 & 2801.

5 Effective, pragmatic measures to remove class members from these dangerous
6 settings are necessary to reduce suicides in segregation. Defendants are well aware of the
7 steps necessary to address the high suicide rates in segregation; many have been
8 recommended since 2006. *See* Ex. 2459 (Suicide Compendium); First Half of 2012
9 Suicide Rpt, Dkt. 4376 at 8 (“This reviewer has repeated many of the same
10 recommendations over and over again . . . because, year after year, CDCR fails to
11 implement these recommendations.”) (emphasis in original).

12 **II. ONGOING VIOLATIONS ESTABLISH THE NEED FOR FURTHER**
13 **REMEDIAL ORDERS**

14 **A. Defendants’ Intransigence and Misrepresentations Warrant Immediate,**
15 **Bright-Line Orders**

16 Immediate judicial action is necessary because Defendants have proven unwilling to
17 address the unconstitutional conditions in their segregation units despite years of judicial
18 findings and monitoring reports highlighting constitutional violations. Given this record,
19 the Court can and should issue an effective remedy without delay. T. 2302:18-2303:7.

20 Dr. Belavich admitted that there may be a need for more suicide-resistant intake
21 cells in ASUs “at several institutions” (T. 3530:22-3531:9), but Defendants have no
22 current plan to create more. T. 3256:6-3257:14; *see also* Ex. 2047 (finding that intake cells
23 are “indeed effective”). Dr. Belavich also testified that Defendants know they “need to
24 look at” their strip search policies which discourage the utilization of essential treatment,
25 but have not taken steps to do so. T. 3504:15-3505:3. In 2007, Defendants declared that it

26 _____
27 in 2011 (Ex. 2802), 58% in 2010 (Ex. 2801), and 73% in 2009 (Ex. 2800).

28 ²⁰ Class members represent 56% of the 2013 segregation suicides when the December 27,
2013 suicide (which occurred after the close of evidence) is factored in. Ex. 2781.

1 was “important that we take an immediate, active role” in providing entertainment devices
2 to address concerns about sensory deprivation in segregation units. Defs’ Ex. LLL (Ex. A
3 (4/27/07 CDCR Memo)). At the time of trial, more than six years later, entertainment
4 devices still had not reached class members, and Defendants could not provide a date by
5 which “hand-crank” radios would be distributed. T. 2955:6-2956:23, 3246:17-3247:10.

6 Defendants are willfully indifferent to the risk of harm to class members. Stainer
7 testified that he sees no problem with lengths of stay in the SHU, despite the fact that class
8 members are spending decades in solitary confinement. T. 3414:15-25. CDCR data
9 specialist Dr. Leidner testified that “nobody has asked for” a report that would provide
10 accurate and complete lengths of stay for class members in segregation. T. 2596:6-15.
11 Rather than considering the systemic reasons why class members are concentrated in
12 segregation units, Allison asserted, with no data or evidence, that the mentally ill “have a
13 higher propensity for the violent crimes” and “attacking somebody.” T. 3209:2-19.

14 Defendants’ failure to provide accurate information on critical issues to the Court
15 further demonstrates the need for bright-line orders. Defendants’ data regarding class
16 members’ length of stay in segregation systematically underreports lengths of stay.
17 According to Dr. Leidner, the report is designed always to show the shortest possible
18 length of stay and resets each time a class member transfers institutions, decompensates to
19 the point of requiring inpatient care, or moves to a different level of care. T. 2600:3-5,
20 2608:8-19; *see* Ex. 2040. The report also fails to capture any length of stay that
21 commenced before April 9, 2008. T. 2641:14-2642:19. Defendants are well aware of the
22 deficiencies and misrepresentations in their report, but continue to produce it to the Court.

23 Likewise, Defendants fail to meaningfully apprise the Court of clinical vacancies in
24 segregation units and elsewhere. Dr. Belavich testified that staffing data provided to the
25 Court is inaccurate and untimely. T. 3614:21-3615:11. A new telepsychiatry program is
26 claimed to be “very successful” (T. 3445:5-11), but Defendants admit that they “haven’t
27 fully worked out how [the use of] telepsychiatry is being recorded.” T. 3619:14-21.
28 Confronted with apparent inaccuracies in Defendants’ staffing data, Dr. Belavich described

1 the reports provided to the Court as “a puzzle.” T. 3622:23-3623:3. With respect to one of
2 the staffing documents, Dr. Belavich testified that he “ha[s] [his] staff redo this document”
3 so as to be of greater use than the one provided to the Court. T. 3616:14-3617:2.

4 Dr. Belavich’s chart, “Program Guide Compliance – Administrative Segregation
5 Units” omits compliance rates in important areas, including rates of pre-placement mental
6 health screening, attendance of required personnel at treatment team meetings, timeliness
7 of referrals to higher levels of care and placement requests, and consistency of psych tech
8 rounding. Defs’ Ex. DDDD; T. 3586:12-19, 3591:10-3592:13, 3593:6-10. The chart also
9 omits key information about the treatment and conditions for class members in
10 segregation, such as rates of cell-front contacts with primary clinicians, hours of yard time,
11 and access to entertainment devices. T. 3592:18-3593:5, 3593:16-19, 3595:24-2596:9.

12 In sum, Defendants’ record of inaction and obfuscation warrants clear and
13 immediate orders from the Court.

14 **B. To Remedy Severe and Systemic Constitutional Violations, the Court**
15 **Should Issue Short-Term and Long-Term Relief**

16 Despite the magnitude of the problem before the Court, Plaintiffs have presented
17 clear, well-tested measures to address the systemic harm to class members in segregation.²¹
18 In the short term, the Court should issue a series of immediately effective exclusion orders
19 to protect class members at significant risk of harm in CDCR segregation units. The Court
20 should ban the use of segregation for any class member who has not been served with a
21 rule violation. The Court should issue orders prohibiting the placement of class members
22 in segregation upon discharge from inpatient care and the use of segregation for any EOP
23 patient whose rule violation was found to be related to mental illness. The Court must also
24 exclude all seriously mentally ill inmates from CDCR’s dangerous SHUs.

25 For those class members who remain in segregation, steps must be taken to ensure
26

27 ²¹ A revised Proposed Order is filed herewith.
28

1 that the units meet constitutional minima. First, the Court should impose time limits for all
2 class members in any segregation unit. The Court should prohibit the indiscriminate use of
3 cages for mental health treatment, the blanket use of strip searches, and any use of
4 management cells for class members. The Court should also ban Defendants from housing
5 class members in any segregation unit that the Special Master has not certified as capable
6 of providing adequate treatment hours, confidential treatment space, staffing, and out of
7 cell time. The Court should require basic suicide prevention measures in all segregation
8 units, including welfare checks for the full duration of a class member's placement in
9 segregation, effective pre-placement screening, and periodic mental health screening for all
10 prisoners in segregation, as well as the creation of sufficient suicide-resistant intake cells.

11 The Court should order Defendants to initiate a comprehensive audit of class
12 members in segregation units in order to identify those whose retention is unnecessary.
13 The Court should also order Defendants to submit a plan to create appropriate, treatment-
14 based, step-down disciplinary units designed to deliver appropriate mental health care.

15 **C. The Court Should Exclude Class Members from Extraordinarily**
16 **Dangerous and Inappropriate Segregation Settings**

17 **1. The Court Should Prohibit CDCR from Using Segregation for**
18 **Any Class Member Who Has Not Received a Rule Violation**

19 Defendants do not deny that they use segregation units to house class members for
20 non-disciplinary reasons. The harm suffered by these class members is beyond dispute.
21 Dr. Haney testified that more suicides in ASUs took place among inmates there for their
22 "safety reasons" than among those there for disciplinary reasons. T. 2240:8-2242:23,
23 2242:13-23; Ex. 2048. Dr. Canning admitted that "placement in ASU of already fearful
24 inmates may only serve to make them even more fearful and anxious, which may
25 precipitate a state of panicked desperation, and the urge to die." Ex. 2049 at 2.

26 Defendants' new NDS policy does not fix this dangerous problem. For example,
27 Allison testified that even under the new regulations designed to expand privileges for
28 some members of this population, NDS class members remain in the same segregation
units and still have limited yard, no dayroom, no contact visits, and fewer phone privileges

1 in many instances. *See* Defs' Ex. OOO; T. 3199:18-3200:15. They also remain subject to
2 treatment in cages, strip searches, and escorting in cuffs. T. 3200:16-3201:16.

3 Moreover, Defendants apply the "NDS" label to only a small percentage of the class
4 members who are in segregation for no fault of their own. Allison initially estimated that
5 20-30% of the ASU population was there for non-disciplinary reasons, but Defendants'
6 "NDS" label applies to only 9% of the ASU population. T. 3185:2-3187:19; *see* Defs' Ex.
7 QQQ. Allison testified that the policy may not apply to class members who are:

8 (1) housed in ASUs but not "officially" classified as ASU inmates, such as those in CIM's
9 Cypress Hall ASU who are "officially" deemed RC overflow; (2) housed in ASUs while
10 awaiting transfer to GP units, SNY beds, or higher custody yards; (3) placed in ASUs for
11 safety reasons that CDCR deems to be their "fault," such as drug debts, but for whom no
12 rule violation has been served, investigated, or adjudicated; or (4) retained in the SHU after
13 the expiration of their terms due to Defendants' inability to place them in appropriate beds.
14 T. 2994:9-23, 2995:9-18, 3177:5-3179:15, 3183:11-24, 3247:24-3429:22.

15 Defendants' December 3, 2013 memo, which provides for time limits for class
16 members in NDS, is wholly inadequate. *See* Defs' Ex. RRR. Even for class members to
17 whom the time limits apply, the 30- and 60-day limits are unjustifiably long. Stainer
18 testified that he did not consult mental health clinicians about the appropriateness of the
19 time limits when developing the policy. T. 3412:22-3413:3. Allison testified that CDCR
20 did not consider shorter time limits. T. 3198:21-25.²²

21 Dr. Austin testified that "[t]here is no reason for people to be held in [NDS] status
22 for those periods of time," and observed that in the states with which he works, individuals
23 are moved "within 24 hours" to appropriate settings. T. 3021:8-3022:11. Dr. Austin also
24

25 ²² Defendants elected not to implement a policy akin to the *Armstrong* model Operational
26 Procedure, which limits the use of ASU housing for prisoners with disabilities to a short-
27 term basis where appropriate housing is unavailable, but requires transfer "to appropriate
28 GP housing within 48 hours." *See* Ex. 2410. The *Armstrong* policy requires notification
to CDCR headquarters in case of any ASU placement over 48 hours. *Id.*

1 discussed options utilized by other states in lieu of housing this population in segregation,
2 such as leaving them in their existing units and modifying their program or moving them
3 to a different non-segregation bed or unit. T. 3019:7-10, 3043:3-15. Dr. Haney confirmed
4 that California's NDS practices are "very unusual" and that there are alternatives to trading
5 class members' "physical safety ... for their mental health stability." T. 2383:16-2384:18.

6 There is no justification for housing seriously mentally ill prisoners who committed
7 no disciplinary infractions in segregation for 30 or 60 days. The Court should prohibit the
8 placement of any class member in segregation except pursuant to a documented rules
9 violation. Defendants may comply with this order by opening additional yards, modifying
10 transfer and transportation policies, or implementing any number of other steps.

11 **2. The Court Should Order an End to the Dangerous Practice of**
12 **Cycling Class Members Between Segregation and Inpatient Care**

13 The Court must order Defendants to stop their irresponsible practice of placing class
14 members into segregation upon discharge from inpatient care. Placing class members
15 returning from CDCR's highest level of psychiatric care into its most dangerous housing
16 setting, with no input from treating mental health clinicians, is reckless and unacceptable.

17 Allison testified that CDCR policy permits the return of class members directly into
18 segregation units upon discharge from DSH or MHCBS. T. 3250:14-19. She confirmed
19 that a patient's housing placement upon discharge from an inpatient unit is a solely
20 custodial determination. T. 3250:20-3251:3. Dr. Belavich testified that even in the case of
21 a patient who has "been in administrative segregation three times and each time it has
22 resulted in a lengthy stay in a crisis bed or referral to the state hospital," a clinician cannot
23 prevent placement in segregation. T. 3571:10-3572:4.²³

24 To remedy this violation, this Court must immediately bar Defendants from placing
25

26 ²³ See Kaufman, T. 2499:22-2504:17 (Prisoner F repeatedly cycled between EOP, MHCB,
27 and SHU); Stewart, T. 2822:18-2824:14 & Ex. 2121 (Prisoner H committed suicide just
28 days after being transferred directly from DSH to an ASU at SVSP).

1 class members in segregation units upon discharge from DSH or a MHCB absent written
2 determinations by mental health clinicians at both the sending and receiving institutions (or
3 programs) that the placement will not jeopardize the patient’s mental health.

4 **3. The Court Should Exclude Any EOP from Segregation Until and**
5 **Unless a Mental Health Assessment Determines That the Rule**
6 **Violation Was Not Due to Mental Illness**

7 Plaintiffs presented extensive evidence about the vulnerability and acuity of EOP
8 inmates and the particular harms segregation causes to this subset of *Coleman* class
9 members. T. 2456:14-2458:16, 2838:10-21. Defendants routinely fail to sufficiently
10 incorporate mental health input into the assessment of disciplinary sanctions for class
11 members. T. 3689:4-9. As a result, vastly disproportionate numbers of EOP class
12 members are held in segregation despite their heightened vulnerability to these settings.

13 The Court should order that no EOP class member who receives an RVR may be
14 placed into segregation until a mental health assessment is completed. This policy shall be
15 overridden only pursuant to written findings by the Chief of Mental Health that the
16 patient’s mental health will not be harmed by the placement *and* by a Correctional Captain
17 that the patient’s security needs cannot be met in a non-segregated unit. Defendants also
18 should be prohibited from placing EOPs into segregation if the mental health assessment
19 determines that mental illness caused the behavior. In those cases, the patient should be
20 transferred to a higher level of care or retained in an EOP unit with alternative sanctions.

21 **4. The Court Should Extend the Pelican Bay SHU Exclusion Order**

22 The SHU is a severe, long-term punishment unit and is simply too dangerous for the
23 mentally ill. The essential features of all SHUs are near-constant confinement in cells,
24 enclosed yard spaces, deprivation of educational and vocational programming, and harsh
25 custodial policies. T. 2297:14-2299:11. There is no basis on which to conclude that the
26 Corcoran, CCI, CIW, or SAC SHUs are appropriate or safe for *Coleman* class members.

27 Meting out long and harsh SHU terms has no deterrent value, especially to prisoners
28 with mental illness. *See Austin*, T. 3069:15-24 (“you get the same result ... [w]hether you
put someone in punishment for 30 days, three months, nine months, 12 months....”),

1 T. 3070:14-24 (reducing length and frequency of disciplinary terms does not increase
2 violence), T. 3073:5-18 (limited deterrent value for mentally ill prisoners).

3 There is no legitimate reason to restrict the *Madrid* exclusion order to Pelican Bay.
4 See Haney, T. 2297:16-25 (Pelican Bay SHU is “similar, if not identical [to the rest of
5 CDCR SHUs] in terms of the oppressive nature of the environment, the severity of the
6 conditions of confinement to which prisoners are exposed”); Ex. 2056 (*Madrid* order).
7 Moreover, the evidence shows that the *Madrid* exclusion order saves class members’ lives:
8 in the past five years, there have been no suicides in the Pelican Bay SHU compared to
9 four in the CCI SHU and two in the Corcoran SHU. Exs. 2781, 2801, 2802. The Court
10 should immediately apply the *Madrid* exclusion criteria to all CDCR SHUs.

11 **D. The Court Should Order Defendants to Immediately Implement**
12 **Measures to Reduce Dangers to Class Members in Segregation**

13 Insofar as any class members will remain in segregation, Defendants must promptly
14 implement measures to reduce the known dangers of their segregation units.

15 **1. The Court Should Require Defendants to Certify That All**
16 **Segregation Units Provide Adequate Treatment Hours,**
Confidential Treatment Space, Staffing, and Out-of-Cell Time

17 No class member should be placed in a segregation unit incapable of meeting min-
18 imal standards for the delivery of mental health care, including outdoor exercise. CDCR
19 has failed to recruit or retain sufficient clinical or custody staff to deliver adequate care in
20 segregation units. T. 2491:18-25; 2540:3-6. Defendants admit ongoing staffing deficits.
21 See Fischer, T. 2650:22-24, 2698:14-22, 2750:22-2751:6 (shortages of psychiatrists,
22 recreation therapists, and escort staff in Corcoran ASUs), T. 2674:15-2675:6 (EOP ASU
23 psychiatry ratio is 1:100; “we are doing the best we can with our staff”), T. 2681:14-17
24 (“full staffing” would help reduce cell-front contacts); Jordan, T. 3131:4-7 (Management
25 Rpt. described CIM ASU as “chronically understaffed”); Belavich, T. 3442:23-3443:8
26 (major difficulties with recruiting and retention in some regions).

27 EOPs in segregation receive less than the required ten hours of treatment. See Defs’
28 Ex. GGGG. When treatment does occur, it frequently takes place in spaces that are anti-

1 therapeutic and unsuited to the delivery of meaningful mental health care. Defendants
2 have identified confidential mental health interviews as a component of suicide prevention,
3 but Dr. Belavich acknowledged that there are still “varying degrees” of confidential space
4 in CDCR segregation units. T. 3494:25-3495:5; *see* Ex. 2459 (Suicide Compendium).
5 Dr. Fischer testified that Corcoran does not provide group therapy to CCCMS in
6 segregation because of “lack of space availability,” and Dr. Jordan testified about the
7 cancellation of a plan to create treatment and office space at CIM’s ASU. T. 2654:7-12,
8 3127:13-3128:7.

9 Defendants also harm class members in segregation by failing to provide sufficient
10 out-of-cell exercise time. The provision of sufficient out-of-cell exercise time is not only a
11 legal requirement, but a specific concern of this Court dating back at least to 2007. Title
12 15 § 3343(h); Order, 6/1/07, Dkt. 2255. Defendants have acknowledged that the provision
13 of out-of-cell/yard time is a component of suicide prevention. Ex. 2459 (Suicide
14 Compendium). Their suicide reports have identified the lack of outdoor exercise time as a
15 contributing factor in prisoner deaths. Ex. 2520 at 11. Nonetheless, they cite “numerous
16 barriers to meet[ing] mandated hours,” and about half of CDCR prisons still fail to provide
17 the required yard time. Exs. 2459 & 2778 (25th Round Rpt.) at 66.

18 The Court should bar the placement of any class member in a segregation unit that
19 has not been certified as capable of minimally adequate treatment and outdoor exercise.

