

**MINUTES
BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009
9:00 A.M.**

Board Members Present: Bernie Heier, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Deb Schorr

Board Members Absent: Ray Stevens

Others Present: Mike Thurber, Corrections Director
Bob Jarrett, Corrections Maintenance/Construction
Manager
Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:48 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

**1 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES OF
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2009**

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded approval of the February 19, 2009 Board of Corrections Meeting minutes. Hudkins, Schorr, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

A. Population Comments

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, reported a 10% increase in average daily population for the first quarter of 2009, compared to the same period in 2008. The sharpest increase was at the work release facility in Airpark (an increase of 24 inmates). Bookings increased by 24% during this quarter (an average of 572 individuals booked per month).

B. Population Graphs

See agenda packet.

C. Fiscal Year 2008 Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

D. Fiscal Year 2009 Monthly Statistical Report

See agenda packet.

3 DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A. Training

Thurber said there were 469 applications for correctional officer positions this quarter and said every position is filled. In-service training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), First Aid and Pressure Point Control Tactics (PPCT) was also conducted this quarter.

B. Mental Health Jail Diversion Program

Thurber said the Mental Health Jail Diversion Program is running between 30 to 40 individuals. Ten new individuals were accepted into the program this quarter. Three cases were successfully closed and four were terminated. He said a new member of the team was a Jail Diversion and Drug Court success story and is helping individuals transition to lower levels of supervision. Thurber said there has been more willingness on the part of Cornhusker Place to accept individuals who are part of the program and said there may be new opportunities for treatment of clients who have mental health and drug issues through CenterPointe.

C. Out-of-County Housing

Thurber said the department continues to house inmates in Butler, Platte and York Counties, due to overcrowding, and is working on a contract with Hall County.

Saunders County has also expressed interest in housing Lancaster County inmates.

In response to a question from Heier, Thurber said transportation remains an issue in negotiating a contract with Hall County.

D. Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF)/Work Crew Projects

Thurber said the work crews' projects include moving furniture for other departments; painting, remodeling and routine maintenance projects; pulling wires for antennas; and picking up scrap metal for disposal.

Heier asked whether the Parks and Recreation Department has requested labor to help mow city parks.

Thurber said no. He explained that the composition of the work crews has changed and greater supervision is needed.

E. Programs Division

Thurber said an average of one inmate per month was placed in Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) and transferred to the Crisis Center. He also reported there is an average of 26 evaluations per month with the consulting psychiatrists. Thurber reported that Travis Parker, Community Mental Health Center Deputy Director, is working with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center on screening questions for all jails throughout the State.

Thurber said the Work Release Coordinator reviewed an average of 149 court-ordered release applications this quarter and said the average number of individuals on work release during these months was 32.

4 NEW BUSINESS/TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

A. Design Review

Brad Johnson, Transition Coordinator, said the department has continued to review and fine tune the designs for the new jail. He said a lot of attention was given to refining plans for the special needs area.

B. Millwork

Johnson said staff reviewed and made changes to the architect's millwork drawings.

C. Video Arraignment

Johnson said meetings were held with Latta Technical Services concerning the design of the video arraignment area and visitation equipment. A survey was sent to all of the County and District Court judges requesting their input and follow-up meetings were held with representatives from Latta Technical Services, Clark Enersen Partners, Clerk of the County Court, County Sheriff, County Attorney, and the Public Defender's Office participating. Corrections staff also toured Hall County's facility and observed a video arraignment.

D. Storage/Mail Room Design

Johnson said they have been working with Midwest Storage Solutions to design medical, pharmacy, property and records storage and a mail room.

E. Booking Processes

Johnson said a committee was formed to look at booking area processes and said the floor plan for the pre-booking area was taped off in the architect's design studio.

F. Radio Alternatives

Johnson said he met with Julie Righter, 911/Emergency Communications Director, and representatives of the radio shop to discuss the pros and cons of joining the City/County radio communication system or maintaining the department's own radio system.

Hudkins asked whether stimulus monies could be used.

Thurber said its more likely that energy projects would be funded.

In response to a question from Schorr, Thurber said privatization of medical and mental health services is a possibility and said there are a number of providers that can provide both types of services

Schorr said the Youth Services Center (YSC) has the same issues and asked him to keep Michelle Schindler, YSC Director, apprised.

5 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m. Hudkins, Workman, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk