

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

Regular MeetingMarch 19, 2014

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

Presiding.....David Simons, Committee Chairman

PresentPeter G. Decker, III, Chairman, Board of Corrections
William Osborne, Member, Board of Corrections
Rev. Anthony Paige, Member, Board of Corrections
Carl Peed, Member, Board of Corrections
Robyn deSocio, State Compensation Board
Tim Trent, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
William Smith, Western Tidewater Regional Jail
Captain John Jenkins, Fauquier County
Deputy Laura Hopkins for Sheriff Steve Draper, City of Martinsville
Sheriff Gabe Morgan, City of Newport News
Debra D. Gardner, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Corrections
Bill Wilson, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections
Brooks Ballard, Local Facilities Unit, Department of Corrections
Jim Bruce, Policy Unit, Department of Corrections
Jim Parks, Offender Management Services Unit, Department of Corrections
Chuck Hall, Hampton/Newport News Community Services Board
Matt Marsteler, Blue Ridge Regional Jail
Dick Hall-Sizemore, Department of Planning and Budget

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

I. **Committee Chairman (Mr. David Simons)**

Mr. Simons called for a Motion to approve the November Minutes. Upon a **MOTION** by Mr. Roberts and duly seconded, the November 13, 2013 minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** as amended.

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

Ms. deSocio provided an update of events that have occurred since the November meeting. The 2014 Legislative Session convened on January 8, 2014 and recently concluded. In addition, during the session Governor McDonnell's 2014-2016 Proposed Biennial Budget was introduced but not approved. As a result of not finalizing the budget, Legislators will return for a Special Session on March 24, 2014.

Ms. deSocio provided an update on jail per diem payments – The Senate proposed to increase funding by \$4.8 million in addition to the \$4.5 million included in the introduced budget to meet the state’s statutory commitment for funding jail costs. Based upon current inmate forecasting, there is an anticipated per diem funding shortfall of \$9.3 million for the current fiscal year, and the additional \$4.8 million was not included in the House budget. The \$4.8 million needed represents approximately 1/3 of the amount needed for the 4th quarter payments. The jail per diems are considered a “caboose item” and Ms. deSocio is hopeful that this issue will be one of the first things addressed when the Special Session convenes later this month.

Ms. deSocio provided an update on the LIDS-CORIS transition. The 3rd Quarter payment was paid slightly behind schedule. Fifteen to twenty facilities had not completed the necessary steps between September and November, 2013. Currently all but four jails are caught up and supplemental 3rd quarter payments should be received by the end of this month. Fourth Quarter per diem payments are normally scheduled for payment in mid-April, but are generally not able to be made until new appropriations provided during the legislative session are received in late May.

The LIDS-CORIS system still contains a number of outstanding issues, but progress has been made since inception and is ongoing. Fourteen critical issues have been included in a recent software release currently being installed for testing, and three additional issues are scheduled to be delivered in a hot fix in two weeks. The vendor is currently reviewing ten additional issues and is in the process of developing a Compensation Board only release for those issues. A number of regional and local jails are participating in testing of the recently received release. Compensation Board staff is working with the vendor to resolve all outstanding issues, and has communicated to the vendor and DOC that any remaining critical/high priority items must be resolved at least a month before the close of the fiscal year.

Ms. deSocio reported that per diem funding needs for FY15-16 are \$10 million in FY15 and \$11 million in FY16. Funding for 48 temporary correctional officers was included in the Governor’s introduced budget and maintained in the Senate budget. In the House budget, the definition of overcrowding has been revised, and as a result the House reduced funding and provides only 13 positions. This is a matter for budget conferees.

The Governor’s proposed budget also includes a 2% salary increase for entry level grade 7 and 8 deputies and regional jail officers effective July 1, 2014. The Senate budget maintains this increase and allows for an additional 1% salary increase applicable to all officers and employees effective January 1, 2015. The House budget moves the deputies’ salary increase to a revenue reserve, contingent upon meeting certain revenue requirements, and if those requirements are met, the increase would be effective January 1, 2015. In addition, the House proposes a 2% salary bonus on July 1, 2015 for all other positions not receiving the salary increase. All matters related to salary increases or bonuses are currently up in the air, subject to budget conferee, and she will continue to keep the members informed.

Ms. deSocio distributed a copy of a New York Times article titled, “Little-Known Health Act Fact: Prison Inmates Are Signing Up.” The article discusses the increase in corrections officials enrolling inmates into the Medicaid expansion program for in-patient hospitalization costs in other states where such an expansion has been approved.

Governor McAuliffe introduced a technical budget amendment during the regular legislative session which included a realignment of funds to allow two regional jail facilities to open their new or expanded construction projects on time. Both the House and the Senate included in their budget amendments language which allows for the electronic transmission of court documents between courts, jails and the DOC.