20 **2. The Court Should Impose Time Limits for Segregation of Class**
21 **Members**

22 Defendants jeopardize the health and safety of seriously mentally ill prisoners by
23 placing them in segregation for prolonged periods. The Court must impose strict and
24 enforceable time limits for all class members in all CDCR segregation units.

25 CDCR segregation units are toxic to class members. *See* Part I, *supra*. This
26 includes PSUs, where (as with SHUs and ASUs) class members spend up to 24 hours a
27 day in their cells, eat all meals inside their cells, and exercise in walk-alone yards. They
28 are not permitted TVs or radios until after a full year in segregation. T. 3248:4-3249:5;

1 Ex. 2650 § 54030.10.6. Dr. Stewart found inadequacies in mental health treatment at the
2 PSUs. T. 2800:4-21; *see also* Ex. 2778 (25th Round Rpt.) at 37 (“problem of insufficient
3 structured therapeutic activity was not confined to the [ASUs],” but also included PSUs).

4 Ultimately, only enforceable time limits will prevent Defendants from subjecting
5 class members to harmful and excessive terms in segregation. Measures short of time
6 limits have failed. The Court should order strict limits of 10 calendar days for the
7 placement of any EOP in any segregation unit and 30 calendar days for CCCMS.

8 **3. The Court Should Order Defendants to Provide Monthly Reports**
9 **About Class Members’ True Lengths of Stay in Segregation**

10 Defendants cannot implement time limits, and the Court cannot enforce those
11 limits, without complete and accurate data about class members’ lengths of stay.
12 Defendants acknowledge they provide inaccurate data to the Court, but claim they are
13 under no obligation to report this data. T. 3496:23-3498:11. The Court must order
14 Defendants to develop and produce monthly reports that provide accurate, complete
15 information about class members in segregation, including about their length of stay,
16 access to exercise and other critical indicia.

17 **4. The Court Should Prohibit CDCR’s Indiscriminate Use of Cages**

18 All class members in segregation units are locked in cages for all mental health
19 treatment. Dr. Fischer confirmed that class members are restrained regardless of why they
20 are in segregation, and Allison admitted that all inmates are subjected to the same custodial
21 policies in segregation unless custody determines that further enhanced measures, such as
22 leg chains, are needed. T. 2708:6-10, 3415:24-3416:14.

23 The blanket use of cages for mental health treatment in segregation units has been
24 roundly denounced. Plaintiffs’ experts testified that the practice is humiliating and
25 degrading, creating “a very strong disincentive” for patients to utilize treatment. T.
26 2789:20-22; *see* T. 2480:5-2481:5. Dr. Austin testified that this practice is unnecessary
27 and that he knows of no other state “where the cage is universally applied to all mentally
28 ill inmates who are in a segregated unit,” rather than “as needed.” T. 3074:17-3077:3. A

1 CDCR memo acknowledged “repeated and long-term concerns by the *Coleman* Court
2 experts and plaintiffs’ attorneys that there may be a more humane and effective way to
3 provide group/individual therapy to seriously mentally ill I/Ps in segregated housing.”
4 Ex. 2497 at 4.²⁴ The ATOM chair pilot fails to offer a less restrictive alternative to cages.

5 Plaintiffs have presented alternatives, such as tether tables, that would allow
6 custody officers to restrain class members when necessary, but would not require metal
7 cages. T. 2374:5-25, 3075:6-16. Dr. Austin confirmed that “less constraining, less
8 restrictive, less punitive” alternatives exist, and noted that one benefit of tethering systems
9 is that inmates retain “some movement of their hands” and can have “a more normal
10 dialogue with the treatment provider.” T. 2576:23-2577:2, 3075:6-16.

11 This Court should order Defendants to implement a policy prohibiting the use of
12 “therapeutic treatment modules” for group or individual mental health treatment. The
13 policy should also prohibit the use of caged holding cells for class members at risk of self-
14 harm or awaiting treatment. The Court should order Defendants to devise humane,
15 appropriate alternatives to the use of treatment modules and holding cages.

16 **5. The Court Should Prohibit CDCR’s Blanket Strip Search Policy**

17 Defendants’ strip searching policies apply to all inmates in segregation, regardless
18 of disciplinary history, risk assessments, or clinical contraindications. T. 2970:20-2971:5,
19 3137:24-3138:2, 3138:14-21. Dr. Jordan stated that strip searches may be psychologically
20 damaging. T. 3137:5-8. Dr. Fischer and Dr. Belavich testified that blanket strip searching
21 may prevent essential treatment. T. 2671:2-7, 3503:13-25. Dr. Belavich admitted that
22 CDCR’s strip search policies need to be revisited. T. 3504:15-3505:3. Dr. Austin testified
23 that these policies are overbroad and unnecessary. T. 3099:4-13, Ex. 2135 ¶ 58.

24 Yet the fact remains that every class member in every segregation unit continues to
25

26 ²⁴ The blanket use of treatment cages and strip searches, without regard to individualized
27 assessments, violates federal disability law, which requires reasonable accommodations for
28 prisoners with mental illness. *See* 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101(a)(2), 12101(a)(5), 12132; 28
C.F.R. §§ 35.130(b)(7), (d); *Olmstead*, 527 U.S. at 597.

1 be subjected to two strip searches each time he or she goes to exercise yard or the MHCB,
2 and in some cases, even to mental health treatment. Dr. Belavich made it clear that the
3 strip searching policies are custodial requisites—“not mine”—and that it is not within his
4 authority as Deputy Director of Mental Health to override them. T. 3502:18-3503:3.

5 The Court should prohibit blanket strip searches of mentally ill prisoners in
6 segregation. Class members should be strip searched only where there is an individualized
7 determination that such a procedure is required and will not harm the patient.

8 **6. The Court Should Prohibit the Use of Management Cells**

9 No centralized policy governs the use of management cells, limits prisoners’ lengths
10 of stay within management cells, or provides for oversight with respect to prisons’ use of
11 management cells. T. 3302:13-3303:3. *Coleman* class members are placed in these
12 extremely harsh and punitive cells within segregation units, including as punishment for
13 behaviors related to their mental illnesses. *See* Exs. 2013 & 2018 (CCI and MCSP
14 management cells); T. 2194:3-9 (Haney: “it’s hard to imagine anything more distressing
15 and despairing than that cell, even for a healthy person”). Dr. Haney testified about a class
16 member at MCSP who was confined to a management cell because he displayed suicidal
17 behavior (T. 2190:16-2194:9), and another at CCI who was sent to a management cell
18 because he kicked the door out of frustration at being held for months in non-disciplinary
19 segregation while his endorsement for transfer expired (T. 2195:17-2201:2). The Court
20 should prohibit Defendants from placing class members in management cells.

