

HIGHLIGHTS - COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETINGS HELD DURING JANUARY, 2007

MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2006: Meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m. PRESENT: Chair Iola McGowan, Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Members, Howard Brookins, Sr., and Esequiel Iracheta, Executive Director Salvador Godinez, Joseph Consolo, Board Legal Advisor, Vera Bonds, Assistant to County Commissioner Steele, and Frances Sowa, LWV Observer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Director's Report:

Inmate Count:

- The jail population ranged from 9,695 on January 8th, to 9,342 at 8 A.M. on January 12, 2006.
- Additionally, as of that date, 1,652 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit.
- 16 inmates were in the hospital.
- Also, 114 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program,
- 138 women were on furlough, and
- 15 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.
- 384 detainees (349 male and 35 female) had been shipped to IDOC during that week.

Unusual Occurrence:

Director Godinez reported that the inmate who had been accused of murdering his cellmate in an earlier incident, started a fire which caused two employees to undergo treatment for smoke inhalation.

Administrative Changes at the Jail:

Mr. Godinez reported that thirty administrative changes had occurred affecting personnel and organizational structure. He stated that his primary goal was to find and promote people "from the inside." He agreed to provide an up-dated organizational table to the Board.

Proposed County Budget Cuts: Mr. Brookins inquired whether the proposed 17% budget cuts would adversely affect the Criminal Justice System, causing the jail population to increase. Mr. Godinez stated that there had been

- 6,000 less admissions than the prior year, and that
- progress had been made in sending arrested parolees back to IDOC.
- He also indicated that he was looking into federal funding possibilities, grants, bonding fees and other sources of revenue to supplement the budgeted amount from Cook County.

Emergency Response Plan:

Ms. McGowan expressed concern that

- the jail was not included in Chicago's Emergency Response Plan. Mr. Iracheta added that
- there was no direct line of communication between the city and county. Director Godinez stated that he was
- working with the county to draft a comprehensive response plan for the jail. Such a plan would have to recognize the need for keeping inmates in custody during externally caused emergencies, as well as dealing with internal problems, such as viral outbreaks.

The Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2007

PRESENT: Chair I. McGowan, Board Members Howard Brookins, Sr., Esequiel Iracheta, Munir Muhammad, Assistant Director Scott Kurtevich, Joseph Capolo, Board Legal Advisor, Vera Bonds, Assistant to County Commissioner Steele, and LVW Observer F.Sowa

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Director's Report:**Inmate Count:**

- The jail population count for the previous five day period ranged from 9,705 on January 22, to 9,385 as of 8 a.m. on January 26th.
- As of that date, an additional 1,678 individuals were on community intervention and supervision, and 11 were hospitalized.
- 118 women were in the Women's Justice Service residential program,
- 129 women were on furlough and 12 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere.
- During that week, 372 (338 males and 34 females) had been shipped to IDOC.
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Unusual Occurrence:

- **Shooting** – An officer's grandson killed himself with a gun which the officer had left in her car. The police are apparently calling this an "unfortunate accident." The officer, who is on leave, has been referred to employee assistance.
- **Division Dispute** – All detainees in Wing 4 D of Div.10 were involved in the dispute. No weapons were involved. The incident ended without the use of force, as soon as the riot equipment and camera arrived at the scene. Two inmates were treated for blunt trauma to the head.

Budget Cuts – Mr. Kurtevich stated that President Stroger's Amendments to the budget called for limited cuts to the jail's drug program, but did not affect manpower. He refused to answer any specific questions re the budget, stating that the matter was still in

the amendment process. He noted that the jail population count traditionally rises as soon as the winter weather breaks.

Mr. Brookins noted that Director Godinez stated, at the last Board meeting that he was looking into a contingency plan to supplement the budget. Mr. Brookins requested that the Board be informed of what contingency plans, if any were being made by the Corrections Directors who do not report to Mr. Godinez. (This includes the Director of Women Justice Services and of the Department of Community Supervision and Intervention.)

Ms. McGowan noted that she was aware that letters had been sent to administrative personnel asking whether they were willing to take salary cuts.

Ms. McGowan also stated that Sheriff Dart had phoned her, following her complaint that he had not responded to her request for a meeting. Mr. Dart had apologized and stated that he would appear at a Board meeting as soon as the budget was resolved. He also asked for Board Minutes.

Trotter Report: Mr. Muhammad noted that the Report called attention to the problem of detainee length of stay and that funds remain uncollected from other governmental units which are financially responsible for some detainees. Mr. Kurtevich stated that the issue has been partially resolved by shipping accused parole violators back to IDOC custody while their cases were pending. He stated that any questions regarding amounts due from Social Security or Public Aid claims would have to be addressed by the County Board Finance Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Sowa
LWV Observer