

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008
9:30 A.M.**

Board Members 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
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the Board of Corrections Meeting minutes dated February 14, 2008. Hudkins, Schorr, Stevens, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

A. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported a 3.8% decrease in average daily population comparing the first quarter of 2008 to the same period in 2007. The decrease is due to a 12.6% reduction in population at the Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF). The reduction equates to approximately 18 individuals, per day.

B. Population Graphs

See agenda packet.

C. Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

3 DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Training

Thurber said the Training Division conducted interviews for correctional officers and a nursing position. Orientation training was provided to new officers and Community Corrections staff.

B. Mental Health Jail Diversion Project

Thurber said the Jail Diversion Project is running at capacity, with 31 currently active. He said the key is getting them back on medication and/or into treatment. Thurber noted Part II of an article about the program was published in the March/April issue of *American Jails* magazine.

C. Out of County Housing

Thurber said on average 37 inmates were housed in Platte County and 12 in Butler County during the first quarter of 2008. York County housed 2 inmates during January and February, 2008. Moving inmates between facilities consumed 197.5 staffing hours this quarter.

D. Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF)/Work Crew Projects

Thurber reported on work and road crew projects (see agenda packet).

Thurber said Sgt. Engstrom is evaluating and making recommendations for inmates who wish to apply for conversion to house arrest part way through their sentence. His recommendations are forwarded to the Community Corrections staff supervising the program.

E. Programs Division

Thurber said psychiatric evaluations related to Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) issues average 31 per month. An average of 4 inmates per month were placed into EPC and transferred with a jail hold to the Crisis Center or Lincoln Regional Center (LRC).

Thurber said the new Chaplain is getting acclimated and conducting self-help and religious programs in both facilities.

Thurber said the Work Release Coordinator reviewed an average of 150 court ordered release applications, per month, the first quarter. The average number of individuals on work release for that period was 34.

Thurber reported there was an average of 16 professional contact visits with inmates, per month, during the first quarter.

Thurber said Programs staff extended invitations to program and service providers in the community to attend the Jail Planning Workshops. A large number of providers, representing agencies in seven major topic areas, participated in break-out discussion groups on how to deliver and/or expand and enhance existing programs in the new facility.

4 NEW BUSINESS

A. Introduction of Transition Coordinator, Brad Johnson

Thurber introduced Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator.

In response to a question from Schorr, Johnson said he is attending the weekly construction meetings.

B. Nebraska Jail Standards

Thurber said the County Board needs to submit a letter of intent to build a new Adult Detention Facility to Nebraska Jail Standards.

Stevens suggested the Board look at how many city offenders are placed on house arrest and whether the County is being adequately compensated for the cost of administrating the program.

Hudkins said he believes the County should be capturing costs with a booking fee.

Thurber said the U.S. Marshals Service has to pay a booking fee if an individual is booked in and will remain in the facility. He said the fee does not apply if an individual is booked in on a state charge and it reverts to a federal charge. Thurber said the Lincoln Police Department (LPD) does not pay a booking fee, although it has been suggested.

5 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 a.m. Schorr, Stevens, Workman, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk