

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

Regular Meeting .....October 20, 2010

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

Presiding..... John Roberts, Chairman

Present .....Peter Decker, III, Chairman, Board of Corrections  
Cynthia Alksne, Vice Chairman, Board of Corrections  
William Osborne, Member, Board of Corrections  
Kurt Boshart, Member, Board of Corrections  
Jeff Frazier, Superintendent (Retired), Northern Neck Regional Jail  
Ted Hall, Superintendent, Northern Neck Regional Jail  
Elton Blackstock, Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority  
Gabe Morgan, Sheriff, Newport News City Jail  
Glenn Aylor, Superintendent, Central Virginia Regional Jail  
Robyn deSocio, Compensation Board  
Bill Wilson, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC  
Donna Foster, Compliance and Accreditation, DOC

The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcomed.

**I. Committee Chairman (John Roberts)**

- Mr. Roberts welcomed the committee members,. He then called for a motion to approve the September minutes. Robyn deSocio asked that the September minutes be corrected on page 2, line 1. A period placed after Begin the next sentence, “The Compensation Board is participating in committees involving...” The corrected page is included in this package. By **MOTION** duly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** subject to changes by the attending committee members. The Motion carried.

**II. Meeting Summary**

Chairman Roberts asked the members to vary from the agenda and asked Bill Wilson if the bed space summary had been sent to the Senate Finance Committee and House Appropriations Committee, as well as the Secretary of Public Safety. Mr. Wilson replied that it had. If changes are requested, they will be forwarded to the appropriate people. Not all members had received a copy. Mr. Wilson explained that the report shows available bed space. Attached documentation explains that a double bunking capacity was not established in

the report due to ambiguity of terminology and the current level is not considered safe without more staffing. Glenn Aylor asked that the committee hold discussions until the arrival of Cynthia Alksne. The Chairman agreed.

Robyn deSocio reported the following:

- Requests included by the Compensation Board for consideration in the governor's budget include jail funding for Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority for fiscal year 2012 (FY12). Regarding per diems, the forecasting committee found an approximate \$11.4 million shortfall for the coming biennium. Of that, approximately \$7.4 is forecasted for FY11 and the remaining \$4 million for FY12. The governor's budget is typically submitted in September and processes through the legislature which will begin addressing the per diem needs for the current fiscal year. The approximate budget shortfall should be known by sometime in February. The FY10 shortfall was approximately \$13 million.

Attending members discussed multiple problems that each locality encountered by the recent shortfalls and expressed deepening concerns over the upcoming budget determinations. Gabe Morgan discussed the possibility of block funding vs. quarterly draws as is the current practice. Ms. deSocio explained that the current system is essentially a form block reimbursement. Because it is based upon actual inmate population, block funding is not practical and funding for staffing is separate from per diem funding.

- The FY10 budget included funding reductions and an across the board, non-specific \$2 million reduction. These reductions have been a challenge to administrators requiring additional funding to be allocated from the localities. Attendees discussed problematic issues. Even though the forecasts show very low local responsible inmate population increases (approx. 1%), the localities are experiencing increasing and debilitating overcrowding due to the closing of state facilities. The beds space survey shows inappropriate bed space availability that needs to be addressed by the legislature. This is creating safety concerns because of no additional staffing funding. Mental health and medical conditions are increasingly difficult issues with which to contend.

Mr. Roberts asked two new attendees to be identified.

Mr. Kurt Boshart is the newest member of the Board of Corrections. He is currently a lieutenant with the Harrisonburg Police Department

Ted Hall is attending as a guest of Jeff Frazier, retired Liaison Committee member. Mr. Hall is the new superintendent for the Northern Neck Regional Jail.

Cynthia Alksne reported the following:

- The bed survey report had a deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>. An amended report will be filed to correct some mistakes in the original report. A pending issue involves staffing. Mr. Frazier advised that the Virginia Association of Regional Jails compiles this information annually. The Comp. Board also publishes this information on its website. Mr. Morgan expressed his concerns that the survey indicates bed availability based on beds that have been double and triple bunked, inmates with beds on the floor and increased needs for medical and mental health care, but without funding for the required staff. Ms. Alksne advised that the report was submitted with advisories stating that this is not a safe environment and is not recommended by the Board of Corrections. She also said that she would try to have letters and spreadsheets sent in by localities scanned to a 'pdf file' and sent as an amended report. Mr. Wilson advised that he may be able to assist with creating an eligible ratio staffing report based on inmate population data which he advises is not likely to be fully funded. Several members expressed a desire that jails to be added for input into any presentations involving the DOC when any reports are presented to the General Assembly.

Attendees discussed potential methodology of assembling data and presenting the information to the legislature. Members determined that non-security positions need consideration as well. They agreed that the Sheriffs' Association and the Regional Jails Association may need to become involved in approaching the legislators to address staff shortages. Ms. Alksne advised that the Board of Corrections would submit an amended report to include staffing information to the legislature. Ms. deSocio agreed to assist with data compiled by the Comp. Board and Mr. Wilson will try to compile a report including ideal staffing needs. Mr. Morgan asked if positions currently funded by localities would be included. Mr. Wilson advised that the information was previously requested, but not all facilities provided the data. He will request this subcategory again. The information requests complicate the report if all categories are included. Mr. Wilson advised he will attempt to compile a fair report as time allows. Mr. Morgan suggested that several legislators visit a jail to visually see the conditions resulting from repeated funding cuts.

Bill Wilson reported the following:

- The out-of-compliance inmate numbers are 3,436 today. The jail contract bed program is in the process of being eliminated due to the new re-entry program to be implemented. Mr. Blackstock added that it is his understanding the re-entry programs will no longer be located at the jail level and will be transferred to the state prison level. Additional information regarding this program is unavailable to attendees of this meeting at this time as they were considered governor's working papers at last notice.

Board of Corrections  
Liaison Committee  
October 20, 2010

By MOTION duly made by the Chairman of the Liaison Committee, John Roberts, and seconded by several members in attendance, and unanimously APPROVED, the meeting was adjourned.