

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

Regular Meeting.....July 20, 2016

Location6900 Atmore Drive, Richmond, Virginia

Presiding.....Sheriff Gabe Morgan, Acting Chairman

Present..... John F. Anderson, Board of Corrections
Ann Gardner, Board of Corrections
Colin P. O’Dawe, Board of Corrections
Carl Peed, Board of Corrections
Phyllis Randall, Board of Corrections
Bobby Vassar, Board of Corrections
Tim Trent, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Keith Lockridge, Charlotte County Sheriff’s Office
Matt Marsteller, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Paul Perry Peumansend Creek Regional Jail
Dick Hall-Sizemore, Department of Planning and Budget
Brooks Ballard, Consultant
Jamie Pham, Vectre Corporation
James Parks, Offender Management Services Unit, Department of Corrections
Bob Casey, Compliance and Accreditation Unit, Department of Corrections
James Bruce, Policy and Initiatives Unit, Department of Corrections
Donna Foster, Liaison Support, Department of Corrections

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m. and Sheriff Morgan welcomed all attendees.

I. Committee Chairman

Sheriff Morgan called for a motion to approve the July 20, 2016 agenda.

Upon a **MOTION** and duly seconded, the July 20, 2016 agenda was unanimously **APPROVED**.

Sheriff Morgan called for a motion to approve the May 18, 2016 minutes.

Upon a **MOTION** and duly seconded, the May 18, 2016 minutes were unanimously **APPROVED**.

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

Ms. deSocio did not provide a report for the July 20, 2016 meeting.

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

Mr. Casey reported that the Hampton Roads Regional Jail security upgrades are expected to be completed this month. Central Virginia Regional Jail's renovation area is expected to reach substantial completion this month. Pamunkey Regional Jail's twelve bed addition should reach substantial completion by August 6, 2016. Southampton Jail Farm's dining hall completion is expected by the end of this month. Construction of the new intake area in the Newport News Public Safety Building is expected to be completed in September 2016. Chesapeake City Jail's expansion is expected to start in August 2016 and expected completion is due January 2018, which is also the deadline for removal of the temporary buildings. Piedmont Regional Jail's construction of a new intake, has a completion date of June 2018 and Prince William-Manassas Regional Jail's phase II expansion completion is expected in August 2019.

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

Mr. Parks reported that the out-of-compliance numbers are 4,373; 3,924 of which are males and 349 are females. There are currently 344 beds off-line at Keen Mountain Correctional Center while the facility undergoes a renovation.

V. **Other Business**

A member of the Board of Corrections asked about the impact of the expected \$260 million budget shortfall on corrections and was advised that the jail salary decompression and state employee raises would likely be postponed or eliminated. Another Board member expressed concern about potential budget cuts to the Virginia Department of Corrections' (VADOC), after repeated budget cuts over the past several years, fearing that more cuts could impact jail standard compliance by resulting in inadequate staff to conduct audits and inspections.

When asked about the decline in jail out-of-compliance rates, Mr. Parks stated that he was unsure of the culprit, but that this has been the trend for the past few years. Mr. Trent noted that bi-partisan criminal justice meetings have resulted in recommendations for reform of mandatory minimum sentencing and alternate

sentencing, which is possibly a factor in the downward trend. A member of the Board commented that jails and prisons are a very expensive resource for punishment of criminal activity and alternatives are being considered at the judicial level. He named the cases of Blagojevich, Michael Vick and Martha Stewart as examples. These cases have the commonality of no violence against a person and should have been considered for alternative punishments. Discussion ensued relative to the possible causes of the population trends.

The Chairman of the Board, Ms. Randall discussed her wish to speak with the Director of the VADOC, Mr. Clarke, about the upcoming legislative session and if there is any support to reform the “no parole/85% sentence requirement statute” currently being enforced, without exception. She was advised by another Board member that the issue was considered in committee and lacked a patron who wanted to present the legislation.

Discussion ensued surrounding in-custody serious criminal offenses and the acceptance of plea deals, the importance of jail administrators having a professional relationship with state prosecutors and the impact of prosecution of these cases.

There was in-depth discussion regarding re-entry and the benefits to the community, the offender and their families. It was suggested that if the downward population trends continue, the local facilities would be ideal to use for step-down programs for offenders from the state level to gradually reintegrate back into the community through work release and training programs.

I. **Other Comments**

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