

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2010
8:45 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Ray Stevens
Deb Schorr

Board Members Absent: Bernie Heier, Chair

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator
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 Vice Chair opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES OF
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2009**

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded approval of the October 15, 2009 Board of Corrections Meeting minutes. Hudkins, Stevens, Schorr and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

A. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported an 8.6% increase in population growth for the fourth quarter of 2009, compared to the same period in 2008. He said there was a decrease in overall bookings for the same time period, which indicates inmates are being held longer.

B. Population Graphs

See agenda packet.

C. Calendar Year 2008 Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

D. Calendar Year 2009 Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

3 DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Training

Thurber said there were 500 applications for Correctional Officer positions and 37 applications for a Corrections Nurse position this quarter. Employment stays full, due to continuous recruitment efforts. Three full-time officers completed the Field Training Officer Program this quarter. An in-service training class on intra-personal communication skills for all uniformed staff was also provided.

B. Mental Health Jail Diversion Program

Thurber said 7 individuals were accepted into the Mental Health Jail Diversion Program this quarter. Two cases were successfully closed and 10 were terminated for non-compliance. He said there are currently 33 active participants, noting 5 are enrolled in Drug Court. No referrals were made to Community Corrections this quarter.

C. Out-of-County Housing

Thurber said they continue to house inmates in Butler, Platte and Saunders Counties, due to overcrowding. He said he is looking at adding a fourth out-of-county jail in 2010.

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

Thurber said the jail work crew performed routine facility maintenance, snow removal and moved surplus furniture from the County-City Building to the K Street Complex.

E. Programs Division

Thurber said there were an average of 38 evaluations per month with the consulting psychiatrist this quarter. An average of 4 inmates were placed into Emergency Protective Custody per month and were transferred to the Crisis Center or Lincoln Regional Center with a jail hold. The Chaplain is working on new programs and is trying to bring in more volunteers. The Work Release Coordinator reviewed an average of 164 court-ordered release applications per month this quarter. Thurber said they are working with Cornhusker Place (detoxification program) to start planning new programs. He also reported on two new programs sponsored by Nebraska Wesleyan University: 1) A book club; and 2) Bowls for Backpacks (creating handmade bowls to raise money to help feed Lincoln's hungry children and families).

F. Revenue Update

Thurber said the department has collected \$764,766 in revenue, as of December 31, 2009. **NOTE:** \$1,051,000 was budgeted. The collected funds include \$458,500 in state prisoner reimbursement. He said the State was billed \$381,395 for the second quarter and said if the State reimburses the County for the full amount, the department will exceed its revenue projection. Thurber pointed out that since the program began in July, 2002, the State has failed to reimburse the County \$5,760,000 for prisoner housing.

4 NEW BUSINESS/TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator, said they continue to review and fine-tune the designs. He also reported on meetings that were held to discuss cabling needs, fiber optic delivery and intersection design.

Hudkins asked whether there will be a turning lane.

Thurber said yes, there will turning lanes on both sides. He added they are still working with City Public Works/Utilities on the issue of bus turnoffs.

Johnson said they conducted staff presentations this quarter to update them on the progress and to answer questions. He said they have also begun the process of reviewing departmental policies.

5 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Vice Chair, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk