

DC Corrections Information Council

Tuesday, March 13, 2017, 6pm to 7:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ

3845 South Capitol Street

Washington, DC 20032

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Charles Thornton called meeting to order on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 @ 6:20 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Charles Thornton- Board Chair, Phylisa Carter- Board member, Katherine Huffman- Board member, Michelle Bonner- Executive Director, Staff Members- John Kowalko, Laura de las Casas, Kendra Van de Water, Rebekah Joab, Mabel Tejada, Interns-Ashley French and Eric Malloy.

Absent – Calvin Woodland, Jr., Board Member, and Sheila Walker, Staff Member

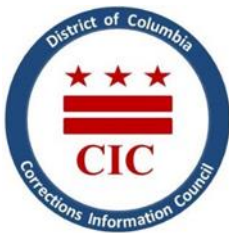
III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

The CIC introduced Mabel Tejada as new staff member. Mabel is the new Communications Specialist her duties include, but are not limited to bulletin publications, social media outreach, recording and editing videos of CIC events/meetings and website management.

Calvin Woodland Jr. was introduced as a new board member. He is now the fourth member of the board; and a new board member, to be nominated by the Council, will be added in the near future.

IV. AGENCY LIAISON POSITION

CIC Program Analyst Laura de las Casas has been assigned as Agency Liaison in which she will work with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), DC Department of Corrections (DOC), and other agencies on building a bridge to address issues as they arise. Currently she has been looking into the changing policies on books and publications being sent to BOP and DOC facilities. The BOP currently has what is called a blanket policy, but also gives facilities the ability to revise their own policy on a case to case basis through the facility warden. The policy in USP Victorville has recently been changed and all books must be purchased off of an inmate's commissary



DC Corrections Information Council

account, which is different from other policies as non-profit organizations or friends and family used to have the ability to purchase books from the publisher on an inmate's behalf and have them sent. Some of the questions that were raised were whether or not other BOP facilities would start to adopt similar policies or if this applies to religious materials as well.

V. CIC Board Composition

The composition of the board was recently enlarged, from three members to five. The first new addition has been appointed but there may not be another one added until after May 2018. There was a vote taken by the council to potentially allow someone other than a DC resident to be able to take this position. While this vote passed, it was stated that it will likely still be a DC resident.

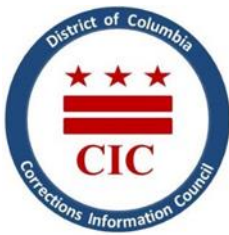
VI. RECENT REPORTS

The CIC is currently awaiting BOP's review of two reports. The reports for FCI Beckley and USP Lewisburg have been sent in for approval and are set to be ready for publication after their review takes place. The BOP has 30 days to complete the review. The reports for FY 16 and FY17 on DOC are ready to be posted on our website. The DOC has sent their written response back but still has not sent all of the attachments. It was decided that the CIC would post what they presently have and add any attachments that the DOC may send over at a later date.

There has been a large effort to minimize the amount of backlog we have in our reports. All of FY16 backlogged reports are complete. It was discussed to potentially consolidate the five backlogged reports from FY15 in order to get them completed but also to help the BOP approve them in a timely fashion. These shortened reports could then be used in the future to compare and measure the progress of these facilities when they are re-inspected by the CIC. The goal is to have all backlogged reports completed by the end of the year.

VII. RECENT AND SCHEDULED INSPECTION

USP Pollock was inspected during December of 2017 and an inspection of USP Atwater, which was originally scheduled for February, was rescheduled to April 11th and 12th, at BOP's request due to a new warden at the facility. There are hopes to possibly inspect another group of facilities in Butner, NC sometime during this fiscal year. The Butner Complex has multiple facilities all on one location, including a medical center. If the CIC is to inspect here they would likely bring teams to multiple facilities as well as bringing in a medical expert to help assist with the medical facility. It was also mentioned that there is interest in visiting halfway houses Fairview and Hope Village, or additional medical centers for inspection. The halfway houses are beneficial to



DC Corrections Information Council

inspect and report on because there have been recent reports from residents at Fairview, and Hope Village is still operational under a BOP contract extension.

The upcoming prisoner and reentry symposium with Public Defender Services will take place sometime this spring. The topics of focus may include reentry partnerships, such as the Reentry Action Network (RAN), Portal of Entry, as well as new mobile app technology for returning citizens. The Symposium will cover the transition from incarceration to reentry.

VIII. NEXT CIC OPEN MEETING

The next open meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2018 at the ONES Office in Ward 7, at 100 42nd St NE. The following meetings will take place on September 6th and December 6th but do not yet have locations.

IX. CLOSED MEETING

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Board Chair Charles Thornton declared this meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.