21 **7. The Court Should Order Defendants to Implement Basic Suicide** 22 **Prevention Measures in All Segregation Units**

23 **(a) The Court Should Order Defendants to Implement Welfare** 24 **Checks for All Prisoners in Segregation Units**

25 Despite the extraordinary suicide rate in CDCR’s segregation units and the general
26 agreement that welfare checks save lives, Defendants refuse to expand these checks.
27 Under current policy, welfare checks—also known as living, breathing checks—are
28 conducted every 30 minutes, on a staggered schedule, only for the first 21 days of a
patient’s placement in ASU. T. 3257:25-3258:11. In the SHU and the PSU, no welfare

1 checks are conducted. *Id.*

2 According to CDCR suicide data for 2007 through 2012, more suicides took place
3 in ASUs among prisoners who had been there for over 21 days than among those there for
4 21 days or less. Ex. 2061. After reviewing CDCR data, Dr. Haney concluded that “the
5 likelihood of committing suicide ... is more concentrated in the beginning, but certainly
6 doesn’t abate in a significant way over time” and “persons are at risk of committing
7 suicide ... well after 21 days in administrative segregation.” *See id.*; T. 2314:1-8.

8 National correctional standards call for welfare checks for the duration of a
9 prisoner’s stay in segregation (Ex. 2134 at 71; T. 2829:6-2830:18), and powerful evidence
10 shows that welfare checks are effective. Prisoner R’s suicide report admitted: “He waited
11 until day 22 of his ASU stay, which was the first day he would not be subjected to 30-
12 minute custody welfare checks.” Ex. 2132 at 10; *see* Stewart, T. 2828:6-2829:1.

13 Defendants claim that welfare checks are unnecessary because “security checks” are
14 conducted. Allison testified, however, that security checks merely require the officer to
15 “mak[e] sure the doors are closed” and “look[] for obvious signs of misconduct.”
16 T. 2962:13-18. Allison clarified that custody checks are nothing new, but just “part of
17 every correctional officer’s training at the academy.” T. 3258:19-3260:1.

18 The Court must order Defendants to provide staggered welfare checks at least every
19 30 minutes to all prisoners placed in all segregation units for the duration of the placement.

20 **(b) The Court Should Order Defendants to Create Adequate**
21 **Numbers of Intake Cells**

22 Despite the Court’s long-standing concern about suicide hazards in ASU cells,
23 Defendants have failed to create sufficient numbers of intake cells and continue to place
24 prisoners entering ASU into cells that have not been retrofitted. *See, e.g.*, Order, 6/9/05,
25 Dkt. 1668. Dr. Stewart testified that when he toured RJD’s ASU, he observed 72 prisoners
26 on intake status and only 16 retrofitted intake cells. T. 2833:7-18. To deal with the
27 shortage, Defendants simply taped “little sheets of paper that are pink that say ‘intake’ on
28 them” on regular ASU cells. *Id.* Dr. Stewart also found shortages at SVSP. T. 2833:19-

1 24. Dr. Jordan confirmed that CIM has a shortage of intake cells. T. 3131:22-3132:8.
2 Dr. Belavich admitted that Lindsay Hayes recently reported that “at several institutions
3 that there may not be enough intake cells.” T. 3530:23-3531:2. The Court must prohibit
4 Defendants from placing any prisoner in a cell that is not retrofitted for suicide resistance
5 during the first 21 days of placement in any segregation unit.

6 **(c) The Court Should Order Defendants to Implement**
7 **Adequate Pre-Placement Segregation Screening**

8 The current segregation screening system is inadequate to identify and exclude class
9 members who are unable to withstand the stressors of segregation. The pre-screening
10 compliance levels “have deteriorated, with only seven institutions compliant.” Ex. 2778
11 (25th Round Rpt.) at 25. Dr. Canning’s January 2013 suicide analysis found that only 58%
12 of inmates entering ASU are reported as being screened. Ex. 2049 at 2. Among those
13 screened, more than half of the screens were entered as “completed,” with no indication as
14 to whether the individual should be referred for mental health evaluation. *Id.* Moreover,
15 Defendants have been aware of serious deficiencies in their 31-item screening tool for over
16 three years. *See* Conf. Kahn Decl., Dkt 4411, Ex. 45 at 2 (questionnaire “doesn’t capture
17 things that may be important”). This Court has long been concerned about the sufficiency
18 of screening procedures for the mentally ill. *See, e.g.,* Stipulation & Order, 10/10/02, Dkt.
19 1440. The Court must order Defendants to implement an effective, comprehensive
20 screening procedure for all prisoners before they are placed in segregation.

21 **(d) The Court Should Order Mental Health Screening of All**
22 **Non-Class Member Prisoners in Segregation Every 90 Days**

23 The harms of segregation are not limited to current class members. Dr. Haney
24 testified that “there are many prisoners who are deteriorating in these [segregated]
25 environments,” and many prisoners who are “not mentally ill to begin with ... begin[] to
26 deteriorate in the face of this kind of confinement.” T. 2306:11-2307:4. He explained that
27 “[t]here is so little interaction in these environments that it is difficult to observe ...
28 deterioration. So [there] are people who aren’t on anybody’s mental health caseload or

1 mental health screen, but who, nonetheless, may be suffering.” T. 2307:5-2308:7. Dr.
2 Belavich testified that segregation is a high-risk setting for all prisoners. T. 3564:13-16.

3 Non-caseload prisoners in segregation units do not receive clinical contacts or
4 treatment team meetings. T. 2693:14-20. Dr. Fischer testified that there is no formal
5 mental health screening for non-caseload prisoners in the SHU, irrespective of their length
6 of stay. T. 2693:14-2694:3. Dr. Belavich claimed that daily psych tech rounding in ASUs
7 and bi-monthly psych tech rounding in the SHU are intended to identify prisoners in need
8 of mental health assessment and treatment, but also stated that these interactions typically
9 take place across a cell door. T. 3459:21-3461:7, 3467:6-10. Allison claimed that custody
10 officers act as a referral mechanism, but cited no training that would qualify them to
11 identify signs of psychiatric decompensation. T. 2958:13-2959:2.

12 Dr. Austin testified that periodic assessments are advised because “mental health
13 status may deteriorate simply as a function of extended periods of isolation and prolonged
14 periods without normal contact.” Ex. 2135 ¶¶ 52-54. He and Dr. Haney noted that many
15 states conduct these evaluations, and the American Correctional Association recommends
16 mental health screens every 90 day in segregation units. *Id.*; T. 2308:9-2309:1.

17 In California, instituting periodic mental health screens is necessary to prevent
18 ongoing suffering and death in segregation. The chronically high rate of suicide in CDCR
19 segregation units, among both class members and those who were not recognized as class
20 members, demonstrates the need for additional and more effective screening. Defendants
21 have testified this would raise no custodial concerns. T. 3253:5-11.

22 The Court should order Defendants to conduct a comprehensive assessment of
23 prisoners currently in segregation who have been housed in such placements for more than
24 90 days, and to regularly rescreen all prisoners in long-term segregation.

25 **E. The Court Should Order an Audit of Class Members in Segregation**

26 In order to bring CDCR segregation units into constitutional compliance, the Court
27 must order Defendants to develop and implement a process to audit all class members in
28 segregation in order to determine if they are suitable for release to the general population.

1 Defendants acknowledge that class members wind up in segregation for a wide range of
2 reasons and their own data fails to accurately capture lengths of stay. Defendants must
3 undertake a systematic review of class members in segregation units and promptly remove
4 those whose retention is deemed unnecessary when objectively evaluated.

5 This measure is practical, feasible, and will ultimately allow CDCR to develop
6 enduring alternatives to their dangerous segregation practices. Dr. Austin testified that as a
7 correctional consultant, a critical step “which I don’t see yet in California, is [to conduct] a
8 very good analysis of who is in these [segregation] beds and for what reasons.”

9 T. 3028:13-15. For each *Coleman* class member, it is critical to determine “what is the
10 conduct that’s produced admission” to segregation and “why they’re staying so long.”

11 T. 3028:16-18. Dr. Austin explained that during this audit, “we go through the cases, and
12 we put those cases in a pile and say that those people don’t need to be here. They never
13 should have been admitted here. ... That’s a pile of inmates.” T. 3029:11-19. Among
14 those are inmates who are “in for a nonviolent offense” and did not “pose a danger” in the
15 first place. T. 3029:21-22. Next, the audit identifies “people [who] have been there too
16 long,” including gang members whose security concerns should be “reevaluate[d]” and
17 those retained in segregation because of repeated nuisance offenses. T. 3030:15-24.

18 Dr. Austin explained that “through that audit process, generally we get a pretty
19 substantial reduction in the population.” T. 3030:25-3031:3. In other words, the case-by-
20 case application of objective classification criteria reduces the scope of the overall
21 problem. Within CDCR, the audit can be limited to a subset of the overall population:
22 *Coleman* class members in segregation. EOPs in segregation are largely concentrated at
23 12 prisons (those with EOP hubs and PSUs) and can be prioritized in the audit.

24 By identifying and removing class members who do not meet the criteria for
25 retention in segregation, CDCR will not only move toward compliance with federal
26 disability law, which requires that prisoners with mental illness be housed and treated in
27 the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs, but will also reduce its unwieldy
28 segregation population to a more manageable scale. Moreover, this audit will yield a

1 better understanding of which class members are in segregation and why, enabling the
2 development of long-term plans for more appropriate disciplinary settings.

3 **F. The Court Should Order Defendants to Develop Treatment-Based**
4 **Disciplinary Programs for *Coleman* Class Members**

5 Ultimately, Defendants must create specialized disciplinary units designed for
6 mentally ill prisoners. The creation of treatment-focused disciplinary units is necessary to
7 comprehensively and permanently address the constitutional deficiencies that have long
8 plagued Defendants' segregation units as they relate to *Coleman* class members.

9 Plaintiffs have presented safe and pragmatic alternatives to placing seriously
10 mentally ill prisoners in the SHU. For example, effective models for treatment-focused
11 disciplinary units have been run by psychiatrists with strict step-down programs.
12 T. 3015:13-3016:13, 3023:2-17. An alternative program could be centralized and located
13 in a region less challenged by the staffing and recruiting limitations that Dr. Belavich and
14 Dr. Fischer described. T. 2744:4-2745:16, 3443:18-3444:5, 3447:1-9.

15 Determinations about specific disciplinary models for seriously mentally ill
16 prisoners are best made by CDCR, in consultation with correctional and mental health
17 experts, but it is clear that such a remedy is necessary. The Court should order Defendants
18 to submit a plan to create a specialized disciplinary unit designed to deliver consistent and
19 effective mental health treatment to *Coleman* class members.

20 **CONCLUSION**

21 In order to address the ongoing and systemic constitutional violations described
22 herein, Plaintiffs request that the Court issue remedial orders as set forth in Plaintiffs' post-
23 trial proposed order.

24 DATED: January 21, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

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14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
15 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
16

17 RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,
18 Plaintiffs,
19 v.
20 EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., et al.,
21 Defendants.
22

Case No. 2:90-cv-0520 LKK DAD

**POST-TRIAL [PROPOSED] ORDER
GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION
REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF
COURT ORDERS AND
AFFIRMATIVE RELIEF
REGARDING IMPROPER HOUSING
AND TREATMENT OF SERIOUSLY
MENTALLY ILL PRISONERS IN
SEGREGATION**

Judge: Hon. Lawrence K. Karlton
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28

1 Plaintiffs' Motion for Enforcement of Court Orders and Affirmative Relief Related
2 to Improper Housing and Treatment of Seriously Mentally Ill Prisoners in Segregation
3 came on for evidentiary hearing before this Court on November 19, 2013 and concluded
4 on December 19, 2013. The Court having considered the testimony of the witnesses, the
5 evidence, the pleadings and argument on the motion, and the entire record in this case, and
6 good cause appearing, Plaintiffs' motion is GRANTED.

7 The Court finds that Defendants' policies and practices governing Administrative
8 Segregation Units (ASUs), Psychiatric Services Units (PSUs), and Security Housing Units
9 (SHUs) ("segregation units") subject *Coleman* class members to unnecessary and
10 avoidable pain, suffering, death, and increased risk of suicide. Defendants have failed to
11 remedy ongoing constitutional violations despite many years of remedial efforts and orders
12 of this Court. Defendants subject class members to harm and serious risk of harm in
13 segregation units based on excessive and unlimited lengths of stay, misuse of segregation
14 for non-disciplinary reasons, lack of appropriate screening and exclusionary criteria, the
15 failure to provide minimally adequate mental health care, and harsh, anti-therapeutic, and
16 unsafe conditions.

17 Each individual remedial order set forth below is narrowly tailored and is the least
18 intrusive means necessary to ensure that members of the *Coleman* class receive access to
19 timely and clinically appropriate mental health treatment and are not placed at
20 unacceptable risk of psychological and physical harm in segregation.

21 The Court also finds that Defendants' segregation practices for *Coleman* class
22 members constitute illegal discrimination and violate the Americans with Disabilities Act
23 and the Rehabilitation Act. 42 U.S.C. § 12132; 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(a). By failing to
24 timely transfer class members to appropriate non-segregated settings and subjecting them
25 to harsh custodial measures such as blanket strip searches and mental health treatment in
26 cages, Defendants have failed to make the reasonable accommodations necessary to avoid
27 disability discrimination and to ensure that prisoners with a mental disability are housed
28 and treated in the least restrictive placement appropriate to their needs. *See* 28 C.F.R.

1 §§ 35.104 (defining disability to include any “emotional or mental illness”), 35.130(b)(7),
2 (d), 35.152(b)(2); *see also Pa. Dep’t of Corr. v. Yeskey*, 524 U.S. 206, 210 (1998);
3 *Olmstead v. L.C. ex rel Zimring*, 527 U.S. 581, 597 (1999) (“Unjustified isolation ... is
4 properly regarded as discrimination based on disability.”); *see also Biselli v. Cty. of*
5 *Ventura*, Case No. CV 09-08694 CAS (Ex), 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 79326, *44-45 (C.D.
6 Cal. June 4, 2012).

7 It is hereby ORDERED that:

8 Defendants shall revise their policies and procedures, including, but not limited to
9 the Program Guides, to comply with this Order. Defendants shall take any additional steps
10 necessary to implement the requirements of this Order, including, but not limited to,
11 training of custody and clinical staff, obtaining appropriate staffing, and modifying office
12 and treatment space.

13 **A. Removal of Class Members Placed in Segregation for Non-Disciplinary**
14 **Reasons**

15 No *Coleman* class member shall be placed in any CDCR segregation unit unless he
16 or she has been served with a serious, documented rule violation. Defendants shall
17 immediately stop placing class members in segregation units for any non-disciplinary
18 purpose, including but not limited to safety concerns, pending transfers, drug debts, and
19 lack of appropriate beds. Defendants shall, within 30 days, remove all class members from
20 segregation units who have not been served with serious rule violations.

21 **B. Segregation Exclusions for Class Members at Heightened Risk of**
22 **Serious Harm**

23 **1. Housing Placement Upon Discharge from Inpatient Care**

24 No prisoner discharging from an inpatient (DSH) or crisis level of care
25 (MHCB/OHU) setting shall be placed in a segregated housing unit absent a written clinical
26 determination that the patient will not be put at risk of decompensation or harm by
27 placement in a segregation unit following discharge. This written assessment must be
28 made by clinicians at the discharging program and by clinicians at the receiving institution

1 or program. This policy shall be effective immediately, and the Special Master shall
2 monitor Defendants' compliance.

3 **2. Exclusion of EOP Class Members**

4 No class member at the EOP level of care shall be placed in any segregation unit
5 until a mental health assessment is completed to determine the relationship between the
6 class member's mental health and the underlying rules violation. This policy shall be
7 overridden only upon: (1) a written finding by the Chief of Mental Health that the patient
8 will not be at risk of decompensation or harm by the placement in segregation; and (2) a
9 written finding by a Correctional Captain that the patient's security needs cannot be met
10 within the EOP housing unit. In all cases, the mental health assessment shall be completed
11 within five calendar days of the alleged rule violation, in compliance with Program Guide
12 requirements. Defendants shall be prohibited from placing any EOP class member into
13 any segregation unit if his or her mental health assessment determines that the rule
14 violation was the result of the patient's mental illness. In such cases, the patient must be
15 referred for a higher level of care, or retained in an EOP general population unit and
16 assessed alternative sanctions.

17 **3. SHU Exclusion**

18 Defendants shall, within 30 days, develop and submit to the Special Master a plan
19 to apply the Pelican Bay SHU exclusion to all CDCR SHU programs. The exclusion
20 criteria should substantially follow the criteria applied to the Pelican Bay SHU exclusion,
21 as set forth by the court in *Madrid v. Gomez* and incorporated by Defendants into the
22 Program Guide.

23 **C. Conditions for Class Members Remaining in Segregation Units**

24 **1. Certification of Minimally Adequate Conditions**

25 Effective 30 days from the date of this order, Defendants shall be prohibited from
26 placing class members in any segregated housing unit that has not been found capable of
27 providing a minimally adequate mental health treatment program based on their level of
28 care. A minimally adequate mental health treatment program in segregated housing shall

1 include the following.

2 For any segregated unit housing EOP prisoners:

- 3 (1) sufficient mental health and custody staffing;
- 4 (2) adequate confidential treatment space;
- 5 (3) provision of at least the Program Guide minimum treatment for EOP
- 6 prisoners (*i.e.*, 10 hours per week); and
- 7 (4) provision of at least 10 hours of other out-of-cell time (for outdoor
- 8 exercise) per week.

9 For any segregated unit housing CCCMS prisoners:

- 10 (1) sufficient mental health and custody staffing;
- 11 (2) adequate confidential treatment space;
- 12 (3) provision of clinically indicated treatment hours (including
- 13 appropriate group therapy); and
- 14 (4) provision of at least 10 hours of other out-of-cell time (for outdoor
- 15 exercise) per week.

16 The Special Master shall provide a report to the Court that identifies which
17 segregated housing units are capable of providing a minimally adequate mental health
18 treatment program, and Defendants shall be required to provide monthly verification that
19 the segregation unit complies with these standards

20 **2. Strict Time Limits**

21 The following time limits for the placement of *Coleman* class members in all
22 CDCR segregation units shall apply:

- 23 • For EOP class members, there shall be a limit of 10 calendar days in any
- 24 segregated housing.
- 25 • For CCCMS class members, there shall be a limit of 30 calendar days in any
- 26 segregated housing.

