



DC Corrections Information Council Combined Annual Report Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015

FY2014 CIC Board of Directors

Michelle R. Bonner, Chair (Through June 2014)

Rev. Samuel W. Whittaker

Katharine A. Huffman

FY2015 CIC Board of Directors

Rev. Samuel W. Whittaker (Through June 2015)

Katharine A. Huffman

Phylisa Carter (nominated)

Letter from the DC Corrections Information Council

Mayor Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

Thomas R. Kane, Acting Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons

Quincy Booth, Interim Director, DC Department of Corrections

Phil Mendelson, Chair, Council of the District of Columbia

Charles Allen, Chair, Committee on the Judiciary, Council of the District of Columbia, and

DC Community At-Large,

It is our great honor to provide you with the combined FY2014 and FY2015 Annual Report of the DC Corrections Information Council (CIC). The presence of this independent oversight body demonstrates the importance that our community places on the well-being of incarcerated DC residents and the need for objective reporting on the conditions of their confinement, whether locally or far from home.

The CIC accomplished much in 2014 and 2015 with its volunteer three-member board, one program analyst, and support staff. They performed great work with those in the DC and federal governments, professionals in the areas of corrections and detention, incarcerated DC residents and their families and friends, and the broader DC community to raise awareness regarding the health, safety, and possibilities for successful reentry of incarcerated DC residents. Program Analyst Cara Compani worked tirelessly for the CIC for 3 ½ years, from August 2012 to March 2016. Rev. Samuel Whittaker was incredibly devoted to the work of the CIC, acting above and beyond during his 1 ½ terms on the CIC Board. We thank them for their service to the CIC and to the DC community.

The CIC also appreciates the cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the DC Department of Corrections (DOC), and their private contract facilities, and their willingness to work with the CIC. Specifically, the CIC received extensive support from BOP Director Charles Samuels and his staff at the BOP in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. The CIC would also like to thank former DOC Director Thomas Faust and his staff at the DOC for their support and cooperation.

We also thank the former Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the late Paul Quander, Jr., for the support and assistance provided to the CIC during his term. Through his work, the CIC established an ongoing relationship and memorandum of understanding with BOP and acquired full-time staff committed to the work of the CIC. In 2014, the CIC saw an increase in funding in the CIC budget for FY 2015, which enabled the CIC to hire two new full-time employees; and in FY 2015 the CIC relocated to an office that provided confidentiality for communications and information collected. We thank all those in the DC government who assisted the CIC in this process and whose efforts made it possible.

The CIC is grateful to all those community members who have contributed their time and effort to the CIC. Without the tireless advocacy and support of the DC community, the CIC would not exist. We look forward to working with all of you and to continuing the successes of the CIC. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve the city and the residents of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

