

HIGHLIGHTS
COOK COUNTY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETINGS HELD
DURING JULY, 2007

MEETING OF JULY 13, 2007: Meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.
PRESENT: Chair McGowan, Board Member Brookins, Executive Director Godinez,
Board Legal Advisor Consolo, Board Secretary Moore, and LWV Observer Sowa.

Director's Report:

Jail Count:

- The jail population ranged from 9,647 on July 9th, to 9,448 at 8 A.M. on July 13th, 2007. Jail capacity is 10,158. There were 9,773 available beds.
- Divisions V and VI (Medium Security) had a total of 2,189 detainees, with 1,818 available beds, requiring 371 detainees to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors.

Community Supervision & Intervention:

- An additional 1,237 arrestees were subject to community supervision and Intervention (Day reporting, Electronic Monitoring and Pre-release) under the DCSI Unit.

Other Departments:

- 25 inmates were in the hospital. Also,
- 117 women were in the Women's Justice Service Residential program, 140 women were on furlough, and 8 pregnant inmates were housed elsewhere.
- 310 detainees (292 male and 18 female) had been shipped to IDOC during that week.

Major Gang Incident: A reputed gang leader was assaulted by a rival gang and three individuals were hurt. The Director ordered a "lockdown" of Maximum Security (Divisions 1,9 and 10) and transferred two of the detainees to other facilities. Three days later, after a retaliatory strike occurred, Mr. Godinez sent the ten "main players" to jails outside of Cook County. As of July 13th, Division ten was still under "lockdown".

In a minor incident, a detainee in the mental health division attacked a guard and had to be subdued. According to Director Godinez, this was not an uncommon incident.

Director Godinez' Limited Jurisdiction: Once again, Mr. Brookins raised the issue that Director Godinez does not have jurisdiction over, and does not receive reports concerning matters which are administrated by other Departments, even though they affect jail operations e.g. the STD testing conducted at intake. Mr. Godinez also noted that he is not able to obtain even minor repairs (e.g. "fix the lights") without going through a formal request procedure. He does however, have some access to the Inmate Welfare Fund, which has enabled him to initiate training programs without waiting for the administrative process to fund these programs.

Mr. Godinez was unaware whether the Jail had been included in the recent meeting on Homeland Security. He indicated that he would ask the Sheriff about this. Mr. Godinez did say that he was satisfied with the security plan which had been implemented to facilitate the movement of inmates to the assembly area during the ten week inspirational series offered by Reverend Meeks.

The committee adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

MEETING OF JULY 27, 2007 : Meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m.
PRESENT: Chair McGowan, Vice-Chair Muhammad, Board Secretary Moore, Assistant Executive Director Alberto Romero, Jr., and LVW Observer Sowa
The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Director's Report:

Jail Count:

- The jail population for the previous five day period ranged from 9,803 on July 23rd, to 9,505 as of 8 a.m. on July 27th . Jail capacity is 10, 158 and there were 9,889 beds available.
- Divisions V and VI (medium security) had 2,094 detainees and 1,806 beds, requiring 288 detainees to sleep on mattresses on the cell floors.

Community Supervision and Intervention: 1,217 individuals were on community intervention and supervision.

Other Departments:

- 19 detainees were hospitalized.
- 118 women were in the Women's Justice Service residential program, 141 women were on furlough and 8 pregnant detainees were housed elsewhere.
- During that week, 372 (342 males and 30 females) had been shipped to IDOC.

Unusual Occurrences:

A newly arrived detainee was transferred to Stroger Hospital on July 4, where he passed away on July 21st. Cause of death: pneumonia.

Department of Justice inspection was conducted during the week of July 23rd, including the facilities and records of the jail and Cermak Hospital.

In answer to the Board's questions, Mr. Romero stated that the arrestees from the current prostitution "stings" were brought to the jail. Romero said that he did not know whether incoming detainees were no longer tested for STD, due to lack of funding, but he would find out.

Discussion on Board purpose and Questionable future: Mr. Romero inquired about the Board's function. He was informed that the Board's purpose was to advise the Sheriff. However, the Board is in a "tenuous" situation because it is unclear whether Sheriff Dart wants to see the Board eliminated.

Chair Iola McGowan's Vision for the Board: Ms. McGowan stated that the Board should be the body to which both jail inmates and the general public could address their complaints. She has requested that each Board member compose a statement giving reasons why the Board should continue.

Ms. McGowan also voiced disappointment in the fact that a quorum of Board members has not been present during the two July meetings.

The Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Frances Sowa