

HIGHLIGHTS - COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETINGS HELD DURING AUGUST, 2006

AUGUST 11, 2006: SITE-VISIT AT MORRAINE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, SHERIFF'S TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Corrections Board was invited to observe a training class given to the officers who had graduated the day before. Dr. Dennis Deere, a certified law enforcement instructor, counselor and therapist lead the sessions.

The morning session, which began at 7 A.M., dealt with issues of Cultural Diversity, including how to identify and deal with racism, sexism, etc. The afternoon session covered Ethics and Responsibility. The class reviewed their Code of Ethics, policies and procedures, and other resources as applied to typical problems, from use of force issues to personal phone calls on the job,

Board Chair Iola McGowan observed the sessions, as did Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, and Board Secretary Shirley Moore. Executive Director Carmelita Wagner was also present. LWV Observer Frances Sowa observed the afternoon session.

MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2006: Meeting began at 12:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Members Howard Brookins Sr., and Gilbert Marchman, Executive Director Salvador Godinez, Board Secretary Shirley Moore, Vera Bond, Assistant to Commissioner Bobbie Steele, and Frances Sowa, LWV Observer.

Directors' Report:

Inmate Count: The jail population was below 9,700 for the five-day period ending 8 A.M. August 25, 2006. Additionally, as of that date, 1,589 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit. 18 inmates were in the hospital. Also, 112 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program, 188 women were on furlough, and 14 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.

On August 25th there were 202 Parole "holds" in the jail population. Inmates shipped to the Illinois Department of Corrections during that period totaled 390, of whom 26 were female.

Unusual Occurrences

Executive Director Godinez reported that two officers had been injured, in separate incidents, during that period. One of the officers was badly beaten by an inmate who complained of the officer's "strictness". The other officer sustained an injured arm when he was restrained by an inmate.

In a third incident, an inmate stabbed another inmate in the neck, severely injuring him.

The Director reported receiving a death threat from Division 11. Godinez indicated that receiving such threats were part of the job.

New Security levels have been implemented: An inmate who had received a sentence of 948 years has been transferred to Division 9, the new "Highest Risk" Unit. Division 1 is now considered Maximum Security, and Division 11 is Medium Security.

New “Shakedown” Protocol has also been implemented. This calls for more thorough, random search for contraband, of everyone including employees. The latest shakedown recovered one cell phone from a visitor.

Vice-Chair Muhammad questioned the Director regarding the issue of HIV and employee morale problems.

HIV: No testing is conducted, unless the inmate self-reports. Inmates are advised to “act as if the person next to you has it.” No rapes had been reported since the last meeting. Mr. Marchman requested that the doctor in charge appear before the Board and explain policy to them.

Employee Morale: Mr. Godinez stated that, he had been informed by the “rank and file” that they saw things changing for the better. The Director attributed this to his policies, such as visiting injured officers, making sure they receive the proper documentation for compensation, and attending roll call to explain the facts surrounding the injury to the other officers.

Board member Brookins stated that morale, which was low, is improving a little. He stated that the employees are still “judging” Godinez.

Member Gilbert Marchman announced that he would not be seeking re-appointment to the Board at the end of his term in September.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa