

MEETING MINUTES
District of Columbia Corrections Information Council
Open Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, February 12, 2013 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Martin Luther King Jr. Library
901 G Street, Conference Room 221, NW
Washington, DC 20001

I. Call to Order

The CIC Open Meeting was called to order at 6:46pm by Chairman Michelle Bonner at the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 901 G Street, Conference Room A-9, NW, and Washington, DC 20001.

II. Ascertainment of Quorum

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

III. Overview of CIC

- a. More information about the CIC was available at the meeting via the CIC flyer

IV. CIC Annual Report

The first annual report of the CIC was released November 30, 2012; this is posted on the website. The report contains 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's statutory mandate requires the CIC to provide an annual report within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year, additionally the CIC is required to release reports on individual site visits throughout the year.

V. Hope Village Update

Hope village November 30, 2012 the CIC conducted an onsite inspection of Hope Village; this was the CIC first inspection. A large number (about 15 members of the Hope Village staff) were in attendance at the meeting. The CIC board and staff thanked the Hope Village staff, BOP staff and CSOSA staff for all they did on the inspection date. The inspection of the facility is only one portion of an inspection. The purpose if the CIC's report will be to report observations, point out best practices and make recommendation on areas that may need to be tweaked. 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 gathering on Hope Village is not complete. Currently, the CIC is looking to gather more information from Hope Village residents or individuals that were recently released from Hope Village. Also, if there is any additional information please contact the CIC to rely 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 administration 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 (BOP) before the report is released, this will be for fact checking. If any dispute is claimed by BOP/Hope Village this will be reported in the report. Also, the CIC briefly discussed its role, not as monitoring body, but rather an investigative body. The CIC does not look at individual incidences; instead we look at the entire program and provide recommendation and analysis. The CIC did not provide any specific information on the Hope Village inspection. The CIC is still in the process of collecting information from all sources; therefore while an inspection is ongoing we will not release information until it is incomplete. Complete information will be available in our public report.

VI. Virginia Regional jails:

- a. Northern Neck and Piedmont – the CIC put in a request to do an inspection of Northern Neck and Piedmont for a December 17-18, 2012. At this time BOP did not grant this request because BOP doesn't have a direct contract with these facilities. BOP cannot force an inspection at this time because they "piggyback" off the US Marshall Service contract. The CIC still intends to do an inspection of these facilities, just not on the requested date in December. DC residents under BOP custody are being sent to these facilities; therefore, the board believes they still under our mandate. The CIC is not clear on 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 18 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. All of this is part of the inspection and monitoring process. The CIC is looking for some information on the process of how BOP is moving people to the regional jails (e.g. transit piece who gets there, why, and how)

VII. Questions / Comments

- a. Visitation at BOP and their contract facilities. Eleanor Holmes Norton had asked whether visitors were welcome at Northern Neck and Piedmont since these facilities were close in proximity to the CIC. One attendee stated that it is important that public official are discussing visitation at BOP facilities because this is a very important topic. One attendee stated that sending DC residents to BOP facilities far from home in and of itself is inhumane.
- b. CIC information gathering. As an agency , the CIC receives information from the community (as always we encourage the community to contact us) receive guidance on where are the priorities; 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. The CIC is a bridge for DC residents back to the community; we need more information to re-build this bridge because the bridge was broken.
- c. CIC reports, our reports do carry weight because it shines light where no light existed before. When we bring issues to light someone will answer.

- d. 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 to increase size to fully fulfill its mandate. One of the major goals of the CIC is to institutionalize the CIC, so it will exist. Phil Mendelson was the chair of the judiciary and a proponent of the CIC. He is now chair, we believe he is still supportive of the CIC and continue on.
- e. Community concern- senior citizens released from custody. Many people are locked up for a long time; they come home and have nowhere to go. The Mayor needs to know he has a growing number of seniors coming back and they end up on the street. The CIC believes this is possibly 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. The senior population is not getting any assistance or help.
- f. Community concerns- who do I go to so my voice can 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.

VIII. Schedule Next CIC open meeting and set open meeting schedule. Next meeting March 12,2013

IX. 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).

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

XI. 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)