

HIGHLIGHTS
COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 14, 2007

Meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair McGowan, Vice-Chair Muhammad, Board Secretary Moore, Assistant Executive Director Kurtavich, Ms. Bonds, Assistant to County Commissioner Steele, and LWV Observer Sowa.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Director's Report:

Jail Count:

- The jail population ranged from 9,380 on December 10th, to 9,053 at 8 A.M. on December 14th, 2007. Jail capacity is 10,070. There were 9,778 available beds.
- Division XI (Minimum/Medium Security) had 1,495 detainees with 1,434 beds. 61 detainees had to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors.

• **Community Supervision & Intervention:** An additional 1087 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit.

• **Other Departments:**

- 11 inmates were in the hospital. Also,
- 119 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program,
- 157 women were on furlough, and
- 8 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.
- 348 male detainees and 28 Female detainees had been shipped to IDOC during that week.
- About 350 detainees were residing in outside counties due to overcrowding.

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Unusual Incidents

Assistant Director Kurtavich stated that he had testified in an action resulting from a detainee's death due to a "fast acting" meningitis in 2004. Kurtavich said that the detainee had received a chest x-ray, which was clear, and had no fever upon intake six days before his death. The inmate also had a phone conversation with his family and a friend the night before he expired. In addition, an Assistant State's Attorney and a criminal court judge had testified that the deceased represented himself coherently, the day before he died. Kurtavich further reported that the deceased's cellmates contradicted each other over whether he had said that he was feeling bad.

Kurtavich further stated that jail policy is to act on any complaint of illness, even if the detainee is "faking symptoms." The deceased's family was suing for \$13 million; they had turned down a settlement of \$4.5 million.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

NOTE: THIS WAS THE LAST MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTONS

(A meeting scheduled for December 28, 2007 was cancelled, due to lack of attendance.)

The Board ceased to exist on January 1, 2008, pursuant to legislation passed at the behest of Cook County Sheriff Dart. (P.A. 95-448).

