



## CIC | DC Corrections Information Council

**Monday, September 17, 2018, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**  
**The Raben Group, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**1341 G St NW, Washington, DC 20005**

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Charles Thornton called meeting to order on Monday, September 17, 2018 @ 6:10 pm.

### II. ROLL CALL

Charles Thornton- Board Chair, Phylisa Carter- Board member, Katherine Huffman- Board member, Calvin Woodland- Board Member, Michelle Bonner- Executive Director, Staff Members- Laura de las Casas, Rebekah Joab, Nicole Ukaegbu , Chrisiant Bracken, Sheila Walker, Intern- Justin Penik  
Absent- Calvin Woodland- Board Member, Staff Member- Sheila Walker, Intern Samantha Kramer

### III. INTRODUCTION TO NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The CIC has welcomed Chrisiant Bracken as a new staff member. Chrisiant will fill the role of policy analyst. The CIC has also welcomed two interns, Samantha Kramer and Justin Penik, from The Washington Center until the month of December. Interns will participate in the following but are not limited to research studies, DOC and BOP inspections, distribute surveys, interview inmates, monitor DC residents who are/ could potentially be civilly committed, assist with holiday card initiatives, respond to conditions concerns through the phone and email.

### IV. AGENCY LIAISON REPORT

CIC Program Analyst, Laura de las Casas, reports that the CIC inspected Big Sandy USP on 8/28-30. The CIC had the ability to interview approximately 56 out of 108 incarcerated DC residents at Big Sandy. A takeaway from the inspection at Big Sandy was learning about a non- DC resident inmate homicide in Group A, which occurred multiple months ago. Other key trends included issues surrounding the dining hall and how silverware is being used in the creation of prison made weapons. Consequently, access to the dining hall has been nearly cut off to inmates and has led to cold meals being brought to inmates' cells. Lockdowns, dining hall issues and a lack of programming have been a long term, multi-year issue at Big Sandy, not necessarily caused by the recent inmate homicide.

The CIC has made a note to review whether or not the frequent occurrence of lockdowns is a part of a backlogged report from 2015 on Big Sandy USP. The overall goal is to have the updated information from this most recent visit on Big Sandy USP written into the new report.



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The CIC has undergone multiple efforts to reach out to facilities affected by Hurricane Florence. Bennettsville FCI as of the evening of 9/17, was operating on generator for power and the CIC is glad to report there have been no significant injuries or deaths and there has been continual adequate food and water throughout the storm. Additionally, BOP Rivers Correctional Institute, which is near the Virginia-North Carolina border, has re-opened visitation on 9/16 and was not affected by flooding. The CIC has also been monitoring the Juvenile Lifers in DOC and has conducted sixteen interviews on the conditions of their confinement.

### V. CIC BOARD COMPOSITION

The CIC is happy to announce the addition of a fifth board member. **NAME** has a confirmation hearing on 10/18/18.

### VI. REPORT PUBLICATION STATUS

The CIC has submitted report drafts to Florence FCC and Voices of America Chesapeake RRC and have yet to hear back from either facility. The Fairview RRC, Atwater USP and Big Sandy USP reports are all in the pipeline to submit for review by the BOP. Michelle Bonner and the CIC staff members introduced to the Board new ideas to efficiently and effectively make inspection reports reader friendly for the general public. By front loading inspection reports to highlight important issues, this makes the information published by the CIC more absorbable and highlights priority concerns. Besides making reports more reader friendly, the overall goal is to fasten the response of the BOP, so the CIC can therefore release reports in an efficient manner as well. The CIC has been emphasizing trying to reach as many people as possible through a monthly e-newsletter and social media platforms. These are quick and easy ways to gain traction while also properly portraying information for the public to view.

### VII. RECENT AND SCHEDULED INSPECTIONS/VISITS

The CIC will conduct an onsite inspection of CTF on Thursday, September 20 and of the DC Jail (CDF) on Wednesday, September 26. The CIC will also be visiting DC incarcerated men at USP Lee, VA on October 16-17. The CIC will be analyzing CTF's medical unit and Title XVI youth. The target date for Title XVI youth to be moved out of DOC facilities is Monday, October, 1 2018. The concern that comes from Title XVI youth being transferred out of DOC supervision is that according to *Brown v. DC*, for inmates' ages 18 to 21, special education services need to be provided for DC residents regardless of where they are incarcerated. Therefore, the CIC is advocating for these individuals by finding out how these policies will be properly executed for them wherever they might go.

### VIII. Other – Civil Commitment of Incarcerated DC Residents

After an individual is convicted of a crime from the Superior Court and once they complete their sentence, the BOP has the right to indefinitely civilly commit individuals in prison who



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they deem to be a danger to the community. Typically those who have issues with mental illness or who have been convicted as sex offenders, have the highest probability of civil commitment once their time of formal incarceration is complete. It has come to the CIC's attention that it needs to monitor DC residents who might be eligible for civil commitment after they have served their sentence. Due to the fact that the commitment process is done through the Federal and State levels, DC is typically not notified if or when one of its citizens is eligible for civil commitment and also, not notified if an individual is being indefinitely kept under supervision. CIC Interns will work on attempting to identify if DC residents have or if they are eligible to be civilly committed. It is imperative to identify, notice and advocate for DC residents before being civilly committed, so we can try and get people access to DC's mental health care.

### IX. NEXT CIC OPEN MEETING

The next open meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018 location to be determined.

### X. CLOSED MEETING

### XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Board Chair Charles Thornton declared this meeting closed at 7:12 pm.