27 Transfer between one segregation cell (or unit) and another shall not restart the
28 clock in the calculation of class members' length of stay in segregation for purposes of this

1 order. Likewise, transfer from a segregation unit to a crisis/inpatient placement (such as
2 MHCB, OHU, or DSH) and back to a segregation unit shall not restart the clock in the
3 calculation of a class member's length of stay in segregation for purposes of this order.

4 Defendants shall provide monthly reports, prepared and signed by the Warden of
5 each prison, identifying each case in which a class member's segregation placement
6 exceeds applicable time limits, the reason for the continued placement, and what steps
7 Defendants are taking to promptly transfer the class member to an appropriate placement
8 and to remedy the barrier that caused the violation of the time limit.

9 Furthermore, Defendants shall, in cooperation with the Special Master, develop a
10 report providing the complete lengths of stay in all segregation units for all class members.
11 The lengths of stay shall not reset based on changes in level of care, transfer to inpatient
12 care units, institutional transfers, or movements within a housing unit. This report shall be
13 produced to the Court on a monthly basis.

14 **3. Elimination of Unduly Harsh Measures for Mentally Ill Prisoners**
15 **in Segregation**

16 **(a) Use of Cages for Class Members**

17 Defendants shall, within 30 days, implement a policy prohibiting the use of
18 "therapeutic treatment modules" for group or individual mental health treatment and the
19 use of caged holding cells outside treatment centers and in housing units for holding
20 mentally ill prisoners identified as at risk of self-harm or awaiting clinical evaluation or
21 treatment. Defendants shall, in consultation with the Special Master and Plaintiffs, devise
22 appropriate alternatives to the use of "therapeutic treatment modules" and holding cages
23 that are humane and appropriate to meet the individual clinical and security needs of
24 mentally ill prisoners. Defendants shall develop a system to review and document the
25 necessity of restraints for individual class members; the system shall incorporate a clinical
26 assessment of the impact of such measures on the class member's mental health.

27 **(b) Strip Search Policy for Class Members**

28 Defendants shall, within 30 days, implement a policy that prohibits the blanket

1 practice of indiscriminate strip searches for all mentally ill prisoners housed in segregation
2 units. The use of strip searches on mentally ill prisoners housed in segregation shall be
3 permitted only where there is a specific, individualized determination, based on clinical
4 and security input, that such a search is required. In cooperation with the Special Master,
5 Defendants shall develop a system to review and document the necessity of strip searches
6 for individual class members; the system shall incorporate a clinical assessment of the
7 impact of such procedures on the class member's mental health.

8 **(c) Use of Management Cells for Class Members**

9 Effective immediately, no *Coleman* class member shall be placed in a management
10 cell within any segregation unit.

11 **4. Suicide Precautions**

12 **(a) Welfare Checks**

13 Defendants shall, within 30 days, implement a policy and procedure to provide
14 staggered welfare checks (through personal observation by a staff member) at least every
15 thirty minutes to *all* prisoners placed in any segregation unit for the duration of such
16 placements.

17 **(b) Intake Cells**

18 No prisoner shall be housed in a cell that is not retrofitted for suicide resistance
19 during their first 21 days of housing in any segregation unit.

20 **(c) Pre-Placement Segregation Screening**

21 Defendants shall further submit, within 30 days, a revised screening protocol to
22 replace the Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) 31-item questionnaire that Defendants
23 have found to be inadequate, and to implement the revised screening protocol as soon as
24 possible and in consultation with the Special Master and Plaintiffs' counsel. Defendants
25 shall include in their revised screening protocol a thorough mental health history and
26 custody file review to identify *all* prisoners' prior mental health history, prior segregation
27 placements that resulted in MHCB/DSH placements, self-harm, suicide attempts, or other
28 signs of decompensation. For those prisoners who are found to have a "likelihood of

1 decompensation if placed or retained in ASU” (*Coleman* Program Guide 12-7-2),
2 Defendants shall provide a chrono and/or identifier code that will prevent the ASU
3 placement, clearly flag an “ASU exclusion,” and identify appropriate alternative
4 placements for such inmate-patients.

5 **(d) Mental Health Screening of Non-Class Member Prisoners**
6 **in Segregation**

7 Defendants shall, within 60 days and in consultation with the Special Master and
8 Plaintiffs, conduct a comprehensive assessment of *all* prisoners currently in segregation
9 units who have been housed in such placements for more than 90 days. The assessment
10 shall include a thorough mental health history and custody file review to identify
11 prisoners’ prior mental health history, prior segregation placements that resulted in
12 MHCB/DSH placements, self-harm, suicide attempts, or other signs of decompensation.
13 Any prisoner identified as needing mental health treatment shall be immediately referred
14 for care and assessed for exclusion from segregation. For those prisoners who are found to
15 have a “likelihood of decompensation if placed or retained in ASU” (*Coleman* Program
16 Guide 12-7-2), Defendants shall provide a chrono and/or identifier code that will prevent
17 the ASU placement, clearly flag an “ASU exclusion,” and identify appropriate alternative
18 placements for such inmate-patients.

19 **D. Comprehensive Audit of Class Members in All Segregation Units**

20 Defendants shall, under the supervision of the Special Master and with input from
21 Plaintiffs’ counsel, develop and implement within 30 days a process to individually review
22 all *Coleman* class members currently held in segregation units (Administrative Segregation
23 Units, EOP ASU hubs, Psychiatric Services Units, and Security Housing Units). Through
24 this review, Defendants shall apply objective classification criteria on a case-by-case basis
25 to assess the actual, current security risk posed by class members. Defendants shall, within
26 60 days, complete the review of all EOP class members in CDCR segregation units.
27 Within 120 days, Defendants shall review all class members in all segregation units.
28 Defendants shall release to general population settings all class members whose retention

1 in segregation is deemed unnecessary when objectively evaluated.

2 **E. Development of Treatment-Based Disciplinary Programs for Class**
3 **Members**

4 Defendants, under direction of the Special Master and in cooperation with
5 Plaintiffs' counsel, shall develop and implement, within 90 days, a plan for treatment-
6 based step-down disciplinary units run by mental health clinicians for *Coleman* class
7 members who have been found guilty of a serious rule violation and cannot safely remain
8 in the general population.

9 **IS IT SO ORDERED.**

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11 DATED: _____, 2014

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13 _____
14 LAWRENCE K. KARLTON
15 Senior United States District Judge
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