

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

Regular MeetingOctober 17, 2012

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

Presiding.....David Simons, Hampton Roads Regional Jail, Committee Chairman

Present.....Peter Decker, III, Chairman, Board of Corrections
Cynthia Alksne, Member, Board of Corrections
Kurt Boshart, Member, Board of Corrections
Linda Curtis, Member, Board of Corrections
William Osborne, Member, Board of Corrections
Rev. Anthony Paige, Member, Board of Corrections
Carl Peed, Member, Board of Corrections
David Kidwell, Arlington County Adult Detention Center
Tim Trent, Blue Ridge Regional Jail Authority
Sheriff Stephen Draper, Martinsville City Jail
John Roberts, Newport News City Jail (Retired)
Sheriff Gabe Morgan, Newport News City Jail
Walter Minton, Riverside Regional Jail
Marc Schuster, Virginia Beach City Jail
Chris Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail
Jim Parks, Classification and Records, DOC
Jim Bruce, Policy and Initiatives Manager, DOC
Brooks Ballard, Local Facilities, DOC
Bill Wilson, Local Facilities, DOC
Barbara Woodhouse, Chief Deputy's Office

The meeting was called to order and attendees in the room identified themselves for the record. Mr. Simons welcomed all attendees.

I. Committee Chairman (David Simons)

Mr. Simons called for a Motion to approve the September minutes. By **MOTION** duly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously **APPROVED**.

Mr. Simons reminded the members about the 2013 meeting dates included with the packet, which are to be approved by the Board today.

As Mrs. deSocio was not in attendance, the meeting proceeded with Mr. Wilson's jail population report.

II. Meeting Summary

Mr. Wilson reported the jail population to be 29,310. As of October 16, the out-of-compliance figure stood at 5,107. Mr. Parks reported there has been no movement. He also indicated there will not be a contract to house out of state inmates from New Mexico.

Mr. Wilson reported on jail construction projects statewide indicating the Richmond City Jail, which is under construction and going up quickly. The footers have been poured at RSW. That project is on schedule.

Mr. Wilson noted the discussion on the pregnant inmate restraints language will be before the full Board today at 1:00. The committee who came up with the proposed language was made up of representatives from all sides of the issue. Mr. Wilson invited anyone at this morning's meeting to attend the 1:00 meeting to hear Sheriff Arthur speak for the Sheriffs and Superintendent Thacker for the Regional Jails.

A discussion ensued on this subject. It was suggested that there are many inmates in local jails who have special issues such as HIV, pregnancy, mental health, et cetera, and that it is problematic to separate out a special class of people. Sheriff Morgan noted this is not the big issue it has been made out to be; that balancing safety, security and the health of inmates is done every day. Mr. Wilson noted he has had one complaint about this issue; an alleged incident where an inmate was restrained during delivery, which was found to be untrue. He assured the coalition at the time that people complain about everything and if this had been happening, he would have heard about it.

Mrs. Alksne asked how many pregnant inmates there are in jails statewide. The response was that depending on the size and mission of the facility, there could be anywhere from none to 100 at any given time. It was noted that one larger facility has had 15 at the most out of a total population of 1250.

Mr. Wilson noted that reporting by the jails is proposed as part of this new procedure and that a report would be submitted to the Board annually, and he has a problem with that. In addition, he indicated that the coalition is requesting access to use of force reports that are currently not FOIAable. Sheriff Morgan indicated that jails deal with everything and report on everything and asked why must there be one more thing to report on and for what purpose?

Reverend Paige cautioned to listen and let people vent their concerns; to not make the mistake of arguing in areas that are muddy; that what ends up on the books may or may not strengthen the argument of any one side because the disposition of what is reflected here will be carried out in its own way. The staff knows the position of the regional jails as well as the concerns of the Sheriffs and the Board. He suggested giving an ear to everything and everyone. Mrs. Alksne suggested to give discretion and to recognize all stakeholders. Chief Deputy Marc Schuster suggested that public

safety is an important additional stakeholder. Mr. Boshart reminded the group that we have FOIA laws already, and we do not need to change that, nor do we need to lessen FOIA laws. There are better means and ways of getting to the bottom of an issue and that release of information is not going to protect a baby.

The comments were concluded. Mr. Wilson had forgotten to mention that the new, 80-bed Mecklenburg facility is scheduled to open in January, 2013. Mecklenburg is part of the Meherrin River Regional Jail facility.

With that, there were no further comments. Mr. Simons noted the next meeting will be held on November 14, 2012, at 9:30.

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

DRAFT