Ms. deSocio reported that she previously met in a meeting with Chief Deputy of Corrections, Debra D. Gardner, IT staff at DOC, Deputy Secretaries of Public Safety and Administration, Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) and members of the Inmate Forecasting Committee to discuss the impacts on the inmate forecasting process of outstanding critical issues in LIDS-CORIS. Ms. deSocio reported that she is in contact with DOC IT staff weekly and monthly with the president of Abilis (system vendor). Ms. deSocio advised the members that the Compensation Board is willing to hear from anyone with specific questions or concerns.

III. **Prison/Local Jail Population Report and Jail Construction Update – Mr. Bill Wilson**

Mr. Wilson provided the Prison/Jail Population Report and a jail construction update. Mr. Wilson reported Rappahannock, Shenandoah and Warren county regional jail. (RSW) is scheduled to open in July 2014. Richmond City will begin transferring inmates in May and the Southwest (SW) expansion/opening is scheduled for August 2014. The out-of-compliance number was reported at 4,835 as of March 10, 2014. Per Mr. Wilson the out-of-compliance numbers are slightly misleading; there are not currently approximately 1400 empty beds. Beds are categorized in a variety of ways (medical, segregation, mental health etc.). Chief Deputy, Debra Gardner advised the members that the out-of-compliance numbers are correct and not misleading. They are reported in the same format as in the past.

Following a discussion regarding facility capacity and out-of-compliance numbers, Mr. Wilson concluded his report.

IV. **Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Care Coordination Services Presentation**

Johnnette Cleaton, Epidemiology Nurse, VDH opened the presentation by providing a historical overview of the program its responsibilities. In addition, she distributed handouts which detail the program services.

Safere Diawara, Assistant Director of HIV Services, VDH reported that each month approximately 100 people enroll in the program. The best way to address the needs of the HIV/AIDS infected population is to develop a plan beginning 3 months prior to their discharge/release from jail. Once released VDH can assist with their needs and provide their medications for 30 days to ensure no lapse in treatment. Mr. Diawara stated help is needed from the Board to determine how to involve jails and implement the program.

Susan Carr, Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Resources and Linkages for Inmates (CHARLI), Contract Monitor, VDH provided an in-depth overview of the CHARLI program and its benefits to inmates and individuals recently released from incarceration. The CHARLI program is a continuum of care program beginning with HIV/STD education for inmates 60-90 days prior to their release and following through with overall case management upon release. Case management includes discharge planning, housing resources, access to food resources, assistance with Social Service applications, assistance with employment opportunities, access to medications, linkage to medical care, mental health services, substance abuse support and services, transportation assistance, support groups, interventions and strategies for people living with HIV. CHARLI services are available to all DOC facilities.

In FY13 HIV/STD prevention classes were conducted for 870 inmates in 36 state, regional and local correctional facilities. A little over 1700 inmates were tested for HIV and seven were identified as HIV positive and connected to medical care. 147 clients were assisted by the CHARLI program. 84% made their medical appointments and took their prescribed medications. 96% of the clients completed the program, stayed out of jail and continued treatment. Since the CHARLI program inception in 2009 only 12% of the 147 clients returned to jail. The program is extremely successful in the Western Region, to learn more speak to a Sheriff that is currently utilizing the program to gain insight. Ms. Carr opened the floor for questions. She advised the members that no mass testing is performed due to program and funding limitations. She also informed the members that VDH will pay for HIV medications for out-of-compliance inmates. Chairman Simon spoke highly of the benefits of the program. Ms. Carr thanked the member for listening and turned the floor over to Veronica Naranjo, HIV Care Coordinator, VDH.

Ms. Naranjo provided a comprehensive overview of Care Coordination. Care Coordination ensures access to HIV/AIDS related medical care and medications access for inmates as they re-enter society. The seamless transitional program provides assistance and oversight to ensure clients continued engagement with medical care and support services. From 2012 to the present, a total of 181 clients have been assisted. Of the 181, 147 were male and 34 female, 152 African-American and 29 Caucasian. 118 clients continued engagement and 63 clients did not comply with the program requirements. Of the 63 non-compliant clients, 31 moved out of state, 22 were re-incarcerated, 6 were lost to care and 4 died.

VDH has begun replicating the Statewide Seamless Transition Program process in Virginia Local and Regional Jails creating the Expedited Enrollment Program (EEP). EEP was piloted and tested in Henrico County Jail. Hampton Roads Regional Jail and Richmond City Jail are also pilot sites for the program.

In concluding the presentation Ms. Naranjo stated that the program is a bridge to providing continuity of care. Uninterrupted access to HIV medications prevents lapses in medication, increases client medication adherence and subsequently decreases mortality and reducing further transmission of HIV. Ms. Naranjo opened the floor for questions. In response to an inquiry regarding whether the program addresses other diseases/medical needs Ms. Carr advised that free clinics across Virginia assist with other medical needs (mental health, high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.). Ms. Naranjo thanked everyone and asked that they complete the survey. Ms. Carr advised the members that VDH staff is willing to provide any assistance necessary. Feel free to give their office a call and they will put you in contact with the right people if they are unable to address your needs.

V. **Other Comments** (Mr. William Osborne)

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