COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Regular Meeting……..……May 21, 2014

Location……6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding……...……..David Simons, Committee Chairman

Present .....Peter G. Decker, III, Chairman, Board of Corrections
William Osborne, Member, Board of Corrections
Felipe Cabacoy, Member, Board of Corrections
Carl Peed, Member, Board of Corrections
Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board
Tim Trent, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
F. Glenn Aylor, Central Virginia Regional Jail
Walter Minton, Riverside Regional Jail
William Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail
Captain John Jenkins, Fauquier County
Sheriff Steve Draper, City of Martinsville
Sheriff Gabe Morgan, City of Newport News
Sandra Thacker, Peumansend Creek Regional Jail
A. David Robinson, Department of Corrections
Bill Wilson, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections
Brooks Ballard, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections
Jim Bruce, Policy Unit, Department of Corrections
Jim Parks, Offender Management Services Unit, Department of Corrections
Chuck Hall, Hampton/Newport News Community Services Board
Matt Marsteler, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Alan Katz, (Senior Assistant Attorney, Office of the Attorney General

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. and attendees in the room identified themselves for the record. Mr. Simons welcomed all attendees.

I. **<u>Committee Chairman</u> (Mr. David Simons)**

Mr. Simons called for a Motion to approve the March Minutes. Upon a ***MOTION*** by Ms. Thacker and duly seconded, the March 19, 2014 minutes were unanimously ***APPROVED.***

Chairman Simons turned the floor over to Bill Wilson, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide a summary of the Office of the State Inspector General's (OSIG) correspondence regarding the Review of Mental Health Services in Local and Regional Jails (2014-BHDS-004) report issued on January 13,

2014. Mr. Wilson advised the members that the OSIG is requesting input from the Board of Corrections to review the Standards for mental health. Paying particular attention to BOC Standards 6VAC15-40-990, 6VAC-40-1040 and 6VAC-40-1090. Prior to making any recommendations to the OSIG, Mr. Wilson proposed the development of an advisory committee to share their expertise, provide guidance and address the OSIG's recommendations. Mr. Wilson will pose the question to the full Board at today's meeting.

Mr. Draper reported that the OSIG recently attended the Sheriffs Association's Meeting. During the meeting, two primary topics were addressed 1) the OSIG report identified there is currently no standards regarding intake processes. Each facility utilizes a variety of staff and each asks a variety of questions during the intake process and 2) Mental Health professionals advised the holding of mental health patients in isolation worsens their conditions.

Following a comprehensive discussion, Chairman Simons reported that it is difficult to house mental health prisoners. In addition, it is impossible to utilize a one size fits all formulary to address all jails. The jails are required to pay out of pocket. Using the state formulary, jails do not receive the necessary funds and if a blanket formulary were required it would create a financial burden on the jails. Chairman Simons advised the members of the committee should be comprised of representatives from jails across the state. This would be ideal to address the OSIG recommendations and ensure that large, small, rural and urban jails would have input in the development of the Standard.

Sandra Thacker, Superintendent, Peumansend Creek Regional Jail introduced Eric Samuelson, Co-founder, Family Restoration Network (FRN). Mr. Samuelson advised the Board that the DOC's recidivism numbers are impressive. Mr. Samuelson began his presentation with an introduction and an historical overview of Dr. Owen Cardwell, Co-founder, Family Restoration Network.

Dr. Cardwell reported that the FRN is currently being utilized in the Richmond City Jail, Portsmouth City Jail and at Deep Meadow Correctional Center. The organization was also instrumental in piloting the video visitation program. Richmond City currently has 23 men participating in the final phase of the program. These men are looking to reconnect with their children whether they are in a romantic relationship with the mother of the child or not. 14 of the 23 men were able to work out co-parenting agreements. The program has a 62% success rate. Portsmouth City has provided its participants with child support enforcement assistance. The participants were able to utilize video conferencing to hold the meeting. Child Support Enforcement provided video conference interviews. Eight of the participants are currently employed and making support payments. Deep Meadow currently has no numbers to report. The program is showing positive trends and the FRN would like to develop a pilot program in other facilities.

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Mr. Samuelson provided handouts and thanked the Sheriffs and the DOC staff for the work they do in the public safety arena. He reported that the FRN program is doing a good job getting people back into society. FRN would like to suppress the 22% recidivism rate. Fathers of minor children within 3 -12 months of release are the primary focus of the program. Re-entry challenges are emotional, economic, and governmental. Solutions to those challenges are 1) co-parenting agreements (which includes conversations with the mother, 2) job readiness predictor, and 3) video visitation. FRN is currently working with Richmond Public Schools (RPS) to promote communication and enhancing relationships. FRN has served 2,000 families and has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work with eight DOC facilities. The job readiness predictor has received a donation and can now be brought in-house at a fraction of the cost. Completion of the predictor provides the employer with the confidence that the participant is prepared to go into the workforce and the probability of success is high 3, 6, 12 months of release. Approximately 60-70 men were profiled at Richmond City Jail. Of the men profiled the achievement orientation score averaged 9 out of 10. Mr. Samuel provided an overview of a program participant. The participant had a tough appearance but on paper he could be placed with at least 20 employers. The participant was very ambitious and wanted to accomplish things. He was assigned a fatherhood coach and currently has two jobs – he is a success story. Mr. Samuelson states that FRN is building an identity and wants to expand the program and would love to collaborate with DOC to improve offender reentry and efforts to create long-term public safety. Mr. Samuelson opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Peed inquired about program funding, duration of the program and program follow-up. There are 3 tracks of the program, family healing, job readiness predictor, post release coaching. Mr. Samuelson indicated that FRN has received a small grant and participation in the program would cost approximately $2,000 per man. He went on to provide an in-depth overview of FRN solutions to the challenges faced by the returning father.

It was determined that this program would go hand-in-hand with the Reentry department. Mr. Samuelson reported that Dr. Cardwell has worked closely with the reentry unit and is familiar with former Governor McDonnell's Reentry Commission. Mr. Samuelson requested the hard cases; FRN would work with them and connect them to a workforce development coach. There will be an RFP on the table this fall to support reentry processes. Mr. Samuelson thanked the members for the opportunity to present today. Chairman Simons thanked Dr. Cardwell and Mr. Samuelson for the report.

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

Ms. deSocio provided an update of events that have occurred since the March meeting. Following the last meeting, we were preparing for the Legislators to return for a Special Session on March 24, 2014. Per Diem funding payments for the current year were considered a caboose bill matter and remained on the table following the regular

legislative session. As hoped, this issue was one of the first things addressed when the Special Session convened and the additional funding needed for the 4th quarter payments was approved

Ms. deSocio provided an update on the LIDS-CORIS transition. The 3rd Quarter payment was paid slightly behind schedule. Only thirteen facilities have not certified all three months for the 4th quarter payment. It has been requested that March, April and May certifications be completed by the end of June, which will enable the return to a normal schedule. Two months ago there were 27 issues. As of Sunday, only one issue remains and it has been deferred to the beginning of summer for resolution. A software release which included three hot fixes addressing critical issues has been tested and installed. From a LIDS-CORIS perspective there should be no major problems. The goal is to begin making 4th quarter payments by the first part of June, but no later than mid-June. It is important to be able to complete and process payments for all months of this fiscal year because payments cannot be processed beyond the end of June. Funds not disbursed by June 30 are no longer available. There are only a handful of facilities with continuing difficulties. The Compensation Board will continue to offer training to assist those facilities still experiencing issues. The last remaining issues have been resolved as they relate to providing forecasting data for local and state inmate populations, and as they relate to calculating accurate financial information for per diem payments.

Ms. deSocio reported that there are some differences between the House and Senate versions of the budget related to Compensation Board funding items, but these are not major items of contention and will be resolved after the legislature resolves their larger disagreement. Ms. deSocio is hopeful that a budget approval decision by the legislature will be reached before the end of June. She indicated that a similar situation occurred in 2006, when the budget agreement was not reached until June 20, and the Compensation Board set budgets by June 30. The Compensation Board must provide ten days notice of when it will finalize budgets for constitutional officers and regional jails, but cannot do so until the legislature reaches agreement. They must also provide 3 days notice of the date the public hearing will be conducted prior to approval of budgets. However, they are able to move quickly in finalizing budgets once a decision is made by the legislature.

Funding for 48 emergency correctional officers was included in the Governor's introduced budget and maintained in the Senate budget. In the House budget, there is a proposal to revise the definition of overcrowding, and as a result the House reduced funding and would provide only 13 positions. Currently, how many will be allocated is unknown.

The Governor's proposed budget also includes a 2% salary increase for entry level grade 7 and 8 deputies and regional jail officers effective July 1, 2014. The Senate budget maintains this increase and allows for an additional 1% salary increase applicable to all officers and employees effective April, 2015. The House budget moves the deputies' salary increase to a revenue reserve, contingent upon meeting

certain revenue requirements, and if those requirements are met, the increase would be effective January 1, 2015. In addition, the House proposes a 2% salary bonus on January 1, 2015 for all other positions not receiving the salary increase. All matters related to salary increases or bonuses are currently up in the air, subject to budget conference action, and she will continue to keep the members informed. The following items are at risk of not being paid on time if a budget is not determined by June 30: 1st quarter per diem payments for FY15, and the June, 2014 reimbursement for the current fiscal year.

III. **Prison/Local Jail Population Report and Jail Construction Update – Mr. Bill Wilson**

Mr. Wilson provided the Prison/Jail Population Report and a jail construction update. The out-of-compliance number was reported at 4,827 as of May 12, 2014. Per Mr. Wilson the out-of-compliance numbers reported continue to be slightly misleading; there are not currently approximately 1400 empty beds. Beds are categorized in a variety of ways (medical, segregation, mental health etc.). Following a discussion regarding out-of-compliance numbers, it was determined that Jim Bruce, Policy Unit, Department of Corrections will look into the possibility of providing a report that reflects actual numbers.

Mr. Wilson reported Richmond City will begin transferring 1032 inmates mid June. Rappahannock, Shenandoah and Warren county regional jail. (RSW) is scheduled to open approximately 360-380 beds on July 27, 2014. Mr. Simon reported that he currently has 270 out of compliance inmates. Mr. Aylor reported that he identifies those beds as "State responsible" and not out of compliance.

Mr. Parks is working with DOC medical and medical staff of the jails to address inmates with disciplinary and medical problems and having them moved.

Mr. Simons reported that he appreciates DOC working with the jails and thanked Chairman Decker for his service and all he has done over the past eight years.

Mr. Decker thanked Gabe Morgan, Major Hackworth and Sheriff Sullivan for a job well done. Chesapeake was able to move inmates to the regional jail – good job.

IV. **Other Comments**

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

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