

HIGHLIGHTS
COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETINGS HELD
DURING APRIL, 2007

MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2007: Meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Iola McGowan, Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Member Esequiel Iracheta, Assistant Executive Director Scott Kurtevich, Board Legal Advisor Joseph Copolo, Board Secretary Shirley Moore, Vera Bonds, Assistant to County Commissioner Robert Steele, and Frances Sowa, LWV Observer.
Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Discussion of Board goals, and need for more specific information

The Board members agreed that they would carry on with Board goals (e.g. development of an informational brochure re the Board), which had been held up because of budget negotiations and lack of dialogue with sheriff Dart. They also agreed that they needed more specific information regarding the changes which were being made as a result of the new budget. This was deemed crucial to the Board's function as advisor to the sheriff. Ms. McGowan asked Director Kurtevich to convey to Director Godinez the Board's request for the updated table of administrative organization at the jail facility.

Director's Report:

Jail Count: The jail population ranged from 9,583 on April 9th, to 9,320 at 8 A.M. on April 13th, 2007.

- Jail capacity was 10,158. There were 9,832 available beds.
- Divisions V and VI (Medium Security) had a total of 2,165 detainees, with 1,808 available beds, requiring 357 detainees to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors.

Community Supervision & Intervention: An additional 1,456 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit.

Other Departments:

- 19 inmates were in the hospital. Also,
- 118 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program, 143 women were on furlough, and 10 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.
- 359 detainees (306 male and 23 female) had been shipped to IDOC during that week.

Unusual Occurrences:

- There was one death from natural causes: An inmate came in sick, was transferred to the jail's Residential Treatment Unit, and then to Mt.Sinai Hospital, where he expired.
- Another new detainee was diagnosed with meningitis of a low to medium severity strain. The Center for Disease Control conducted prophylactic treatment of a cellmate and all who came in contact with that individual.
- Four civilians were arrested at the jail for possession of marijuana and taken out to Maywood for processing.

Director Kurtevich explained that every new detainee is screened by paramedics for TB, high blood pressure and temperature check, as well as a psychological screening. If follow-up is indicated, they are referred to a physician or physician's assistant.

Capital Improvements:

- **Jail Reception Center and Residential Treatment Unit:** Mr. Kurtevich stated that \$40 million dollars had been approved for a new jail reception center and residential treatment unit and the project has been submitted to an engineering firm for plans. The present reception center dates from an era when jail population was half of its present number. A new reception center had been requested by the Sheriff, each year for the last eight years. Mr. Muhammad described the current reception center as "primitive."
- In addition, Mr. Kurtevich indicated that two capital projects for perimeter security had been approved for **cameras** which monitor outside the jail walls, and would be able to read license plates.

Mr. Kurtevich was unable to state whether there had been any developments in improving interaction with other county agencies over issues of Homeland Security.

The Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa

MEETING OF APRIL 27, 2007: Meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair I. McGowan, Vice-Chair Munir Muhammad, Board Members Howard Brookins, Sr. and Esequiel Iracheta, Director Salvador Godinez, Board Secretary Shirley Moore, Board Legal Advisor Joseph Copolo, County Commissioner Robert Steele, Vera Bonds, Comm. Steele's Assistant, and LVW Observer F.Sowa
The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Director's Report:

Jail Count: The jail population count for the previous five day period ranged from 9,665 on April 23rd, to 9,452 as of 8 a.m. on April 27th.

- Jail capacity was 10,158 and there were 9,816 beds available.
- Divisions V and VI (medium security) had 2,210 detainees and 1,780 beds, requiring 430 to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors.
- (Director Godinez explained that he had decided that it was safer to keep medium security detainees in three-person cells with a mattress, than maximum security detainees. Therefore, the large Division XI had been changed from medium security to maximum security to insure that the most seriously charged individuals were in two-person cells.)

Community Supervision and Intervention: 1,330 individuals were on community intervention and supervision.

Other Departments:

- 16 detainees were hospitalized.
- 118 women were in the Women's Justice Service residential program, 146 women were on furlough and 9 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere. During that week,
- 412 (371 males and 41 females) had been shipped to IDOC.

Unusual Occurrences:

- A detainee in Division 5 had been maced when he refused to stop fighting.
- A detainee in Division 9, Level 3 struck an officer. According to Director Godinez, Levels 3 and 4 are the most restrictive, housing the “worst of the worst.” This individual had been moved from Level 4 to Level 3 where he would be allowed to watch TV, due to good behavior. He apparently acted out in order to rejoin his friends in Level 4. As punishment, Godinez is keeping this individual in Level 3, but under Level 4 restrictions.
- A detainee in Maximum security was stabbed in the back, but the perpetrator was determined within a few minutes, due to the fact that only one-half of a cell block is allowed on the deck at the same time.

New Program: Director Godinez stated that Rev. Meeks would begin offering one hour programs, which were not faith-based, to each division. The first program would be offered on Mother’s day to the Women’s Division, IV, and deal with parenting and family reunification.

Mr. Godinez also stated that he had been accepted to the Board of “Black on Black Love”, a program which was already offered at the jail.

The Director also gave the Board the up-dated Table of Organization outlining the chain of command at the jail.

Remarks by Commissioner Steele:

County Commissioner Steele voiced dissatisfaction with

- the fact that currently, there were no African American Directors in the jail facility.
- He also indicated that he is looking into a supplemental health care program for jail employees.
- Steele also stated that he had been trying, unsuccessfully to have the sheriff meet with the Board.

Commissioner Steele introduced two volunteers from his office who will offer services at the jail.

- Therese Washington will offer a class on Self-Esteem and Etiquette, and
- Melvin Bailey a contractor, will offer employment opportunities to former inmates.

Reaction to Sheriff’s objective to eliminate the Board:

The members agreed that they would resist any legislative effort by Sheriff Dart to eliminate the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa