

**MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2000  
9 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Chair  
Kathy Campbell  
Larry Hudkins  
Linda Steinman  
Bob Workman

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director  
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Don Killeen, County Property Manager  
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

Heier opened the Board of Corrections meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 1999 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Campbell seconded approval of the minutes. Hudkins, Campbell, Steinman, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

**2 POPULATION STATISTICS**

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported a 3.6% increase in average daily population from the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 1999 through the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2000 and an upward trend in annual population for the period of Fiscal Year 1991 through Fiscal Year 2000. He also reported an 8.5 % increase in bookings during the 1st Quarter, 2000, noting many of these individuals are being lodged.

### **3 LANCASTER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY (LCF) HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING PROJECT**

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, appeared and reported on plans to utilize a ground-coupled air conditioning system for the Airpark Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF). He said the unused adjoining property is the most logical place to locate the system, but the lease proposed by the Lincoln Airport Authority is unreasonable. Killeen said financing of the system could be arranged through the District Energy Corporation's lease program. He added that the system could serve as a prototype for the Lincoln Airport Authority to promote its other facilities.

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Campbell seconded to authorize Commissioner Heier and Commissioner Hudkins to participate in negotiations with the Lincoln Airport Authority for location of a ground-coupled air conditioning system for the Airpark Lancaster Correctional Facility. Hudkins, Steinman, Workman, Campbell and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

### **4 OTHER ITEMS**

#### **Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE) Project**

Thurber said the Victim Information & Notification Everyday (VINE) Project, which provides offender incarceration information to callers and allows individuals to register to be notified when status changes, became operational on March 9, 2000.

#### **Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Submission**

Thurber indicated that a current level of service expense budget totaling \$7.24 million was submitted for Fiscal Year 2001. He said a request for an additional ten full-time equivalent (FTE) positions was also submitted in response to the increased populations.

#### **Legislative Update**

Thurber said the County has received an additional \$350,000 in revenue for the first 10 months that LB 695, which provides reimbursement to counties for holding state prisoners, has been in effect. He projected that the legislation will generate revenue in the amount of \$600,000 for Fiscal Year 2001.

#### **Health Department Inspections**

Thurber said both facilities passed sanitation inspections by the Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department.

## **Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF) Construction Program Activities**

Thurber said construction projects include renovation work on elevators in the skywalk area of the Justice and Law Enforcement Center, relocation of government offices from the Old Federal Building, transportation of surplus furniture and Phase I construction at Cornhusker Place/Detox Center.

### **Offender Transport**

Thurber reported that 2,386 offenders were transported to the various courts and 108 offenders were taken to other locations by Corrections staff during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2000.

### **Outside Contracts**

Thurber reported difficulties with the Request for Proposals (RFP) for pharmaceuticals. He said exclusion of correctional facilities from eligibility to return unused medications and use of an emergency medication stock forced rejection of several out-of-state vendors that had offered cost-effective programs.

## **5 NEW BUSINESS**

### **County Court Judges Correspondence**

Thurber reviewed Lancaster County Corrections Fine/Fee Population Statistics, stating approximately 10% of the daily population is comprised of individuals sitting out fines at the rate of \$60 per day. He said he has discussed how this practice has contributed to overcrowding at the Adult Intake and Detention Facility and the Lancaster Correctional Facility in Airpark with County Court Judge Gale Pokorny. Thurber added that the number of individuals arrested on failure to comply warrants may increase if the sitting out fines practice is discontinued.

Thurber presented a draft of a letter to Judge Pokorny recommending implementation of the following:

- Set personal recognizance bonds during the probable cause affidavit meetings held on weekends and holidays, with a review of the booking report to identify those individuals whose criminal histories indicate minimal risk to the community.
- Require individuals that are having their sentences deferred to report to the jail on the days and times specified by the Corrections Department to better distribute the population and workload throughout the week.
- Eliminate the practice of allowing individuals to satisfy fines by serving time in the jail.

Campbell suggested that Heier also sign the letter as Chair of the Board of Corrections.

Steinman proposed that this issue be scheduled for discussion at a City/County Common meeting.

### **Physician Services**

Thurber reported that the Lincoln Medical Education Foundation has indicated that it would like to cease its contract to provide physician services for the Corrections Department. He asked for assistance in persuading the Lincoln Medical Education Foundation to reconsider.

### **Population Study Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Thurber submitted a draft of the *Request for Proposals, Lancaster County Corrections Department, Correctional Needs Assessment and Master Plan* for the Board's review.

### **Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM)**

Thurber said the Corrections Department would like to become a Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) site for the National Institute of Justice. He noted that the ADAM project based in Omaha has completed a needs assessment for the Lancaster County Drug Court.

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, appeared and said a number of individuals that would have been incarcerated for Class IV felonies will now be out receiving treatment as a result of the Drug Court.

## **6 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting. Workman, Hudkins, Campbell, Steinman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf  
Lancaster County Clerk