

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

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2006: Meeting began at 12:20 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Iola McGowan, Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Members Howard Brookins Sr., and Esequiel Iracheta, Assistant Director Scott Kurtovich, Board Secretary Shirley Moore, Joseph Consolo, Board legal advisor and Frances Sowa, LWV Observer.

Directors' Report:

Inmate Count: The jail population was below 10,000 for the five-day period ending 8 A.M. August 25, 2006. Additionally, as of that date, 1,654 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit. 22 inmates were in the hospital. Also, 117 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program, 168 women were on furlough, and 14 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere. 327 detainees (312 male and 15 female) had been shipped to IDOC during that week.

Unusual Occurrences

Two detainees had died after being hospitalized, one from a pre-existing septic infection, another from cardiac arrest.

A female visitor was arrested for attempting to bring marijuana into the jail.

A female officer was arrested for improperly securing her weapon in her home. (A 16 year old visitor took the gun and discharged it in the alley.)

HIV Policy:

Mr. Kurtovich reported that 2800 inmates per year test positive for HIV. Of these 1100 had been pre-diagnosed and their established care is continued. The others are identified either (1.) through voluntary submission to testing; or (2.) through legal process after they have either bitten or spit into the face of an officer. Continuity of care at the jail is coordinated with neighborhood clinics and IDOC through the Cermak Health Service.

Chair McGowan requested that a representative from Cermak present a report to the Board regarding the specifics of HIV treatment at the facility.

Board Mission Statement:

Mr. Consolo reported that after researching the issue, he had concluded that the Board's powers were basically advisory, i.e., to recommend policy for the Cook County Corrections Department. Ms. McGowan requested that Mr. Consolo draft a Mission Statement for the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2006 The meeting began at 12:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair I. McGowan, Members H. Brookins, Sr., E. Iracheta, Executive Corrections Director Godinez, Board Secretary S. Moore, V. Bonds, Assistant to Acting County Board Chair Bobbie Steele, and LVW Observer F. Sowa

Director's Report:

Inmate Count: The jail population count for the previous five day period ranged from 9,926 on September 18th to 9,516 as of 8 a.m. on September 22nd. Also, as of September 22nd, an additional 1,678 individuals were on community intervention and supervision, and 22 were hospitalized. 114 women were in the Women's Justice Service residential program, 154 women were furloughed and 11 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere.

During that week, 343 (317 males and 26 females) had been shipped to IDOC.

Use of Mace in Division 9: Director Godinez expressed satisfaction with the new arrangement whereby Division 9, which is now maximum security, is reserved for "the worst of the worst" e.g. escapees. Most of Division 9 inmates can, through good behavior, earn restoration of inmate privileges, and eventually return to the medium security division.

Godinez stated that Mace will be used in Division 9, in emergency situations, which would ordinarily require several officers to bring under control. Examples would be when an inmate continues cutting self despite being ordered to stop, or is setting a fire.

Godinez indicated that, because most detainees are now considered medium security, that section has become overcrowded, causing 300 detainees to sleep on floor mattresses.

Chair McGowan requested a written report detailing all changes which had been made to the jail.

Director Godinez also reported that he had issued a General order calling for unscheduled responsive action and evacuation drills. He admitted that there was no plan for mass evacuation of the jail, if that became necessary.

Chair MCGowan expressed dissatisfaction with the recent city-wide drill which did not include the County.

She also announced that Undersheriff Whittler is planning to bring a consultant before the Board to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Trotter Report re the jail.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa

