

Lancaster County Board of Corrections

January 21, 2016

LANCASTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Lancaster County Board of Corrections
January 21, 2016

Agenda

Thursday, January 21, 2016

9:15 a.m.

- I. Approval of the November 5, 2015 meeting's minutes
 - a. November 5, 2015 minutes

- II. Population Statistics
 - a. Average Daily Population
 - b. Booking and Lodging Totals
 - c. Pre-Trial and Sentence Conversion Totals

- III. Programming

- IV. Transportation

- V. Work Crews

- VI. Training

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113 - BILL LUXFORD STUDIO
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015
8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Deb Schorr, Chair
Todd Wiltgen, Vice Chair
Roma Amundson
Bill Avery

Board Members Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Brad Johnson, Jail Administrator, Corrections
Department
Sergeant Brent Wrinkle, Corrections Department
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2015 MEETING

MOTION: Wiltgen moved and Amundson seconded approval of the minutes of the July 16, 2015 meeting. Wiltgen, Avery, Amundson and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried 4-0.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, discussed population statistics, referencing the following graphs (see agenda packet):

- Average Daily Population Comparison

Thurber said the average daily population for this quarter in 2015 was 564, compared to 603 for the same period in 2014. He said that is a 81% increase when compared to 2000. The facility is currently at 84% of functional capacity.

- Booking and Lodging Totals

Thurber said average bookings were down 10% and average lodgings were down 7% this quarter, compared to the same time period last year. He noted 2,387 individuals were booked in this quarter and 1,776 were lodged.

- Pre-Trial/Sentence Conversion Release

Thurber said 10 individuals were on behavioral health/jail diversion, 23 on pre-trial release and 13 on sentence conversion this quarter.

3 PROGRAMMING

Thurber said the Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility (LCADF) averaged 491 religious meetings, 123 substance abuse educational classes and 12-Step Program meetings, and 132 educational classes this quarter. He said a Veterans Administration (VA) representative assisted with VA outreach in the facility and CenterPointe Inc. assisted with dual diagnosis homeless outreach. Southeast Community College (SCC) assisted with Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) classes. Thurber said three individuals passed their General Educational Development (GED) tests this quarter, noting the County pays for those tests.

4 TRANSPORTATION

Thurber reported on transports for court appearances (video and physical), off-site medical appointments and mental health referrals and transfers to other correctional facilities during this period.

Wiltgen noted the number of mental health referrals and asked whether mental health issues were a contributing factor to those individuals being incarcerated or whether the issues occurred after they were incarcerated. Thurber said inmates that are being transferred to the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC) are being tested for competency related to their case or have deteriorated to the point they are committed to LRC. He said those deemed to need emergency protective custody (EPC) are moved to the Crisis Center and returned to the facility after the crisis is resolved. Wiltgen said he doesn't want law enforcement taking EPC's to LCADF instead of the Crisis Center.

5 WORK CREWS

Thurber said work crew activities this period included assisting at the Lancaster Event Center with routine cleaning and maintenance and assisting County Engineering staff with picking up litter along county roads.

6 TRAINING

Thurber reported on orientation and in-service training for new staff, including correctional officers.

7 605 BUILDING

Thurber said the Transport Division began operating out of the 605 Building in September, 2015.

8 WORK RELEASE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Thurber said 137 inmates sentenced through County Court and 98 inmates sentenced through District Court participated in the Work Release Program this quarter. The industries in which they worked include construction, food service, retail, convenience store/gas station, hotels, cleaning, mechanics, cosmetology, clerical, factory, and information technology (IT) support. He said inmates in the program are paid \$7 per day and many have their checks garnished for child support. The average age of participants was 33, with the oldest inmate 73 and the youngest 20.

Thurber said four inmates were on school release this quarter. Two attended SCC, one attended both SCC and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and one attended Metropolitan Community College. Three of the four also had outside employment. In addition, three inmates had supervised visits in the community through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and 22 inmates participated in treatment/counseling release (12 males and 10 females).

Wiltgen asked whether these inmates provide their own transportation. Thurber said some do. Others have someone provide transportation or they ride a bus.

Amundson asked whether the inmates are allowed to use any tools in their jobs. Thurber said yes, adding they are supervised by their employers.

Avery asked whether the inmates are required to wear identifying clothing. Thurber said no, they may wear civilian clothing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wiltgen noted the Board received an email from a constituent regarding frustrations in trying to use the kiosk at LCADF to post bail for an individual (Exhibit A). Thurber said he will contact the individual, adding there may have been a misunderstanding in how to operate the kiosk. He described the equipment as very user friendly.

9 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Amundson moved and Wiltgen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 a.m. Amundson, Wiltgen, Avery and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried 4-0.

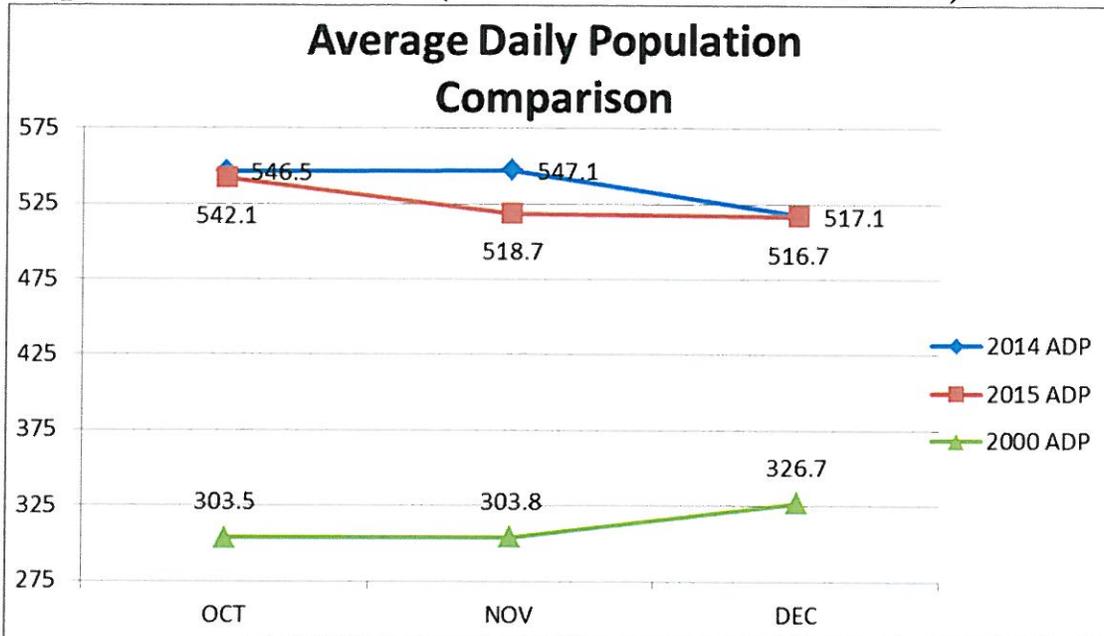
Dan Nolte

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk



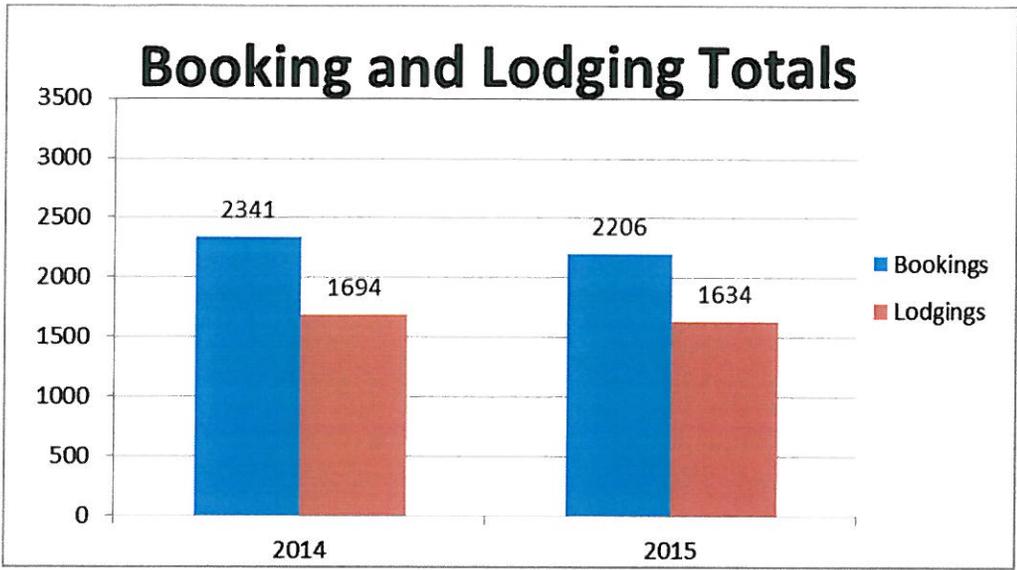
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Population Statistics (October-December, 2015)

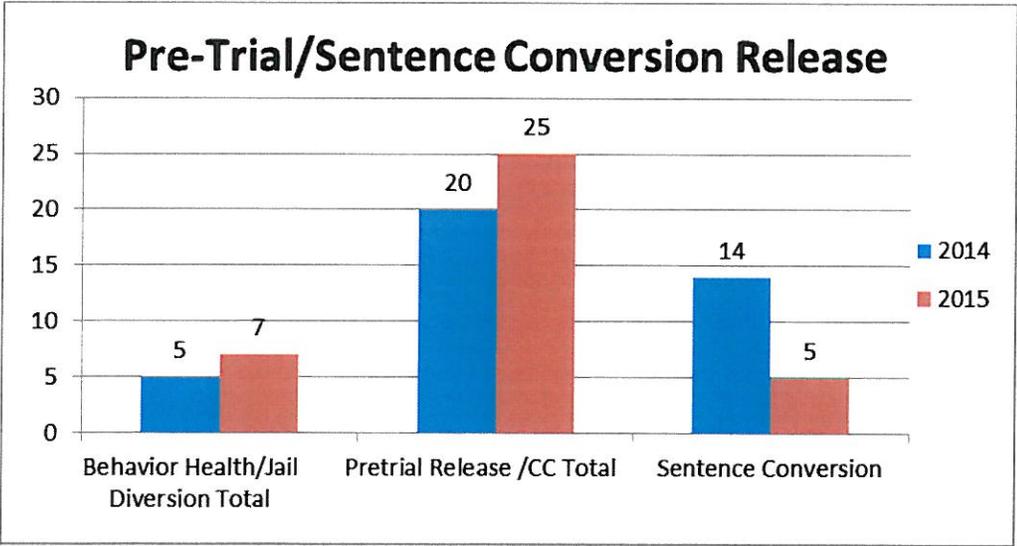


- The average daily population (ADP) for this period of 2015 was 525.8 detainees compared to 536.9 for the same period in 2014.
- This is a 58.7% increase when compared to 2000.
- This period ADP consumed 79.1% of the department's operational capacity.
- Other population averages during this past quarter:
 - Felony Arrests-202.3
 - Misdemeanor Arrests-429
 - Felons Sentenced-9.7
 - Misdemeanors Sentenced-50
 - Held for other Jurisdictions-44.3
 - Percent Conditionally Released-25.5%

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- Average bookings were down 5.8% compared to same time period last year.
- Average lodgings were down 3.5% compared to same time period last year.



