

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Regular Meeting.....May 15, 2019

Location.....6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding.....Timothy Trent, Chairman

Present..... William T. Dean, Board of Corrections
Vernie W. Francis, Jr., Board of Corrections
Olivia Garland, Board of Corrections
Heather Masters, Board of Corrections
Karen Nicely, Board of Corrections
Charles Jett, Board of Corrections
Bobby Vassar, Board of Corrections
Steve Goff, Board of Corrections
Kemba Jennings, Board of Corrections
Joshua Salmon, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Chad Lipscomb, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Keith Lockridge, Charlotte County Jail
Bill Wilson, Riverside Regional Jail
Jim Pritchett, Chesterfield County Jail
Lanay Walker, Piedmont Regional Jail
Chris Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail
Caitlyn Kilpatrick, Senate Finance Committee
Adam Rsatelli, Senate Finance Committee
Sarah Berday-Sacks, JLARC
Robyn deSocio, Compensation Board
Phillip Figura, Office of the Attorney General
Jim Bruce, Department of Corrections
Emmanuel Fontenot, Department of Corrections
Bob Casey, Department of Corrections
Donna Foster, Department of Corrections

The meeting was called to order and Chairman Trent welcomed all attendees.

I. **Committee Chairman**

Chairman Trent called for a motion to approve the March 20, 2019 minutes.

Upon a ***MOTION*** and duly seconded, the March 20, 2019 minutes were unanimously ***APPROVED***.

II. **Funding and Budget Issues (Ms. Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board)**

Ms. deSocio advised that the Compensation Board completed their review and established budgets for FY20 (Fiscal Year 2020). This information was provided to localities and Regional Jails on May 1, 2019. Budget development for the next biennium (FY21 and 22) will begin this summer and go into the fall. Compensation Board staff is participating in a number of workgroups related to medical and behavioral health as well as participating in the workgroup established by the Board of Corrections to develop standards as required by the General Assembly. The workgroup developing standards is being lead by Dr. Michael Schaefer from the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services (DBHDS). Compensation Board staff are participating in Dr. Schaefer's group as well as another workgroup from DBHDS and VADOC to develop a single HIPPA release form that will enable information sharing among agencies. In addition, Compensation Board staff are working on jail and prison inmate forecasting as well as per diem funding forecasting.

III. **Prison/Local Jail Population Report and Jail Construction Update – Mr. Bob Casey**

Mr. Casey reported that Prince William/Manassas Regional Jail (204 bed expansion) is nearing 65% completion. The locality has decided to build out shell space for their work release program. This will increase the scope of the project to be presented to the Board at the July meeting. The anticipated completion date remains March 2020. The Henry County 400 bed new jail project received two pre-qualified bids in January, one \$8 million and the other \$10 million over budget primarily due to MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) prices. Current options are looking at serious cuts that include eliminating beds or possibly killing the project altogether. If the project moves forward, the anticipated completion date would likely be pushed back to 2022.

IV. **Offender Management Service Update - Mr. Jim Parks**

Jim Parks did not attend the meeting, but Chairman Trent reported the total for out-of-compliance inmates is 2,607 of which 2,353 are males and 254 are females.

V. **Kemba Jennings-Best Practices**

Ms. Jennings reported that some of the best practices that are being implemented include the Guardian RFID (one of many brands) which enables tracking of rounds made by officers, medication delivery, dangerous device issuance, inmate counts, etc. One method of using this type of system enables the officer to electronically scan a wristband or I.D. of an inmate during interactions. These systems are capable of providing a countdown for the next round, even sounding an alarm in the event the round is late to ensue. Some facilities are using internal reviews to check video content against logs and live events. CMT and CMA positions are being reduced while increasing the LPN and RN positions. Improved communication between receiving and transferring facilities improves continuity of care. External medical investigations are being implemented.

Administrative reviews that include daily meetings with CSBs (Community Service Boards), the medical program director and court services are being utilized. Suicide reviews help improve detection, monitoring and management. Rounds reminders that include individual updates especially with suicide concerns are helpful. Facilities are using signage to increase suicide awareness as well as inform offenders of awareness. Security policies are being updated following individual occurrences, increasing accountability of staff. Compliance, Certification and Accreditation has seen 15 day assessments evolve to 7 day assessments as well as walk-throughs with department heads which increases accessibility to the inmates. Additionally, consultation with subject matter specialists during decision-making and enhanced dialog with staff are improving outcomes.

VI. **Jail Review Committee**

Steve Goff reported that there have been 17 deaths in 2019 and only 2 remaining investigation to complete from 2018.

VII. **Other Business**

Chairman Trent noted that the inception of PREA has created some challenges for jails. While cameras are a useful and necessary tool, they have caused concerns over inmate privacy. The cameras cannot record the toilet area for this reason. Chairman Trent added that cameras save lives at times. Mr. Wilson advised that their camera software utilized at Riverside can pixelate the toilet area to maintain privacy while allowing enough visible movement to detect suicide attempts. Ms. Walker added that the cameras at her facility offer the option to blackout the toilet area. Ms. Jennings suggested that facilities participate in CIT (crisis intervention Training) and Mr. Smith recommended Mental Health First Aid, a single day training that increases awareness and response.

Mr. Wilson discussed fire inspections since they have recently become an issue of concern. In 2012, the State Fire Marshall began charging to perform inspections at facilities in localities where there is no fire department. The BOC standards require that all facilities are inspected annually, however several fire inspectors have incorrectly claimed that the inspection were required every 18 months. Mr. Wilson noted that the Compliance, Certification and Accreditation unit previously submitted a list of facilities without a local fire department that would need state fire marshal inspections to the State Fire Marshal's office. Mr. Wilson performed these duties while employed under state service, but left in 2014. His position was eliminated and the Compliance, Certification and Accreditation Unit is reviewing this matter.

VIII. **Other Comments**

There being nothing further, by ***Motion*** duly made and seconded, the meeting was ***Adjourned***.