

HIGHLIGHTS - COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006
HELD AT THE COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS FACILITY – DIV.5

PRESENT: Chairman Esequiel Iracheta, Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Members

Howard Brookins, Gilbert Marchman and Iola McGowan, Acting Corrections Director Scott Kurtovich, Undersheriff Zelda Whittler, Board Secretary Shirley Moore, and Frances Sowa, LWV Observer.

Minutes of the last meeting were unavailable.

Director's Report:

As of 8 A.M., February 10th, there were 8,957 detainees. All were housed in two-bed cells. No one was sleeping on a mattress on the floor. In addition, 392 detainees had been transferred to other correctional facilities during the week. 15 detainees were in various hospitals.

An additional 2,359 defendants were on community supervision and intervention. 113 women were on Sheriff's Furlough, 113 were in residential treatment at the Old Cermak Hospital, and 15 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere.

Shooting Incident:

Director Kurtovich reported on the incident which occurred on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, in Div. 11: One inmate shot three other inmates, causing superficial wounds. Investigation is ongoing, but the current belief is that this shooting was part of a plot to sue the correctional facility. A woman visitor has been charged with bringing the gun into the facility.

Kurtovich stated that he has removed the Supervisor and Chief of Operations in Division 11, as well as three captains. He said the **"complacency" of the personnel contributed to their failure to detect the weapon.**

Board Member Marchman inquired **why three men were in the same cell** at the time of the shooting. Kurtovich replied that two of the men were on a work detail in that Division and the cells were opened for that purpose.

Board Member McGowan indicated that she had been informed **that inmates were tampering with the locks during the night and moving between cells.** Kurtovich acknowledged that some

modifications have had to be made to the locks due to that problem and talks were ongoing with the Folger/Adams Lock Co. re the problems.

Board Member Brookins inquired whether the weapon scanners had been working at the time of the incident. Kurtovich indicated that there have been **ongoing problems with malfunctioning scanners**, and that he is considering replacing the scanners.

Staffing:

Director Kurtovich stated that the **shooting incident highlights the need for additional staffing**. This remark prompted an exchange between Board members and Undersheriff Whittler, concerning whether the Board has been properly advised of the problems, so as to be able to support the Sheriff's budgetary requests to the County.

Undersheriff Whittler requested that the Board meet in executive session to establish their goals and objectives and determine what kind of information they want.

Ms. Whittler also gave Board members copies of the **MGT Corp. Staffing Analysis, which the County had commissioned. The Draft Report recommended an additional 668** new correctional officers at the jail.

Ms. Whittler reported that the **County Budget which passed on February 9th, provided for an incremental increase of 188 correctional officers** at the jail during 2006, as well as 47 other officers assigned to specific duties such as internal investigation, women's treatment facility or electronic monitoring. In addition there will be 15 new rehabilitation case workers.

Ms. Whittler requested that the Board study the MGT report, and make suggestions regarding implementation of the other recommendations contained in the report.

She stated that she also planned to present the Trotter Report on the Criminal Justice System, to the Board as well.

The Board went into Executive Session immediately following adjournment of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Sowa