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CIC BULLETIN

NEWS FROM DC CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

Message from CIC Executive Director



May has been an eventful month for federal and local corrections. On May 18, it was announced that General Mark Inch resigned as Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) after only nine months at the helm. The New York Times reported possible political reasons for his [resignation](#), which was announced while federal government officials discussed prison reform at the White House.

Congress is also discussing broader reform, to include [linking prison reform to federal sentencing reform](#). The CIC hopes that the federal government's current focus on prison reform issues leads to changes in major areas affecting DC incarcerated residents, including conditions of confinement, staffing shortages, designation closer to home, and programming that supports successful reentry.

Meanwhile, in local corrections, the issue of unauthorized releases has been brought to the fore. Federal court Judge Emmet Sullivan [ordered](#) the DC Department of Corrections (DOC) to report on the conditions that led to the unauthorized release of several federal detainees, in light of the publicized release of a DC Superior Court detainee [being held for charges of second-degree murder](#). The Council also plans to hold a [public hearing on unauthorized releases](#) on June 28. These inquiries are happening at a time when the DOC is also experiencing low staffing, [increased overtime by existing staff](#), and a dire need for a new facility.

The CIC is encouraged that corrections reform is a priority for federal and local government officials, and hopes that this attention will lead to more support for corrections agencies and the people in their custody.

Changes to BOP Transgender Offender Manual

On Friday, May 11, 2018, the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) released [Change Notice to Program Statement 5200.04. Transgender Offender Manual](#). The program statement alters consideration for one's initial housing facility to be based on biological sex, rather than gender identity.

[The National Center for Transgender Equality](#) stated that the edits are "in direct defiance of the Prison Rape Elimination Act, which mandates prison officials must screen all individuals at admission and upon transfer to assess their risk of experiencing abuse." and are a "direct threat to the safety of transgender people in our nation's prisons."

Meanwhile, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reports that the state of Connecticut will be the first state to enact a law, effective July 1, giving transgender inmates the legal right to be housed in prisons that match their gender identity.



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

PROGRAM STATEMENT
OPI: RSD/FOB
NUMBER: 5200.04
DATE: January 18, 2017

Transgender Offender Manual

/s/

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

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To ensure the Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) properly identifies, tracks, and provides services to the transgender population.

a. **Program Objectives.** Expected results of this program are:

- This policy is meant to provide guidance to staff in dealing with the unique issues that arise when working with transgender inmates.
- Institutions ensure transgender inmates can access programs and services that meet their needs as appropriate, and prepare them to return to the community.
- Sufficient resources will be allocated to deliver appropriate services to transgender inmates.
- Staff will be offered training, enabling them to work effectively with transgender inmates.
- To support staff's understanding of the increased risk of suicide, mental health issues and victimization of transgender inmates.

b. **Institution Supplement.** None required. Should local facilities make any changes outside changes required in national policy or establish any additional local procedures to implement national policy, the local Union may invoke to negotiate procedures or appropriate arrangements.

2. DEFINITIONS

Gender – a construct used to classify a person as male, female, both, or neither. Gender encompasses aspects of social identity, psychological identity, and human behavior.

Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016

On Wednesday, May 23, 2018, The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth (CFSY) and The Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) held a meeting for family members of those who may be eligible for sentencing reduction under the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016 (IRAA). The



before turning 18 and has served over 20 years in prison to petition the D.C. Superior Court for a sentence reduction. The CFSY and PDS encouraged people to work with them to identify incarcerated loved ones who may benefit from IRRA by contacting them

directly: CFSY at (202) 289-4677 or PDS at (202) 628-1200.

For a full list of IRRA eligibility requirements, visit the [CFSY website](#).

Books, Contact Lists, and Calls

After [additional restrictions to book access](#) gained the attention of prison advocates and the media, the BOP [revoked](#) the additional restrictions and the 30% price markup.

While these restrictions have been lifted, CorrLinks policies restricting any two incarcerated persons from having the same people on their email lists have not been changed or updated. The CIC has also received reports that some facilities are restricting phone and visitation contact lists in the same manner, prohibiting two incarcerated persons (even if related) from sharing same contacts.

As of May 29, those housed in federal facilities are no longer able to make collect calls to any [AT&T landline customers](#). This is an agency-wide change, affecting calls from all BOP facilities.

If any of these communications restrictions are affecting you, your loved ones, or your clients, the CIC would like to hear from you. Contact the CIC at 202-478-9211 or at dccic@dc.gov.



in the Community Room of the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (on 100 42nd Street, NE Washington, DC 20019).

ONSE's addresses crime reduction through the development of violence prevention programs, collaboration with DC agencies and community-based organizations, and positive relationships with youth.

CIC Board Chair Charles Thornton will give a presentation on recent 8th International Conference on Human Rights & Prison Reform (CURE) held in Kigali, Rwanda, focusing on the Rwanda experience and the use of restorative justice and reconciliation in response to the genocide of 1994.



Photo by Alan Pogue



Future CIC Open Meeting Dates

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Community Room

Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
100 42nd Street, NE Washington, DC 20019.

Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, Location TBD

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018, Location TBD



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