CIC Open Meeting: Thursday, July 20, 2023, 6:00 PM

July 2023 Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Chairman Charles Thornton, Nkechi Taifa, Katherine Huffman

CIC Staff Members: Director Donald Isaac, Nicole Ukaegbu, Nailah Seabron, Eric Weaver, Patricia Marks, Dana DeMartino, Theodore Nastase, and Sydney Lang.

Closed portion for Executive Director Evaluation

Executive Director Message:

Executive Director Donald Isaac gave an overview of CIC activities to date including published reports and projects. The Executive Director announced that the CIC currently has four reports awaiting BOP responses. All these reports are projected to be published before the end of the fiscal year. Since April 2023, the CIC has published BOP reports on FCI and SFF Hazelton. The CIC has also published information sheets on length of sentences, institutions with the highest populations, programs available at each BOP facility, and data on DC residents with life sentences.

CIC is currently working on a recommendations follow-up project for the BOP and DOC. CIC staff will review recommendations in past reports, categorize the recommendations, and improve them for use in future projects and reports.

BOP updates:

CIC Program Analyst Sydney Lang discussed quarterly data that the CIC has collected from BOP inspections including the amount of DC Code Offenders in BOP custody, top facilities where DC Code Offenders are housed, and data on women in BOP custody. The CIC has also created a resource document on the CIC website which is distributed to DC residents in custody after every inspection. CIC staff also discussed the projected inspection schedule for FY24 and made a VOA spring/summer inspection a standard for the agency.

In June of 2023, the CIC Board Chair Charles Thornton, Senior Analyst Kareem McCraney, and Program Analyst Theo Nastase inspected VOA halfway house in Baltimore. The CIC conducted this inspection after receiving correspondence from loved ones and residents. As a result of this inspection, the CIC facilitated a meeting with MORCA and the BOP to continue to strengthen relationships with DC government agencies.

DOC updates:

The CIC conducted an inspection of the Central Treatment Facility (CTF) and Central Detention Facility (CDF) in April. The CIC conducted an additional inspection and survey of women identifying residents held at CTF in May. Both reports are currently under review and will be forthcoming. The CIC conducted an additional investigation of CDF on 20 July 2023 in response to resident concerns about the temperature of the facility. CIC staff conducted numerous spot checks of temperature of cells in multiple housing units and found CDF compliant with Department of Correction policy. The CIC made additional suggestions on how the DOC can mitigate heat concerns within CDF. The CIC contacted the DC Board of Elections (BOE) regarding the transfer of the DOC Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) commissioner into BOP custody to ensure there is a process in place to elect a new ANC. The BOE informed the CIC there will be a special election held to select a new ANC.

CIC Program Analyst Dana DeMartino discussed the quarterly population data for residents incarcerated in DOC facilities including the number of residents held pretrial, number of detained youth and trends in the population totals since the last open meeting.

Community Question and Answer:

The following questions were asked by community members:

Q: Why was the DOC ANC transferred to the BOP?
A: He was in DOC custody for a pending IRAA hearing but was denied and transferred back to BOP custody to serve the rest of his sentence.

Q: Where is the new jail being built?
A: It will be co-located with CTF.

Q: Can you explain the review process for inspection reports?
A: We send the reports back to the respective institutions (the BOP or DOC) and provide them an opportunity to respond to our reports. We do not edit our reports, but we do incorporate their responses into the reports.

Q: Where will the Ready Center be?
A: 3610 MLK Jr. Ave, SE.

Q: Will the CIC be reporting on the effects of the recently passed emergency public safety legislation?
A: We will monitor the impact of the legislation on the DOC population.

Closed portion of meeting for director evaluation