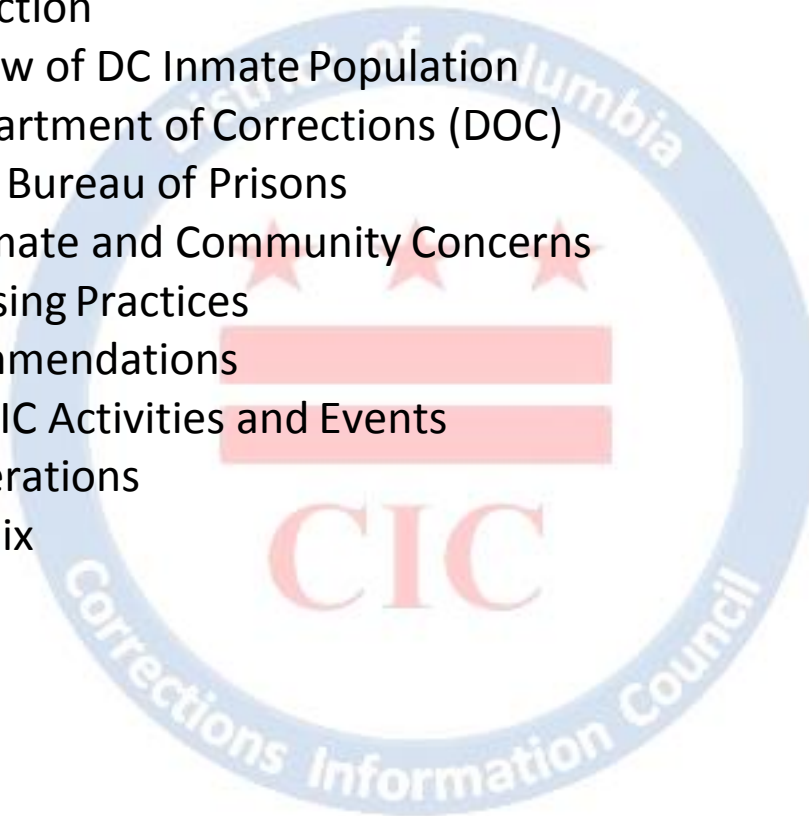
Michelle Bonner

Executive Director, CIC

December 13, 2016

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I. Introduction

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is mandated to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement at facilities where DC residents are incarcerated, including facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the DC Department of Corrections (DOC), and their contracted facilities. The CIC also assesses the programs and services available to DC residents at these facilities. The CIC collects information from many different sources, including facility inspections, interviews with incarcerated DC residents, document review, and community outreach. This information is then compiled into reports on the various facilities. These reports with observations and recommendations are then given to the DC Mayor, the DC Council, Congresswoman Norton, the DC City Administrator, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the DC community. During Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, the CIC was comprised of two to three volunteer board members, one program analyst, a legal fellow, an administrative assistant, a community outreach assistant, and student and community outreach interns.

Statutory Mandate

The DC CIC was established by the *National Capital Revitalization and Self-Improvement Act of 1997* (“*Revitalization Act*”). The *Revitalization Act* transferred the custody of those who were sentenced for felonies under the DC Code from DOC custody at the Lorton Correctional Complex to BOP custody. The Act also established the CIC and outlined the membership, compensation, and duties of the Board. A portion of the act addressing CIC duties states:

Duties. The Council shall report to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons with advice and information regarding matters affecting the District of Columbia sentenced felon population.

The authority of the CIC was expanded to inspect DOC facilities in the *District of Columbia Jail Improvement Act of 2003*. The establishment, membership, compensation, and duties of the CIC were further delineated and codified in DC Code § 24-101, which was replaced by DC Code § 24-101.01.

CIC Activities

In Fiscal Year 2014, the CIC inspected 16 facilities. These facilities are located in seven states and consisted of over 30% of DC inmates in BOP custody. In Fiscal Year 2015, the CIC inspected 11 facilities. These facilities are located in eight states and consisted of over 20% of DC inmates in FBOP custody.

In addition to facility inspections, the CIC participated in community outreach and held regular public meetings. The CIC held five public meetings in FY2014, three public meetings in FY2015, and a FY2014 Welcome Home Event for returning residents. The CIC also attended over 45 community events in these two years to raise awareness about the CIC, connect with community members and other government or nonprofit agencies, and gather information relevant to the conditions of confinement of DC inmates. Finally, the CIC participated in eleven training sessions with experts in prison oversight, conditions of confinement, and other pressing issues affecting DC inmates.

II. Overview of DC Inmate Population

A. DC Department of Corrections

Below is a breakdown of the DOC inmates at the Central Detention Facility (DC Jail), the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), and Residential Reentry Centers (RRCs) by facility, month, gender, and ethnicity.

MONTHLY DOC POPULATION BY FACILITY									
FY2014	CDF	CTF	RRCs	Total	FY2015	CDF	CTF	RRCs	Total
Oct. 2013	1,676	543	80	2,299	Oct. 2014	1,368	424	71	1,863
Nov. 2013	1,688	500	73	2,260	Nov. 2014	1,333	433	73	1,838
Dec. 2013	1,628	495	86	2,209	Dec. 2014	1,215	424	71	1,709
Jan. 2014	1,544	487	96	2,127	Jan. 2015	1,131	414	64	1,609
Feb. 2014	1,499	519	79	2,048	Feb. 2015	1,130	410	67	1,607
Mar. 2014	1,437	512	74	2,023	Mar. 2015	1,114	421	63	1,598
Apr. 2014	1,433	473	77	1,983	Apr. 2015	1,084	411	68	1,563
May.2014	1,490	460	67	1,965	May.2014	1,037	417	69	1,524
June.2014	1,452	436	73	1,961	June.2014	1,051	418	73	1,542
July.2014	1,428	431	88	1,947	July.2014	1,082	410	59	1,550
Aug. 2014	1,357	412	84	1,852	Aug. 2015	1,114	382	47	1,544
Sept. 2014	1,364	408	69	1,841	Sept. 2015	1,138	407	47	1,592

Source: DC Department of Corrections Demographics and Statistics. Statistics dated October 2014 and September 2015.

In fiscal year 2014, the average daily male population in DOC custody was 1902; average female population, 151; and the average DOC juvenile population was 16, with all juveniles housed under DOC custody at CTF. In FY2015, the numbers of those incarcerated fell by over 700, from 2,299 total at the beginning of FY2014 down to 1,592 by the end of FY2015.

Additionally, although Black residents comprise 49% of the overall DC population, they made up 91% of the DOC inmate population in the FY2014 and FY2015.

B. Federal Bureau of Prisons

The BOP operates facilities at five different security levels: minimum, low, medium, high, and administrative. In general, the BOP classifies facilities by name according to their designated security levels.

- **Community Corrections Manager (CCMs).**
- **Minimum security facilities** = Federal Prison Camps (FPCs).
- **Low security facilities** = Federal Correctional Institutions (FCIs) Low.
- **Medium security facilities** = FCIs Medium or United States Penitentiaries (USPs) designated to house medium security inmates.
- **High security facilities** = USPs.
- **Central Office** = Number of BOP inmates in DC facilities.
- **Administrative facilities** = institutions with special missions, including the treatment of inmates with serious or chronic medical problem or the containment of extremely dangerous, violent, or escape-prone inmates. Administrative facilities include Metropolitan Detention Centers (MDCs), Metropolitan Correctional Centers (MCCs), Federal Detention Centers (FDCs), Federal Medical Centers (FMCs), the Federal Transfer Center (FTC), the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (MCFP), and the Administrative-Maximum (ADX) U.S. Penitentiary. Administrative facilities are capable of holding inmates in all security categories. (Facilities such as FDC, FTC and MDC are located in the “Other” category.)

FBOP Population of DC Inmates by Facility Type		
Type of Facility	Number of DC Inmates 2014	Number of DC Inmates 2015
Minimum Security	12	11
Low Security	314	327
Medium Security	1,903	1,859
High Security	1,805	1,654
Administrative Maximum	24	32
CCM	43	72
Medical Center	126	109
Contract Facility	449	370
Central Office	344	309
Transit Status	301	252
Other	108	84

Source: CSOSA Census Roster of DC Code Offenders. Statistics dated September 30, 2014 and August 31, 2015.

2014

DC inmates were incarcerated in 116 different BOP facilities across 32 states, including the District of Columbia. At the end of fiscal year 2014, there were 5429 DC residents in BOP custody, including 5204 males and 225 females.

2015

DC inmates are incarcerated in 114 different FBOP facilities across 36 states, including the District of Columbia. At the end of fiscal year 2015, there were 5079 DC residents in FBOP custody, including 4,678 males and 148 females.

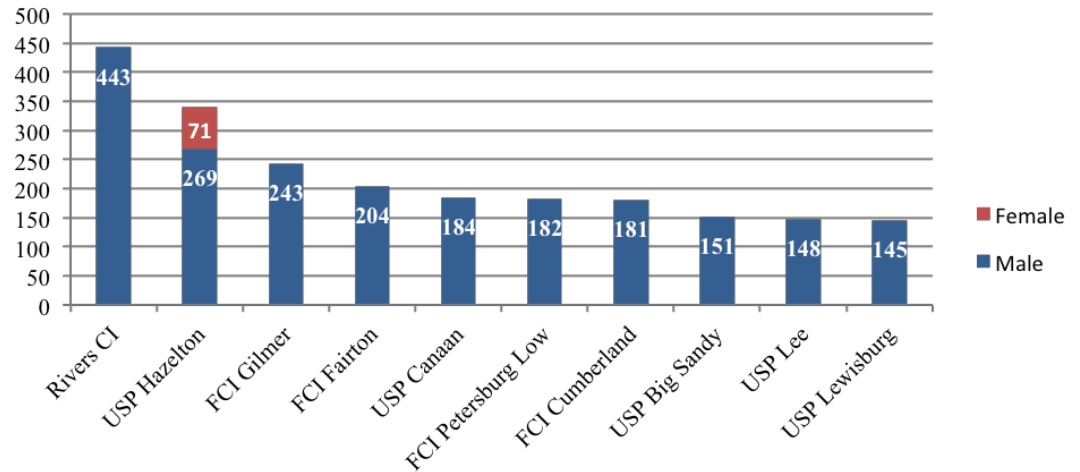
FBOP Facilities with the Largest Number of DC Inmates

