

## **CIC Open Meeting: Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 6:00 PM**

### **April 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Board Attendees: Chairman Charles Thornton, Nkechi Taifa, Katherine Huffman

CIC Staff Members: Donald Isaac, Nicole Ukaegbu, Nailah Seabron, Dana DeMartino, Theo Nastase, Kareem McCraney, Patricia Marks, and Sydney Lang.

### **Executive Director Message:**

Director Donald Isaac gave an update on the CIC's staffing, recent activities, and ongoing projects. Issued reports and publications include the monthly bulletin, inspection reports on FCC Coleman, a DOC inspection report, and an updated thematic report on BOP institutions with 30 or less DC Code offenders.

In progress reports include a legislative booklet, a survey of women in BOP custody, ongoing reports on previous recommendations made, and a compilation of best practices. The CIC also published four informational sheets on specific BOP populations and demographics.

Deputy Director Nicole Ukaegbu spoke about the various community events the CIC has engaged in during the month of April, which is Second Chance Month, and the agency's efforts to inform incarcerated residents about the upcoming elections.

Program Analyst Kareem McCraney spoke about CSOSA's virtual Community Resource Fair, which he attended on behalf of the CIC on April 30, 2024.

Noteworthy developments include the addition of a new Board member, Prechelle Shannon, the completion of the agency's IRAA Community Engagement Video, and the CIC's continued work on establishing best practices. Additionally, the CIC participated in DC government's annual Performance Oversight Hearing and Budget hearings this quarter.

Ongoing agency tasks include weekly staff meetings and bi-weekly staff check-ins, quarterly informational sheets for the website containing useful topics and aggregated data, and ongoing monitoring of thematic issues at BOP facilities. The CIC continues to respond to inquiries and letters from both residents and families, log that information in Ragic, observe progress on performance plans and strategic initiatives, track report timelines, and monitor progress on compliance issues, such as Language Access and COOP. CIC staff members individually participate in professional development and educational trainings.

Agency goals for FY24 include quarterly DOC & BOP meetings and inspections, a BOP-wide mailing of reentry resources to achieve the District's racial equity goals, an IRAA community engagement video and presentation, continuation of the recommendations follow-up project, work with the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, New Beginnings, and Youth Services Center, and the addition of subject matter experts on agency inspections.

## **BOP updates:**

This fiscal year the CIC has been using the supplemental section of our surveys to ask residents about voting. The CIC also includes the Board of Elections' contact information on the CIC resource sheet that all residents are mailed post inspection. Staff has improved the pacing of BOP inspections: the BOP has historically attempted to rush us through the facility, but the team has been making an effort to slow staff down to facilitate thorough questioning. The CIC also noted trends regarding the lack of PREA phone number being posted in BOP housing units and the increased usage of Restrictive Housing Units (RHUs) across the BOP.

### **Demographics (April 1, 2024)**

- 2,422 Men in BOP Custody; 576 set to be released by April of next year
  - 2,307 Black
  - 106 White
  - 8 Asian
  - 1 Native American
- 65 Women in BOP Custody; 18 set to be released by April of next year
  - 61 Black
  - 4 White
- 175 People to be released this quarter from BOP custody
- 308 residents serving a life sentence (USP Hazelton and USP Tucson have the most with 23 at each)
  - 305 Male and 3 Female
- No women in high security institutions
- The total population has decreased by 147 people or by about 6%. Since April last year, the population of the BOP has increased by 10%
- The women's population has increased by 18% since January 2024.
- Most DC Code Offenders are located in FCIs (Hazelton & Ft. Dix for men; SFF Hazelton for women)

## **DOC Updates:**

CIC staff conducted a site visit to CDF in April to observe the facility's food service program. Noteworthy takeaways from the inspection were that the kitchens appeared clean, the facility recently purchased all new ovens, and the facility utilizes hot carts to deliver meals which can maintain the appropriate temperature for hot meals. A report on this visit is forthcoming, and the CIC plans to integrate a food survey on the tablets in the DOC to further assess this subject. The CIC recently published the inspection report from the agency's December 2023 inspection of the DOC. The report is available on our website.

### **Demographics (April 1, 2024)**

- Population of 1,876
- 1082 residents are being held pretrial, 136 are housed in the DOC for parole violations, the amount of DC resident in custody has increased by 12% since January
  - 1292 at CDF, 583 at CTF, 55 at CCB, 1 at Fairview
- 198 youth under DYRS
  - 37 at the shelter home, 109 at the youth services center, and 52 at new beginnings

**Community Q&A:**

N/a

*There was no closed portion of the meeting.*

Closing remarks.