

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2007
9:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Ray Stevens Deb Schorr

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
John Glynn, Deputy County Attorney
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2007

MOTION: Stevens moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Board of Corrections Meeting minutes dated January 18, 2007. Stevens, Workman, Heier, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

A. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported a 3.2% increase in average daily populations, compared to the same time frame in 2005. Total lodging has increased slightly over the same time span, averaging 585 per month (refers to the number of individuals who must spend at least one night in jail before being considered for release).

In response to a question from Workman, Thurber said a court magistrate system might reduce that number.

Hudkins said he believes the Board should consider instituting a booking fee.

Thurber also reported that Lancaster County continues to house inmates in Platte County, due to overcrowding. The number averaged 35 between January-March, 2007 and has increased to 40 with the addition of 5 females.

B. Population Graphs

See agenda packet.

C. Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

3 DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Training

Thurber gave an overview of training activities. He also reported that the Training Division conducted 187 interviews with Correctional Officer candidates, as well as interviews for Nurse and Clerk Typist positions.

B. Mental Health Jail Diversion Project

Thurber said the Mental Health Jail Diversion Project has 32 active participants. He noted that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant has expired and said the project will be accessing funds from a two-year grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA's) Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) Grant Program.

C. Platte County Housing

Thurber said 20 round trip transports were conducted this quarter, moving 162 inmates between the two facilities.

D. In-House/Road Crew Projects

Thurber said the inmate work crew has been working on demolition of the Courthouse Plaza Building. The project is projected to be completed by mid April. He said scrap metal was salvaged, netting \$3,900 in revenue for the department.

The work crew also assisted with Health Department and Human Services moves this quarter.

E. Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF) Activities

Thurber said LCF is applying for another mini-grant in the amount of \$4,000 through the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department for county road litter pick up.

F. Programs Division

Thurber reported an average of 39 evaluations per month with the consulting psychiatrist for the quarter. An average of 4 inmates per month were placed into Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) and transferred with a jail hold to the Crisis Center or Lincoln Regional Center.

Thurber said the Programs Division brought in a volunteer to provide tax preparation assistance to inmates that requested help in filing tax returns (14 inmates used the service).

Thurber said the demand for professional contact visits has increased (an average of 25 professional contact visits per month were scheduled for inmates this quarter).

Stevens asked about the flight risk experience for individuals on work release.

Thurber said 7 to 8 individuals do not return from work release any given year. He added that there are 30 to 50 individuals on work release each day.

Stevens asked whether they would be candidates for some other type of program that did not require them to be lodged at LCF.

Thurber said home detention is one possibility, but would require court approval.

G. Jail Expansion and Additional Housing

Thurber said efforts are ongoing to find an acceptable site for a new facility. He also stated that plans for additional out-of-county board contracts are being reviewed.

4 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m. Hudkins, Heier, Schorr, Workman and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk