

MEETING MINUTES
District of Columbia Corrections Information Council
Open Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2012 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Martin Luther King Jr. Library
901 G Street, Conference Room A-9, NW
Washington, DC 20001

I. Call to Order

The CIC Open Meeting was called to order by Chairman Michelle Bonner at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 901 G Street, Conference Room A-9, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

II. Ascertainment of Quorum

Board Members present (Michelle Bonner, Rev. Samuel Whittaker, Katharine Huffman), constituting a quorum. Staff personnel present Cara Compani (Program Analyst).

III. Agenda

- a. Call to order board chair, Michelle Bonner
- b. Roll call by board chair. Katharine Huffman, Samuel Whittaker, Michelle Bonner and staff personnel Cara Compani
- c. Overview of CIC. More information about the CIC was available at the meeting via the CIC flyer.
- d. CIC annual report, the first annual report of the CIC was released November 30, 2012 this is posted on the website. The report contained information on what the CIC was doing from June 2012 through September 29, 2012 in addition to general information about where DC residents are incarcerated. The CIC statutory mandate requires the CIC to provide an annual report within sixty days of the fiscal year, additionally the CIC is required to release reports on individual site visits throughout the year.
- e. Hope Village November 30, 2012 the CIC conducted an onsite inspection of Hope Village; this was the CIC first inspection. A large number (about fifteen) of the Hope Village staff were in attendance at the meeting. The CIC Board and staff thanked the Hope Village staff and FFBOP staff for all of the assistance on the inspection date. The inspection of the facility is only one portion of an inspection. The purpose of the CIC report will be to report observations, note best practices, and make recommendations. There is no timeline on Hope Village report, The CIC hopes to release the report within the quarter. Also, the CIC thanked the DC community for the information provided to the CIC about Hope Village. The information gathered on Hope Village is not complete, currently the CIC is looking to gather more information from current Hope Village residents or individuals that were recently released from Hope Village. Also, if there is any additional information please contact the CIC to relay that information. This inspection is a learning experience for the CIC, in terms of what is going on in community corrections, we welcome comments from the staff and administrative at Hope Village on improvement the CIC could make. With respect to the report the CIC will provide a draft to Hope Village and Federal Bureau

of Prisons (FFBOP) before the report is released, this will be for fact checking. If any dispute is claimed by FFBOP / Hope Village this will be reported in the report. Also, the CIC briefly discussed its role. The CIC does not look at individual complaints; instead the CIC looks at the entire program and provides recommendation and analysis. The CIC is still in the process of collecting information from all sources. While an inspection is ongoing we will not release information. Completed information will be available in our public report.

IV. Virginia Regional Jails: Northern Neck and Piedmont

The CIC put in a request to do an inspection of Piedmont and Northern Neck on December 17-18, 2012. At this time FFBOP did not grant this request because FFBOP doesn't have direct contract with these facilities. FFBOP cannot force an inspection at this time because they "Piggyback" off the US Marshals Service contract. The CIC stills intend to do an inspection of both facilities, just not on the requested date in December. DC residents under FFBOP custody are being sent to these facilities; therefore, the Board believes they are still under our mandate. The CIC is not clear on the number of DC residents at these facilities or what sentences they are receiving. Sending people to regional jails is relatively new, the CIC chair has only heard of it over the past year or eighteen months. The CIC is in an information gathering phase and is looking to the community for more information, in all areas and specifically in the field of visitation.

V. Questions Comments

- a. Visitation at FFBOP and their contract facilities. Eleanor Holmes Norton had asked whether visitors were welcome at Northern Neck and Piedmont since these facilities were closed in proximity to the CIC.
- b. One attendee stated that it is important that public official are discussing visitation at FFBOP facilities because this is a very important topic.
- c. One attendee stated that sending DC residents at FFBOP facilities are far from home. The distance, in and of itself, is inhumane.
- d. CIC information gathering. As an agency, the CIC receives information from the community (as always we encourage the community to contact us). Also we gather basic information about where DC residents are. Site visits are only a portion of our monitoring process. Currently, our resources are very limited, but we would like to increase our staff size.
- e. CIC reports, our report shines light where no light existed before. The intention of the CIC is to bring awareness to best practice and issues.
- f. The statutory mandate of the CIC. Our mandate was not carried out in the past because there was no Board appointed. In the future the CIC would like to increase the size to fully fulfill its mandate. One of the major goals of the CIC is institutionalize the CIC, so it will exist.
- g. Community concerns: senior citizens released from custody. Many people are locked up for a long time; they come home and have nowhere to go. The CIC believes this could be a thematic report, looking at this issue across facilities. The CIC could also look at what is provided for release planning on this issue. This issue may benefit from a system wide approach.

- h. Where do community members go to be heard, it still seems like community has nowhere to go to get my questions answered. Questions and information from the community are important to the CIC. There CIC may not be able to answer individual question, but we can look at processes and procedures and how the system can work better to answer questions

VI. Open Meeting

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

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

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).

VIII. Adjournment

- a. There being no further business, Board Chair Michelle Bonner declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

CLOSED MEETING

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

