

II. Prison/Local Jail Population Report and Jail Construction Update – Ms. Donna Lawrence/Ms. Brooks Ballard

Ms. Lawrence reported that Bill Wilson's position has not been advertised and possibly will not be filled, therefore, the Jail Population report, will not be available to report during the Liaison Committee meetings until further notice. The Prison Population report will continue to be included on the reminder cover sheet in the Liaison Committee Minutes package received by the members of all committees.

Offender Management Service Update - Mr. Jim Parks

Mr. Parks reports that Powhatan Main Correctional Center, the Culpeper Women's facility, White Post Men's Diversion Center and Cold Springs Work Center # 42 closed due to budget cuts, eliminating 981 beds. Nottoway and Buckingham Correctional Centers have been double bunked and a water restriction has been lifted at Augusta Correctional Center offering an additional 581 beds. A new building at Marion Correctional Treatment Center has been completed providing an additional 180 cadre and level II beds. The out-of-compliance numbers reached a maximum of 5,722 and are currently around 5,397. He added that they are not able to bring in big numbers from a particular jail, but if a jail has a state responsible offender who is causing problems due to their behavior or if they have significant medical issues let Jennifer Hastings in Intake know who they are and his unit will do its best to give them relief.

Federal Communications Commission Update-Mr. Tim Trent

Mr. Trent reports that he chose not to attend the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) meeting in Atlanta, but several other superintendents attended. The meeting was sponsored by a vendor but they gathered some significant information. The FCC plans to eliminate commissions from inmates' phone calls which will remove \$13.5 million from the budgets of local and regional jails. The Regional Jails Association and the Sheriffs' Association worked together to meet with some congressional members including Senator Mark Warner and Representative Robert Hurt as well as others to express their concerns over this matter. The Associations were contacted by the FCC to potentially negotiate some of the problems caused by the elimination of the FCC commission. Potentially, a two-year transition period could be offered as well as a cost recovery program that would enable the jails to recover some costs associated with administering and monitoring inmate phone calls. The current proposal is for calls for a \$.005 to \$.01 per minute fee, but Mr. Trent advises that the representatives of the Associations are requesting a minimum of a \$.05 per minute fee. At the end of the proposed two-year transition period, the phone

companies would receive 100% of all commissions. The phone companies' profits increased by 79% when the FCC eliminated the interstate commissions.

The FCC released a second proposal during the Atlanta meeting submitted by the phone companies placing the blame for overcharging inmate families on the jails and correctional systems. This is the reason for the FCC caps on allowable fees. The Virginia Department of Corrections' and Virginia jails' fees have always been below this cap. The representatives from the jails and the DOC met with the Senate Finance Committee to ask for support in challenging the FCC by requesting an official opinion from the Virginia Office of the Attorney General regarding the power of the FCC over Virginia jurisdictions.

Unfortunately, the inmate phone call commissions are used by some localities for programs such as the GED program, life-skills programs and re-entry. The funds also support the monitoring program which is a significant crime detection tool. The programs and crime prevention are subject to being eliminated with the FCC decision.

ICE Detainers-Mr. Bill Wilson

Mr. Wilson reported that he contacted John Jones, Director, Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and was told that the Attorney General has not yet provided an official opinion regarding ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detainers. Many jail administrators have declined to accept ice detainer without criminal charges and have adopted a 48-hour hold status for ICE detainer offenders with criminal charges.

Other Business

Mr. Wilson reported that DCJS (Department of Criminal Justice Services) has refused to accept training credit from the Academy for Staff Development, requiring jails to retrain officers in entirety who transfer from the Department of Corrections to a local facility. Mr. Wilson advises that this issue began in 2008 and the DOC has submitted new performance objectives to DCJS for review and a decision is pending.

Brooks Ballard announced her retirement effective November 24, 2014 and introduced her replacement, Mr. Bob Casey. Mr. Casey is an architect with 20 years of service with the Department of Corrections. The Committee welcomes Mr. Casey and wishes Ms. Ballard a fond farewell.

Mr. Roberts reminded the attendees that the next meeting date is Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Other Comments

There being nothing further, by **MOTION** duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.