

HIGHLIGHTS

COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair McGowan, Vice-Chair Muhammad, Board Member Brookins, Executive Director Godinez, and LWV Observer Juskevics.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Director's Report:

Jail Count:

- The jail population ranged from 9706 on November 5th, to 9535 at 8 A.M. on November 9th, 2007. Jail capacity is 10,158. There were 10015 available beds.
- Divisions V and VI (Minimum/Medium Security) had a total of 2019 detainees, with 1926 available beds, and
- Division XI (Minimum/Medium Security) had 1594 detainees with 1,524 beds. A total of 70 detainees had to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors.
- **Community Supervision & Intervention:** An additional 1109 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit.
- **Other Departments:**
 - 17 inmates were in the hospital. Also,
 - 115 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program,
 - 163 women were on furlough, and
 - 15 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.
 - 173 male detainees had been shipped to IDOC during that week.
 - 185 detainees are residing in outside counties due to overcrowding. This is done on a contract basis with Kankakee and Will Counties at \$50-\$60/day per detainee.

Unusual Incidents:

Director Godinez reported there were no unusual occurrences, but that a chemical agent was used twice to subdue two separate detainees, one in the general population, and one in maximum security.

"Hot Bunking" is the term used for a new project in Division XI (Minimum/Medium Security) where detainees have been needing to sleep on mattresses on the floor. The day there will be divided into three 8 hour intervals with 2 groups of detainees being out of the cell while one group is in the cell, and has full access to a bed to sleep. There are resting areas in the day rooms for those 'out' of their cells. This gives everyone a bed to sleep in, even though the sleeping is done in shifts.

Only inmates who have been sentenced and are doing 'county time' are subject to this 'hot bunking' practice. There are 5-600 inmates a year serving their sentences out in the county jail.

Howard Brookins thanked Director Godinez for his service. Godinez had been one of the three recommended to the previous sheriff to serve as Director, and the one Sheriff Sheahan had appointed to the position.

New Business:

After Director Godinez left, Chair McGowan reported that legislation had passed in Springfield eliminating the Board as of the first of next year.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Notes taken by Millie Juskevica

**COOK COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING
HELD ON September 28, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair McGowan, Vice-Chair Muhammad, Board Members Brookins and Iracheta, Joseph Consolo (Corrections Dept.), Executive Director Godinez, and LWV Observer Millie Juskevics.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Director's Report:

Jail Count:

- The jail population ranged from 10,169 on September 24th to 9885 on September 28th, 2007. Jail capacity is 10,158. There were 9,943 available beds.
- Divisions V and VI (Medium Security) had a total of 2169 detainees, with 1980 available beds,
- Division XI (Maximum Security) had a total of 1,824 detainees, with 1,526 beds.

Community supervision and Intervention:

An additional 1146 arrestees were subject to community supervision and intervention (day reporting, electronic monitoring and pre-release) under the DCSI Unit.

Other Departments:

- 14 inmates were in the hospital
- 114 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential Program
- 151 women were on furlough, and
- 7 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.
- 331 detainees (300 male and 31 female) had been shipped to IDOC during that week.

High Population:

Director Godinez continues to be concerned by the relatively high numbers currently held in the jail. He answered questions about why this is happening by saying that in Cook County the average detainee spends 4 months in the jail; comparable facilities in other areas keep detainees only 45 to 60 days. He said this is largely a function of our courts working slower here in Cook County than in other areas, nationwide. (also see Observer Report from August 24, 2007.)

Unusual Incidents:

Four incidents, all in Division IX, all gang related, all involving weapons (pens dispensed by the school – short, stubby pens are now being used in the school). No serious injuries.

In Division IX, the biggest problems are concentrated; gangs are not separated, and gang activity is expected in that division.

Responding to a question from the board, Mr. Godinez said that High School students in the jail are put on tracks with their own high schools. They can earn an A.B.E. or G.E.D. while in the jail.

The cleaning training program (training detainees to work at cleaning jobs) is working well. It hopefully will give skills useful to detainees after release. The jail will be expanding it.

Job Fair: November 15 the jail will hold a job fair, starting with the women's division. The plan will be to expand it to other divisions, too. This is something that has been done in other states, and gives the detainees who will be released without conviction an idea of what jobs will be available to them. The jail is partnering with people who work or contract in the jail at first, firms like Aramark (food service) and Orkin (pest control).

Following the Director's Report, there was no old business or new business conducted.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Notes taken by Millie Juskevica