

## **HIGHLIGHTS - COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETINGS HELD IN JULY, 2006 AT THE COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS FACILITY – DIV.5**

**MEETING OF JULY 14, 2006:** Meeting began at 12:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Iola McGowan, Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Member Howard Brookins Sr., Board Legal Advisor Joseph Consolo, Executive Director Godinez, Board Secretary Shirley Moore, and Frances Sowa, LWV Observer.

### **Directors' Report:**

Inmate Count: The jail population continued to be under 10,000 for the five-day period ending 8 A.M. July 14, 2006. Additionally, as of that date, 1,434 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit. Also, 103 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program, approximately 144 women were on furlough, and 17 Pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.

There were 200 Parole "holds" in the jail population. The alleged parole violators will be returned to State custody within ten days. Approximately 9700 parolees have gone back to the State under a Federal Court ruling designed to reduce jail overcrowding.

### **Unusual Occurrences**

Executive Director Godinez reported one critical incident, which is being investigated. An alleged stabbing resulted in scratch marks. A shank was recovered from the scene.

### **Inter-unit Communication:**

Mr. Brookins stated that, in the past, the Board had recommended that the Director of the jail facility receive written reports from the other directors e.g. DCSI, boot camp etc., to stay informed of any issues which might affect the jail. Director Godinez stated that he had been meeting with the other unit Directors for this purpose.

The Board adjourned at 1:07p.m, and went into Executive session.

## **BOARD MEETING OF July 28, 2006:**

PRESENT: Board Chair McGowan, Vice-Chair Muhammad, Member Brookins, Corrections Director Godinez, Associate Director Kurtevich, Under-sheriff Whittler, Board Counsel Consolo, Board Secretary Moore, and LWV Observer Sowa

### **Director's Report:**

Inmate Count: The jail population was under 9,800 during the five day period ending 8:00 a.m. on July 28th. On that date, there were an additional 1,388 individuals under community supervision and intervention. Fourteen inmates were in various hospitals. In addition, 109 women were housed in the women's justice services, 147 were on furlough And 15 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere.

**Unusual Incidents:**

Four incidents were reported: In Division 10, inmates suffered superficial wounds after a gang dispute; in Division 11, some detainees managed to breach security and gain access to a recreation area.

**Suicides:**

Two suicides occurred within days of each other. According to Mr. Kurtovich, an investigation of the first incident indicated that the officer had performed a security check just fifteen minutes before the suicide took place. Investigation was still ongoing in the second incident.

The Board expressed concerns about understaffing at the jail as a contributing factor. Ms. Whittler stated that the Sheriff's office was requesting that the County Board budget provide an additional 250 officers to be hired this year. (Actually, about 400 would be hired to compensate for staff attrition)

Ms. Whittler also stated that a Crisis Team was sent in to counsel personnel and inmates. Previous policy was reinforced, i.e., officers were instructed to pay attention to risk factors such as youth, first time offense, Caucasian race, drug dependence, etc., and to refer those who appeared troubled for evaluation.

**Shake-Up:**

Chair McGowan raised the recent incident involving a "mix-up" of inmates who were being transferred from one unit to another. Director Godinez replied that he was implementing new procedures to segregate the most serious offenders, and contain all services to those offenders within the segregated area. Godinez is also considering using different color uniforms to identify inmates by the level of security risk they pose.

**Sheriff's Budget Requests:**

In addition to asking for 250 additional officers, the sheriff was requesting budgetary allocation for (1) Video cameras throughout the jail, lockup and courts. (For security purposes and to prevent fruitless lawsuits); (2) A video visitation Center; (3) Expansion of the Receiving Area; (4) Technology to complete the Jail Management System

According to Ms. Whittler, the County's Capital Planning office will determine which project will be funded. The sheriff's office is also investigating grants as a funding source.

**Site-Visit at Moraine Valley Community College in lieu of next Board Meeting**

Ms. McGowan announced that the Board had determined in Executive Session to concentrate on policy issues. For this reason, the Board would meet at Moraine Valley Community College, to gain insight into new officer training procedures.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa