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➤ **Programming (October-December, 2015)**

- Religious (519 Meetings)
 - Bible Study- 175
 - Church Service- 199
 - Discipleship Mentoring- 105
 - 1:1 Religious Counseling -40
- Substance Abuse Education & 12 Step Programs (109 Meetings)
 - The Bridge Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Education for Men- 15
 - St. Monica's Substance Abuse Education for Women- 10
 - AA Meetings- 62
 - NA Meetings- 22
- Educational Programs (139 classes)
 - GED Classes- 55
 - Lincoln Literacy- 11
 - Food Prep Skills- 17
 - Christian Heritage Parenting- 22
 - Christian Heritage Within My Reach (Domestic Relationships Ed)- 22
 - Released & Restored Job/Life Skills- 12
- Transition Planning (60 inmate contacts this quarter)
 - V.A. Outreach- 51
 - Center Pointe Dual Diagnosis Homeless Outreach- 9

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- Work/Court Ordered Release Averages per Month
 - October
 - 12 - County Court
 - 22 - District Court
 - November
 - 12 - County Court
 - 18 - District Court
 - December
 - 10 - County Court
 - 21 - District Court
- Other
 - Turning Pages Book Club for Women -4 classes
 - TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education)-9 classes
 - GED Practice/Subject Tests- 59
 - Food Handler Permit Testing- 13

Transportation (October-December, 2015)

- Court Appearances
 - County Court
 - 1732 Video Appearances
 - 507 Physical Appearances

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- District Court
 - 117 Video Appearances
 - 526 Physical Appearances
- Off-Site Transports
 - State Department of Corrections
 - 68 to Diagnostic and Evaluation
 - 15 to Nebraska Center for Women (York)
 - Medical
 - 29 to Hospital
 - 34 to Clinical Appointments
 - Mental Health
 - 21 to Lincoln Regional Center
 - 9 to Crisis Center

Work Crews (October-December, 2015)

- Lancaster County Event Center
 - A crew of six inmates worked three days cleaning and setting up horse stalls. (October)
 - Crews of 6-8 inmates worked for 10 days cleaning horse stalls, setting up for events, and assisting each day of the Power and Farm Show. (December)

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➤ County Engineer Crew-

- A crew of 3 inmates assisted with various projects for 21 days. (October)
- A crew of 3 inmates worked 3 days with various projects. (November)

➤ ADF/Other

- Inmate work crews worked on ADF grounds, completing landscaping duties for 7 days. (October)
- Inmates worked ADF grounds maintenance, completing landscaping and snow/ice removal duties. (November)
- Inmate crews continued ADF grounds maintenance for 6 days, along with snow & ice removal. (December)

Training (October-December, 2015)

➤ Orientation

- 8 Correctional Officers (80 hours)
- 1 Kitchen staff (24 hours)
- 9 officers and 2 Sargeants attended our training academy (80 hours)
- 5 Medical staff (32 hours)

➤ In-Service Training

- 169 Staff attended use of force class (8 hours)
- 49 Staff members attended non-security use of force class (3 hours)
- 7 Officers attended electronic restraint devices/emergency procedures class (8 hours)
- 3 Officers attended Suicide Awareness & Searches class

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➤ Other Training

- 4 Staff members were certified for GAGE instructors (24 hours)
- 6 Correctional Officers attended Objective Jail Classification class (16 hours)
- 264 Staff members attended a diversity class (3 hours)
- 10 Correctional Officers completed OJT Program (80 hours)
- 2 Staff attended Continuum training (2 hours)
- 2 Sergeants completed a training packet (8 hours)
- 6 Supervisors attended "A Crash Course for Supervisors" (8 hours)
- 1 Supervisor attended a webinar dealing inmate rights (8 hours)
- 12 Supervisors attended Supervisor Training & Alcohol training - Continuum (4 hours)
- 11 CPR instructors took an on-line class to update certifications (1.5 hours)

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2016
9:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Deb Schorr, Chair
Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair
Roma Amundson
Bill Avery
Todd Wiltgen

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2015 MEETING

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Wiltgen seconded approval of the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting. Avery, Wiltgen, Hudkins, Amundson and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, discussed population statistics, referencing the following graphs (see agenda packet):

- Average Daily Population Comparison

Thurber said the average daily population for the last quarter of 2015 was 525, compared to 536 for the same period in 2014. He said that is a 58% increase when compared to 2000. The facility is currently at 79% of operational capacity.

- Booking and Lodging Totals

Thurber said average bookings were down 5.8% and average lodgings were down 3.5% this quarter, compared to the same time period last year. He noted 2,206 individuals were booked in this quarter and 1,634 were lodged.

- Pre-Trial/Sentence Conversion Release

Thurber said 7 individuals were on behavioral health/jail diversion, 25 on pre-trial release and 5 on sentence conversion this quarter.

3 PROGRAMMING

Thurber said the Lancaster County Adult Detention Facility (LCADF) averaged 519 religious meetings, 109 substance abuse educational classes and 12-Step Program meetings, and 139 educational classes this quarter. He noted a tutor from Southeast Community College is available at the facility on Saturday mornings to work with inmates on educational deficiencies in preparation for taking the General Educational Development (GED) test. Other available classes include the areas of parenting, relationships, job/life skills and food preparation.

In response to Schorr's inquiry regarding homeless outreach, Thurber confirmed that CenterPointe has done an excellent job with this program since taking it over when the Community Mental Health Center was dissolved.

Work/court ordered release averaged 10-12/month for County Court and 18-22/month for District Court.

4 TRANSPORTATION

Thurber reported on transports for court appearances (video and physical), off-site medical appointments and mental health referrals and transfers to other correctional facilities during this period. He added the number of monthly transports to the Crisis Center has diminished since moving to the new facility.

5 WORK CREWS

Thurber said work crew activities this period included assisting the Lancaster Event Center with routine cleaning and event set-up; the County Engineer's Office with various projects; and the LCADF with routine grounds maintenance and snow removal.

6 TRAINING

Thurber reported on orientation and in-service training for new staff, including correctional officers. He said 264 staff members (including permanent, contracted and volunteer positions) attended a three-hour diversity training.

Schorr said she also spoke with Thurber about the possibility of having one or two Correctional employees attend the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) Institute of Excellence.

OTHER BUSINESS

Thurber said it appears food prices will be increasing by 2¢ per meal based off the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment. He added the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has placed a limit of 21¢ per minute on inmate phone commissions. He said he and the County Attorney's Office will review the FCC ruling to see if it will impact the contract with Inmate Care Solutions (ICSolutions) for phone services.

In response to Hudkins' inquiry, Thurber noted the only capital outlay issues at the moment include the potential replacement of three ovens. He said he has been working with the vendor and the County Attorney's Office on options since the extended warranties are due to expire soon. He noted technology issues continue to arise but added the jail savings fund has helped cover most capital outlay expenses.

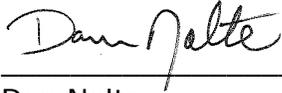
Avery questioned the progress made on suicide proofing jail cells. Thurber said the "tie off" problem has been resolved. He felt the key to prevention is observation (inside and outside of cells) and documentation.

In response to Amundson's inquiry, Thurber said since last September they are tracking the impacts of LB 605 (Provide, change and eliminate penalties, punishments, sentencing, restitution, probation, parole and crime victim provisions and provide for post-release supervision, grants and suspension of medical assistance for inmates). He noted ongoing concerns with Probation practices, i.e., sanctions versus alternatives. Thurber said LB 1094 (Change provisions relating to evidence, sentencing, certain criminal penalties, criminal mischief, assault, forgery and probation) was introduced this session to refine LB 605 but felt potential impacts from the original bill are still forthcoming.

Schorr noted the Joint Budget Committee (JBC), who provided funding for computers used for inmate education and training, will be touring the LCADF in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Amundson moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Avery, Wiltgen, Hudkins, Amundson and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried 5-0.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