The largest number of DC inmates were incarcerated at 10 facilities in seven states, with the most at Rivers Correctional Institute (CI) located in North Carolina.

2014

Female DC Inmates in BOP Custody

In September 2014, there were 172 female DC inmates in BOP custody in DC and in 13 other states. The facility with the largest number of female DC residents was Secure Female Facility (SFF) Hazelton, which held a total of 71 females.

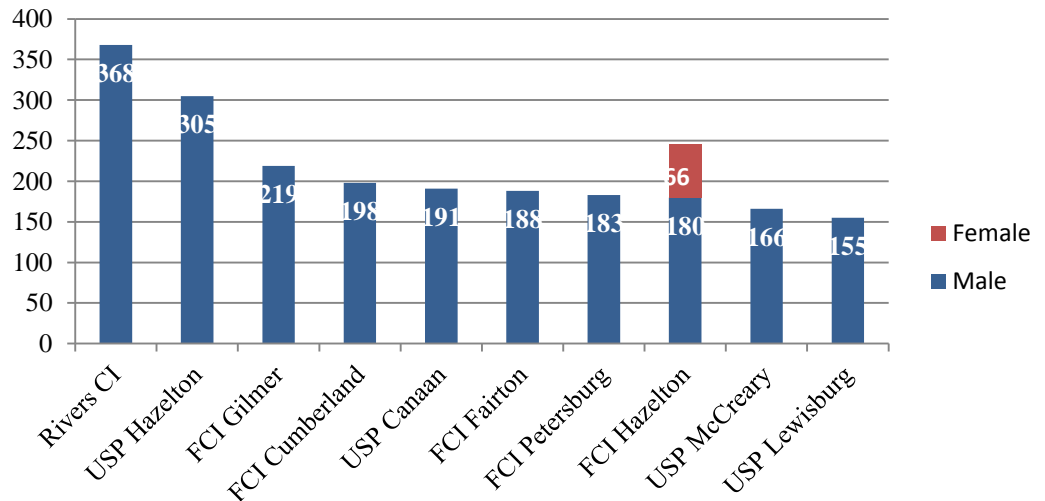


Source: CSOSA Census Roster of DC Code Offenders. Statistics dated September 30, 2014.

2015

Female DC Inmates in FBOP Custody

In August 2015 there were 172 female DC inmates in FBOP custody in DC and in 13 other states. The facility with the largest number of female DC residents was FCI Hazelton, which held a total of 66 females.



Distance from DC for DC Inmates in BOP Custody (2014)

DC inmates in BOP custody were located in 116 facilities across 32 states, including DC. In September 2014, approximately 74.5% of DC inmates in BOP custody were located in 42 facilities within 500 miles of DC.

Distance from DC for DC Inmates in FBOP Custody (2015)-

DC inmates in FBOP custody are located in 114 facilities across 36 states, including DC. In August 2015, approximately 73.22% of DC inmates in FBOP custody were located in 39 facilities within 500 miles of DC.

VIII. DC Department of Corrections

Concerns

Lack of contact visits for youth incarcerated at the CTF. The DOC has implemented a behavioral management level system in which youthful offenders at the top level (“gold tier”) are able to receive one contact visit per month while all other juveniles at the CTF and young adults at the DC Jail have access only to video visitation.

Use of solitary confinement for youth. Community advocates noted an overuse of solitary confinement and the use of solitary confinement as the only option for youth in protective custody at the CTF. While the DOC has revised their policy on solitary confinement of youth to limit a maximum of five days in isolation, community advocates have reported to the CIC that this policy has resulted in only a review after the five days without an end to the solitary confinement.

Health care contracting process. The corrections medical contractor, Corizon Health, Inc., competed with existing medical contractor, Unity Healthcare. However, Unity Healthcare prevailed, and Department of Corrections renewed its contract for continuity in healthcare services.

Promising Practices

ServSafe Certification Through the DC Central Kitchen

In FY2014, the DC Jail began partnering with DC Central Kitchen by offering ServSafe certification to inmates at the DC Jail. ServSafe is a food and beverage safety training program administered by the National Restaurant Association.

DOC Partnership with DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) to Implement an Employment Readiness Center

This Center would be a satellite site in the DC Jail where DOES employees would be assigned to work directly with inmates at the DC Jail. The Center would provide career assessments, job counseling and guidance, life skills and job readiness workshops, personal computer training, occupational skills training, and apprenticeship opportunities.

DOC to Implement a Mental Health Step-Down Unit at the DC Jail

The proposed Step-Down Unit will increase the level of mental health staffing and programmatic resources available to inmates.

Training on Trauma-Informed Care for DOC Staff

In December 2013, the DOC began training session for staff working with women who have experienced trauma. The training sessions were designed to assist staff in better understanding the impact of trauma, especially on incarcerated women.

Expansion of the DC Jail Video Visitation Sites to Four New Locations

The DC Jail expanded the number of locations for conducting video visitation by adding four satellite locations. Originally, the only location for a video visitation was the DC General Hospital Complex adjacent to the DC Jail.

IV. Federal Bureau of Prisons

The following table provides the facility name, date of inspection, and number of DC inmates at each facility inspected by the CIC in fiscal year 2014. The CIC's inspection of Victorville Medium I was terminated by the Warden before the inspection was complete.

Facilities Inspected by the CIC in Fiscal Year 2014		
Facility Name	Inspection Date	Number of DC Inmates
Central Detention Facility (DC Jail)	October 2013	1,676
USP Atlanta, GA	February 11, 2014	40
USP Lewisburg, PA	April 10, 2014	124
FCI Schuylkill, PA	April 11, 2014	105
USP Victorville, CA	April 30, 2014	55
FCI Victorville Medium II, CA	May 1, 2014	4
FCI Victorville Medium I, CA	May 2, 2014	10
Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF)	May 14, 2014	460
Juvenile Unit at CTF	May 14, 2014	16
USP Canaan, PA	August 4, 2014	192
FCI Otisville, NY	August 5, 2014	34
FCI Petersburg Medium, VA	August 18, 2014	175
FCI Petersburg Low, VA	August 19, 2014	14
USP Hazelton, WV	August 25, 2014	251
SFF Hazelton, WV	August 26, 2014	74
Rivers CI, NC	September 25, 2014	509
Total in DOC custody		2,152
Total in BOP custody		1,587
Total		3,739

The following table provides the facility name, date of inspection, and number of DC inmates at each facility inspected by the CIC in fiscal year 2015.

Facilities Inspected by the CIC in Fiscal Year 2015		
Facility Name	Inspection Date	Number of DC Inmates
FCI Edgefield, SC	November 17, 2014	74
FCI Bennettsville, SC	November 18, 2014	55
FCI Cumberland, MD	December 5, 2014	184
USP Beaumont, TX	February 24, 2015	50
FCI Beaumont Medium, TX	February 25, 2015	2
FCI Beaumont Low, TX	February 25, 2015	4
USP Coleman I, FL	March 23, 2015	77
USP Coleman II, FL	March 24, 2015	71
FDC Philadelphia, PA	April 23, 2015	39
FCI Fort Dix, NJ	April 24, 2015	98
USP Big Sandy, KY	July 16, 2015	150
FCI Gilmer	July 17, 2015	254
Total		1,027

A. Inmate and Community Concerns

Type of Concern	Percent 2014	Percent 2015
Staff Conduct	26%	18%
Health Services	22%	27%
Education and Programming	12%	8%
Communication and Visitation	11%	6%
Daily Life Issues	6%	7%
DC Specific Issues	5%	9%
SHU and DHO	5%	5%
Other (including facility issues, release and pre-release services, sentence and parole issues, institutional safety)	13%	20%

The CIC reports individual inmate concerns in facility inspection reports. In fiscal year 2014, the CIC received 1015 inmate concerns from over 100 letters from inmates, more than 200 in-person interviews, and numerous emails and phone calls from inmates, loved ones, and concerned citizens. In fiscal year 2015, the CIC received 1056 inmate concerns. The chart above presents a breakdown of the types of concerns received by the CIC. More specifically, concerns included, but were not limited to:

Visitation

The primary barrier to visitation is the distance of BOP facilities from DC. The CIC also received reports regarding disrespectful treatment of visitors by facility staff members and the multi-year denial of phone and visitation privileges for some inmates. False positives from the Ion Scanner device used to detect the presence of narcotic residue on visitors' clothing and body have resulted in visitors being turned away after traveling hundreds of miles. .

Solitary Confinement

The CIC received significant concerns about the use of solitary confinement, especially the use of “Special Management Units” (SMU) and the scheduled opening of Administrative United States Penitentiary (AUSP) Thomson in Illinois as an expansion of solitary confinement practices in the BOP.

Staff Treatment of Inmates

Numerous instances of assaults and excessive use of restraints by staff on DC inmates in the BOP, especially at USP Lewisburg SMU. The CIC also received reports regarding the overuse of chemical agents for incapacitating inmates. Across BOP facilities, DC inmates consistently reported discriminatory treatment of individuals from DC.

Medical and Mental Health Care

The CIC received many concerns regarding the lack of adequate health care available for DC inmates in both the BOP and the DOC, especially the lack of mental health treatment and long wait for dental care.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Inmates

The CIC received specific concerns from the DC community regarding deaf and hard of hearing inmates in the BOP, including: refusal to provide interpreters and batteries for hearing aids, limited telecommunications access, and botched cochlear implant surgery.

B. Promising Practices

The CIC observed many promising practices during its inspections and correspondence with inmates, community organizations, and other individuals, including:

Educational Programming - The State of California subsidizes the tuition for inmates who wish to take college courses, and the inmates pay for the books and other materials. The Hazelton Complex hosts the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program in which students from West Virginia University (WVU) attend a class alongside inmates at the prison once a week.

Resolve Program at SFF Hazelton - The Resolve Program is a voluntary, cognitive-behavioral treatment program for trauma and related mental health needs of female offenders.

Reentry Services Division - The BOP recently reorganized their internal structure to include a Reentry Services Division at Central Office. The Assistant Director of the Reentry Services Division reports directly to the Director of the BOP.

MOU with SSA - The BOP has a nationwide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Social Security Administration to facilitate the process of inmates obtaining Social Security Number (SSN) cards prior to release.

CSOSA Community Resource Day - The Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency of Washington, DC (CSOSA) provides a quarterly Community Resource Day. Through videoconferencing, CSOSA staff and representatives from other organizations provide information on housing, healthcare, employment, education, and other resources in the DC area to DC inmates who are within 90 days of release.

Family Outreach Events - Since 2013, facilities in the BOP have participated in Universal Children's Day. The event allows children to visit their incarcerated parents and bond with them over a weekend in November.

The Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (ORCA) assisted with the event and bought children from DC to visit their parents in Hazelton. In January 2014, CSOSA began partnering with Hope House and SFF Hazelton to conduct a weekly Family Reunification Videoconferencing, which links female DC inmates at the facility with their minor children in DC.

C. Recommendations

Based on its facility inspections and correspondence with inmates and the community, the CIC included recommendations in their reports and communications to the BOP, some of which were:

Special Management Unit (SMU), USP Lewisburg – Recommended that reports of unprovoked staff assaults on inmates, excessive use of restraints, a failure of the administrative remedy process, a lack of mental health care and the overall ineffective nature of the SMU program are addressed.

Special Housing Unit – Meaningful educational programming to SHU inmates; additional hours of out-of-cell time; reevaluation of the effectiveness of removing phone and visitation privileges for a period greater than one year; decrease the number of inmates with mental health needs in segregated housing; and limit amount of time inmate can be held in segregated housing.

Reentry Services - Ensure that all facilities have adequate release planning services and programming for release preparation. The CIC also recommended that the BOP avoid releasing DC inmates directly from high security facilities and solitary conditions to the community.

Communication and Visitation - Implement video visitation in BOP facilities to facilitate communication with loved ones.

Sentence - Prevent DC inmates' "back number" and public safety factors (by virtue of being state inmates) from disproportionately affecting programming and conditions of confinement.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Inmates - Staff receive training on deaf culture and proper ways to communicate with inmates who are deaf or hard of hearing.

V. Other CIC Activities and Events

FY2014

In fiscal year 2014, the CIC conducted over 200 inmate interviews and received hundreds of letters, emails, and phone calls from DC inmates. Also, to reach more of the inmate population, the CIC sent a general CIC flyer to inmates in FBOP custody, chosen at random, on a quarterly basis.

Also on August 23, 2014, the CIC held a “Welcome Home Event” at the Department of Employment Services Community Room in Ward 7 to welcome home those returning from prison. This was the first community outreach event held since the CIC’s reconstitution in 2012, apart from its open meetings.

Also, in FY 2014 the CIC toured the Pre-Release Center (PRC) in Montgomery County, MD, a halfway house where a few DC code offenders serve their halfway house time prior to release. The CIC was able to witness some employment/life skills training best and halfway house management best practices for DC inmates as they transition back into the DC community.

FY2015

In fiscal year 2015, the CIC expanded staff by converting a contract office manager position to full-time employee (FTE) position, hiring one additional community outreach FTE, and moving into a larger office space that can accommodate our staff and interns. The CIC moved from Suite 533 desk bank in the Wilson Building to space in the ground level of the Greater Washington Urban League Building, at 2901 14th St NW, Washington, DC (Columbia Heights area). The CIC was also supported with another donation from the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. The CIC used the funding to provide a stipend to a community outreach intern who spread awareness about the CIC in the community and collected information from community members and organizations on issues relevant to the work of the CIC.

The CIC also visited the Street Law Class at Cardozo High School, and visited Youth Build Training Program, both in the Columbia Heights neighborhood, to share the work of the CIC and the community outreach assistant’s story of incarceration and successful reentry.

In the summer of 2015, the CIC hosted a presentation event where summer interns from the CIC and other criminal justice agencies presented their research to each other. The CIC presentations included information on sentence calculation for DC Code Offenders and designation to BOP facilities.

V. CIC Operations

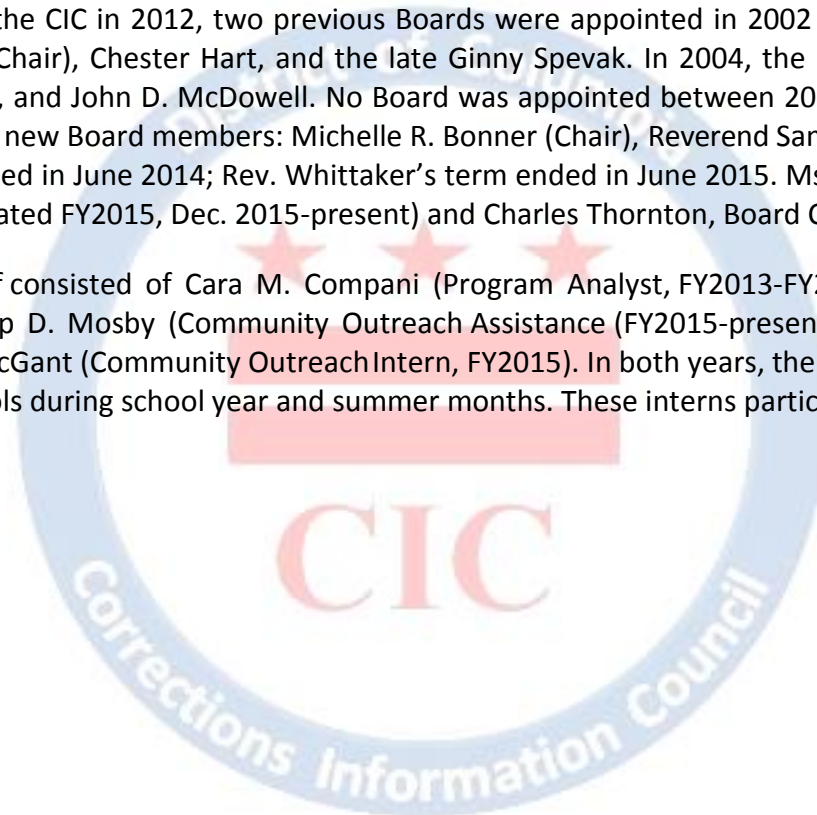
A. Contact Information

In FY2014, the staff of the CIC were located in Suite 533 of the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW. In FY 2015, the CIC moved to the Greater Washington Urban League Building, 2901 14th Street NW, Ground Floor, Washington DC 20009. The main office line is 202-478-9211, and the email is dc.cic@dc.gov. CIC resources may be found on its website at www.cic.dc.gov.

B. Board and Staffing

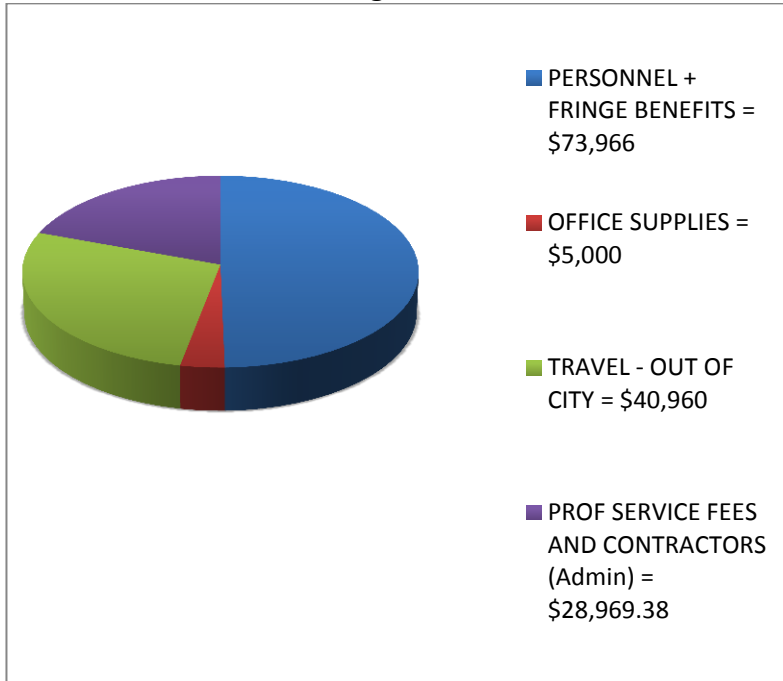
Prior to the reestablishment of the CIC in 2012, two previous Boards were appointed in 2002 and 2004. In 2002, the Board was composed of Harold S. Russell (Chair), Chester Hart, and the late Ginny Spevak. In 2004, the Board was composed of Ronald E. Hampton (Chair), Linda Jo Smith, and John D. McDowell. No Board was appointed between 2005 and 2012. On June 7, 2012, the CIC was reestablished with three new Board members: Michelle R. Bonner (Chair), Reverend Samuel W. Whittaker, and Katharine A. Huffman. Ms. Bonner's term ended in June 2014; Rev. Whittaker's term ended in June 2015. Ms. Huffman is still on the CIC Board, along with Phylisa Carter (nominated FY2015, Dec. 2015-present) and Charles Thornton, Board Chair (Dec. 2016-present).

For FY2014 and FY2015, CIC staff consisted of Cara M. Compani (Program Analyst, FY2013-FY2016), Shakenia M. Bryant (Office Manager, FY2014-FY2015), Phillip D. Mosby (Community Outreach Assistance (FY2015-present), John A. Kowalko III (Legal Fellow, FY2015), and Andre A. McGant (Community Outreach Intern, FY2015). In both years, the CIC employed the services of legal interns from local area law schools during school year and summer months. These interns participated in research, writing, and inspections the CIC conducted.



Budget

FY2014 Actual Budget = \$148,895.38



FY2015 Actual Budget = \$228,402

