

MEETING MINUTES
District of Columbia Corrections Information Council
Open Monthly Meeting
Monday, November 3, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW, Rm 1114
Washington, DC 20004

I. Call to Order. The CIC Open Meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by board member Rev. Samuel Whittaker at One Judiciary Square, 441 4th Street, NW Rm 1114, Washington, DC 20004.

II. Ascertainment of Quorum. Board Members present (Rev. Samuel Whittaker, Katharine Huffman), constituting a quorum. Staff personnel present (Cara Compani, Program Analyst, Shakenia Bryant, Office Manager, and John Kowalko, Legal Fellow).

III. Reports.

- a. USP Allenwood (September 2013)
 - Overview of the inspection process,
 - Number of DC inmates at the facility: 120
 - Best practice
 - ULS and UNICOR
 - Recommendations
 - Distance from DC
 - Video visitation (want FBOP-wide)
- b. FCI Allenwood Low
 - Overview of the inspection
 - Number of DC inmates at the facility
 - Best practices
 - RDAP and Medical (after hearing the complaints about medical and dental)
 - Recommendations
 - Programming
 - PREA violation issue
- c. USP Atlanta
 - Medium security
 - Number of DC inmates at the facility: 40
 - A lot of best practices
 - SMU-SDU; reentry programs
 - UNICOR; vocational training
 - Diverse staff; positive inmate comments
 - Recommendation
 - Distance
 - Administrative remedies
 - SHU programming
 - Medical / dental

IV. Recent Reports.

- a. Six inspections outside of DC and Rivers
 - Canaan – 30 inmates interviewed; highlights and Challenge Program
 - Otisville – inmates felt safe; relaxed atmosphere; good recreation (free weights available)
 - Petersburg Medium & Low – 22 at the Medium and 8 at the Low for number of inmates interviewed, and UNCOR at the low
 - USP & SFF Hazelton – 27 at SFF and 24 at USP inmates interviewed; program with West Virginia University, students taught the class; quarterly video conferencing with CSOSA; SFF family reunification CSOSA program
 - Rivers – was a follow-up on last year's inspection, because of the significant amount DC inmates at Rivers with many returning to DC, so particularly important. Some things had not changed with expectations of officials at Rivers.

V. Community Outreach.

- a. Research on resources for release.
- b. Need something similar to the Montgomery Country Pre-Release Center in DC
- c. Gathering info from reentry network, NARC, and other organizations to collaborate with community outreach to be more active.
- d. For employment project, calling entities who claim to be open to hiring returning citizens.

VI. Questions & Comments.

- a. **Question:** Overview of CIC inspection process. **Answer:** Visit facilities, gather information from FBOP/contactors, gather information from DC inmates at the facility, and compile into the report. The CIC is not enforcement agency, we are an essential part of providing information and make available to public. Hopefully improve situation for DC inmates (**Katharine**).
- b. **Question:** Can inmates/staff reach out after inspection? **Answer:** Yes, and encouraged to do so. We often receive calls, email, and letters after (**Cara**). We keep all individual information confidential (**Katharine**).
- c. **Question:** Certain states/contract facilities are declining to take DC inmates? **Answer:** have heard this about some RRC's but not facilities.
- d. **Question:** Do you follow-up on concerns? **Answer:** Do not represent individual inmates, but can give referrals (**Cara**),
- e. **Question:** Visits with juveniles? **Answer:** Only under mandate are those in DOC custody at CTF but not DYRS (**Cara**).
- f. **Question:** Are juveniles treated differently? **Answer:** Toured the juvenile unit several times and reviewed the independent audit by Ridley Group (**Cara**).
- g. **Question:** Stats on deaf inmates? **Answer:** Generally come from HEARD but have several areas that the CIC wants to focus on, including deaf inmates, but not enough staff to do it.
- h. **Question:** Housing opportunity for deaf after leaving prison/jail? **Answer:** Housing is difficult for all inmates, but doesn't know of any specific housing designated for deaf.

VII. Next Open Meeting

- a. The CIC Board will discuss the next open meet during the closed meeting and will forward the information out to the listserv.

VIII. Vote to Close Remainder of Meeting, Pursuant to DC Code 2-575(c)(1).

- a. Pursuant to DC Code 2-575(c)(1), the board of the CIC will vote to close the remainder of the meeting to discuss training and development of CIC board members and staff. DC Code 2-575(b)(12).

IX. Closed Session of Meeting (if approved by majority of CIC Board).

X. Adjournment.

- a. There being no further business, Board member Rev. Samuel Whittaker declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

CLOSED MEETING

- I.** Closed Session of Meeting (approved by majority of CIC Board)
- II.** Adjournment (Board Chair)