

HIGHLIGHTS
COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETINGS HELD
DURING JUNE, 2007

MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2007: Meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.
PRESENT: Chair McGowan, Vice-Chair Muhammad, Board Member Iracheta, Assistant Director Kurtavich, Board Legal Advisor Consolo, Board Secretary Moore, Cook County Commissioner Steele, Ms. Bonds, Assistant to Commissioner Steele, and LWV Observer Sowa.

Director's Report:

Jail Count:

- The jail population ranged from 9,606 on June 4th, to 9,339 at 8 A.M. on June 8th, 2007. Jail capacity is 10,158. There were 9,738 available beds.
- Divisions V and VI (Medium Security) had a total of 2,085 detainees, with 1,818 available beds, requiring 267 detainees to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors.

Community Supervision & Intervention: An additional 1,246 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. Also,
- 118 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program, 142 women were on furlough, and 9 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.
- 360 detainees (317 male and 43 female) had been shipped to IDOC during that week.

Unusual Occurrences:

- On June 3rd, two female visitors began fighting in the visiting cage, were arrested and taken to Maywood for processing.
- On June 4th, a detainee in the Div. 11 attempted suicide using a sheet tied to his upper bunk. The officer who was making a regular 15 minute check, cut the inmate down. The inmate is currently undergoing psychiatric care.

Gang Free Project

Mr. Kurtavich reported that the Gang Free pilot project in Division 5 has encouraged detainees to turn in contraband. There are plans to expand the project to the entire building.

Commissioner Steele's Comments: Commissioner Robert Steele reported on two issues which were discussed when he met with Sheriff Dart.

- **Sheriff Dart's plan to expand Corrections Board:** Steele reported that the Sheriff would like to see the Corrections Board expanded to twelve members, to become in his opinion, more effective.
- **Increasing African American and Hispanic leadership positions among jail employees:** Steele reported that the Sheriff stated that he intended to appoint some

minority individuals to core leadership positions at the jail, to better reflect the racial makeup of the detainees.

Commissioner Steele also observed that he had seen positive results from the Community Supervision and Intervention (DCSI) program and jail training programs which are cutting down on recidivism.

The committee adjourned at 12:40 p.m. and went into executive session.

MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2007: Meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair McGowan, Vice-Chair Muhammad, Board Members Brookins and Iracheta, Director Godinez, Board Legal Advisor Consolo, Ms. Bonds, Commissioner 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 9,537 on June 18th, to 9,293 as of 8 a.m. on June 22nd. Jail capacity was 10,158 and there were 9,719 beds available.
- Divisions V and VI (medium security) had 2,165 detainees and 1,812 beds, requiring 353 to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors. (Director Godinez stated, when questioned on the last item, that he was making a strong effort to get everyone off the floor.)

Community Supervision and Intervention: 1,260 individuals were on community intervention and supervision.

Other Departments:

- 23 detainees were hospitalized.
- 116 women were in the Women's Justice Service residential program, 137 women were on furlough and 10 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere.
- During that week, 336 (308 males and 28 females) had been shipped to IDOC.

Unusual Occurrences:

- An inmate in Div. 9 had a homemade weapon, with which he tried to stab another inmate. Instead, the intended victim broke the assailant's jaw.
- A **CRIPA** Inspection (Civil Rights of Incarcerated Persons Act) of the jail, of which Director Godinez received prior notice, had taken place during the five days ending June 22nd. The inspectors looked into every section, operational, food, medical, hygiene, etc. They also talked to the detainees.

Director Godinez stated that to his recollection, this was the first such inspection in fifteen years. It could have resulted from a complaint, or due to the Consent Decree which is still in effect in Federal Court.

Employee complaints about racial makeup of higher echelon employees:

- Mr. Brookins stated that he was receiving complaints from jail employees that African Americans were not being promoted to the positions of greater authority at the jail.

- Mr. Godinez replied that when he became Executive Director, he replaced a black Assistant Executive Director, who was an attorney, but lacked the necessary experience in the field of security. He stated that he had attempted to fill that position with a qualified black person, and finding no one within this jail system, offered the job to a qualified African American from out of State. That person declined the offer, and Godinez filled the spot with a Hispanic American.
- Godinez invited the Board members to name individuals whom he should consider should other openings occur.

The Board adjourned this meeting and went into Executive Session at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa