

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

Regular Meeting.....May 20, 2015

Location6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding.....David Simons, Committee Chairman

Present..... Carl Peed, Board of Corrections
John F. Anderson, Board of Corrections
Ann Gardner, Board of Corrections
Rev. Anthony Paige, Board of Corrections
Phyllis Randall, Board of Corrections
Bobby N. Vassar, Board of Corrections
David A. Hackworth, Chesapeake Sheriff’s Office
Stephen Draper, Martinsville Sheriff’s Office
Tim Mills, Martinsville Sheriff’s Office
Tim Trent, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Bill Wilson, RSW Regional Jail
Matt Marsteller, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Deborah Hand, Hampton Roads Regional Jail
David Kidwell, Arlington County Sheriff’s Office
Eileen Sprinkle, Newport News Sheriff’s Office
Brian Huffman, Central Virginia Regional Jail
Frank Dyer, Central Virginia Regional Jail
George Pender, Jr., Member of the Public
Brooks Ballard, Volunteer, Department of Corrections (Retired)
Bob Casey, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections
James Bruce, Policy and Initiative Unit, Department of Corrections
Jim Parks, Offender Management Services Unit, Department of Corrections
Donna Foster, Liaison Support, Department of Corrections

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. Committee Chairman

Mr. Simons called for a Motion to approve the March minutes.

Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Trent and duly seconded, the March 18, 2015 minutes were unanimously **APPROVED**.

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

Ms. deSocio reported that an across the board 2% pay increase for all constitutional officers and their employees including regional jail employees as well as an increase for entry level, grade 7 officers and deputies is expected effective September 1, 2015. Ms. deSocio stressed that the special increase lowers the previous 9.3% increase occurring with the standard upgrade after one year of service from grade 7 to grade 8, to 4.5% due to the grade 7 entry level pay increase. Some issues have surfaced due to confusion in the changes.

Budgets have been set and were made available on May 1, 2015. Positions from the closing of the Petersburg City Jail have been reallocated as emergency jail officers to address overcrowding, totaling approximately 57 positions for fiscal year 2016 (FY16). Some local facilities were able to receive these emergency corrections officer positions that had not previously been eligible because they did not meet or exceed the 100% overcrowding threshold requirement. Positions were allocated to those jails that had less than 20% of the staff needed in jails that are 30% or more overcrowded.

The average daily population data calculation corrections in the LIDs/CORIS system were installed by the vendor during the first week of May. Ms. deSocio thanked all local facilities for the efforts to update monthly certifications since the correction install. The Compensation Board is currently processing the fourth quarter per diem payments. The governor's budget originally included an additional \$11.3 million necessary for fourth quarter per diems. The Compensation Board re-estimated funding needs during the session, which determined total additional funds of \$13.8 million would be required, and the funds were increased. Sufficient funding is available to pay the 4th quarter per diem amounts.

The forecasting cycle for inmate populations will begin at the end of May 2015. New numbers will be available this fall for FY16 per diem funding needs. Last year, there were some concerns regarding inmate data in the system. Data accuracy reflecting state responsible vs. local responsible as well as classification within the local responsible category appeared questionable due to the software glitches from the previous year. The forecasters saw upward trends in the state responsible populations in jails; Compensation Board comparisons of state responsible inmates in jail to DOC records of state responsible inmates indicate that the data regarding inmates appears accurate. Currently, local responsible numbers are under review and additional information may be requested to improve accuracy in the new system.

The LIDs conference has been postponed until next year and LIDs technicians requiring training may receive a waiver until that conference. Monthly training is still available. This summer the Compensation Board will focus on the creation of reports previously available in the old LIDs system as well as funding requirements for the next two-year budget.

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

Mr. Casey reported the following construction updates expected in 2015:

- RSW Regional Jail reimbursement package is being processed;
- Richmond City Justice Center is still processing their reimbursement package for submittal;
- Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority's reimbursement package has been submitted and is in processing;
- Albemarle/Charlottesville Regional Jail is 50% complete;
- Pamunkey Regional Jail's has not yet started construction;
- Martinsville City Jail is requesting a security control upgrade;
- Piedmont Regional Jail new booking area may come before the Board in the July meeting;
- Rockbridge Regional Jail is requesting multiple modifications;
- Southampton County Jail is requesting a new dining hall.

Mr. Casey noted that Hampton Roads Regional Jail's security system upgrade, Newport News City Jails intake area and Chesapeake City Jail's expansion request will go before the Board in today's meeting.

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

Mr. Parks noted that the out-of-compliance numbers are about the same as they were one year ago, at around 4,800. The numbers reached as high as 5,600 around the beginning of the year following the closing of Powhatan Correctional Center. Additional bed space totaling around 200 beds will become available at Keen Mountain Correctional Center in late June or early July. There are no more construction projects that will add bed space scheduled in the near future. This will likely add to the out-of-compliance numbers, again rising.

V. **Federal Communications Commission Update-Mr. Tim Trent**

Mr. Trent reports that the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) is expected to terminate commissions on inmate phone calls in September or October.

VI. **Other Business**

Phyllis Randall would like to request clarification of policy and variations of jail policy regarding use of tasers. Ms. Randall described an incident at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center involving a mental health offender, who subsequently succumbed to injuries sustained while incarcerated. The offender, Natasha McKenna, was a 37-year-old mother of four, who was handcuffed behind her back, leg cuffed

and face masked. The offender was tased between one and four times during this incident. Ms. Randall asked attendees their policies for extraction of offenders from a cell, specifically a mental health patient. The general consensus of the attendees was that the individual situation should be evaluated independently and extraction policy should be flexible. Ms. Randall further explained that she was advised that Fairfax policy was non-flexible, an extraction team would complete the removal of an offender once initiated. Sheriff Draper, City of Martinsville, stated that each officer in his locality has received crisis intervention training (CIT) and this has proven helpful. Regarding mental health offenders, attendees would either summons in-house mental health staff or community service boards within their localities. Mr. Carl Peed asked if there were tasers in local facilities and if there were policies overseeing their use. The responses were diverse, some facilities had tasers, and some facilities prohibited tasers. Facilities with tasers had internal policies for their use, however, no standardized policy has been issued by the Department of Criminal Justice. When asked if the attending administrators would welcome standards that addressed tasers and CIT training, attendees welcomed guidelines. Sheriff Draper offered to seek additional information and possibly invite a taser instructor for presentation at the July Liaison meeting.

Sheriff Draper advised the committee that the construction standards are almost complete. Sheriff Draper would like the volunteers of the committee, working to rewrite these standards for the past five years, to be recognized and commended for their diligent efforts. The standards will be available in draft form for approval by the Board and then for public comment in the near future.

Mr. Simons reminded the attendees that the next meeting date is Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

VII. Other Comments

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