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CIC BULLETIN

NEWS FROM DC CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

Message from CIC Executive Director



A common theme for the CIC for the month of June 2018 has been movement: movement of incarcerated DC residents to Virginia regional jails; movement of ICE detainees to federal prisons; relative lack of movement to the halfway houses.

This month the CIC has heard from attorneys and service providers regarding clients who have been moved from DC Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities and are not showing up on the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) inmate locator. It says, “Not in BOP Custody”, even though it shows a projected release date for the time they are serving for a conviction or parole/supervised release violation. The CIC has located a handful of incarcerated persons who have been moved from the DOC to Virginia regional jails, Piedmont and Northern Neck. While the BOP does not have contracts directly with these facilities, the US Marshal Service (USMS) - the agency that transports those in BOP custody – does. The transfers to these and other Virginia regional jails have occurred for years, and the use of these facilities for prolonged stays (more than a few days) has ebbed and flowed over time. There are also federal pretrial detainees who were in the DOC who have been recently moved to VA regional jails. ([See below.](#)) The biggest concern expressed is that District residents are being sent far from family and legal counsel, being deprived of access to both, with people in DC having no information or notice of where they are.

Also, the crises created by recent federal immigration policies are affecting incarcerated DC persons in BOP custody. There have been reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees being moved to BOP prison facilities. ([See below.](#)) The increased number and different category of persons (civil detainees, not those serving criminal sentences) affect staffing capacities, resources, and safety and security of all involved.

The CIC is looking into the lack of movement of incarcerated DC persons to halfway houses

prior to their release. Only about half of the BOP contracted beds are being used at the men's and women's halfway house facilities in the District. Also, only 60% of DOC contracted beds in the male facility are being used, while only 1-2 beds in the female facility are used by DOC-custody women. The CIC will endeavor to learn more about why so few of these contracted beds are being used to aid reentry of the District's incarcerated persons.

The CIC is monitoring and gathering information on movements of people to and from facilities housing incarcerated DC residents and will let you know what it learns. Stay tuned to our monthly *CIC Bulletin*, website, and social media to learn more as we learn more.

Michelle Bonner

Public Oversight Hearing Roundtable on DOC Unauthorized Releases



On Thursday, June 28, 2018, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, held a **public oversight roundtable** entitled, "The Department of Corrections and Unauthorized Inmate Releases," in response to recent **media reports of unauthorized releases** of inmates in DOC custody.

Before questioning regarding unauthorized releases, Chairperson Allen started by asking about two other issues that recently came to his attention: **conditions at the Central Cell Block (CCB)** and the US Marshal Service decision to move federal pretrial detainees from the DOC to a Virginia Regional Jail. Chairperson Allen recently toured the Central Cell Block, in the Daly Building next to DC Superior Court. He asked whether the CCB had been renovated since the DOC took over management of it in 2013, how often it is cleaned and treated by an exterminator, and whether the DOC can provide mattresses and blankets to those detained in the CCB awaiting first appearance in court. The DOC Executive Director Quincy Booth testified that the CCB is cleaned daily, power-washed at least weekly and that the exterminator treats the facility regularly. He also indicated that it would be difficult to provide mattresses and bedding because it would be difficult to keep clean, in part, due to the homeless who are sometimes detained there. The DOC said that they would look into these requests.

Chairperson Allen also learned that the US Marshal Service (USMS) for the US District Court for the District of Columbia decided to move many federal pretrial detainees from the DOC to Northern Neck Regional Jail, about 89 miles from the District. The DOC testified that they were informed of this decision via email on June 11, 2018, when the USMS began to move these

move, without further explanation. The Director indicated that he is in conversations with the USMS to try to have these federal pretrial detainees moved back to the District so that they can remain in contact with their families and work with their legal counsel.

Regarding six unauthorized releases from DOC custody, Director Booth testified that mistakes were made by the DOC and other agencies that are involved in issuing and executing orders to detain and release persons in DOC custody and that the DOC is working with these other agencies to prevent unauthorized releases from occurring in the future. The DOC has also contracted with The Moss Group, a corrections consulting firm, to look into the DOC records operations. The DOC also indicated that corrective action has been taken in the two unauthorized release matters that the DOC attribute to mistakes within its records office, which include employee disciplinary action, retraining, and enhanced checklists.

In addition to the issue of unauthorized releases, the Committee also inquired about over-detention, in light of the October 2017 media coverage on a District man **over-detained in jail for 77 days**. The DOC admitted that mistakes were made in this case, and in another instance of over-detention for five days.

The **video of this hearing** will be made available on the Council's website. The Committee will accept written testimony regarding this hearing until the record closes at 5 pm on Thursday, July 12, 2018. If you would like to submit written testimony to the Committee, please visit its **website** for more information and instructions.



The CIC has observed the two following reports of recent stabbings at the DC Jail:

- On June 4, 2018, at approximately 11:18 pm an inmate was found with a stab wound at the DC Jail. According to [WUSA9](#) he was taken to the hospital and is expected to recover.
- According to [WTOP](#), a 22-year-old male has pleaded guilty to a nonfatal stabbing on May 17, 2018, of an inmate at the DC Jail. A judge will decide on his sentence for this and for

Also, in federal prison news, on June 26, 2018, a former captain at Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Alderson, WV, a female facility, [pleaded guilty to four counts of sex abuse](#) of a ward and two counts of abusive sexual contact involving a ward. (Incarcerated persons are considered wards of the government, given they are imprisoned and in the custody of the government.) These crimes were committed against incarcerated women at FPC Alderson between November 2016 and December 2017.

ICE Detainees Held in Federal Prisons

On Thursday, June 7, 2018, [Reuters](#) reported the transfer of about 1,600 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees to five federal prisons including Victorville Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Victorville, comprised of high security and medium security facilities as well as a minimum security camp in California. An ICE



spokesperson confirmed the transfer of 1,000 detainees to FCC Victorville. The [LA Times](#) reports prison workers protested outside the Federal Correctional Complex against "the unsafe conditions that have been exacerbated by the recent transfer of hundreds of immigration detainees to the facility." An incarcerated individual at USP Victorville reported that the USP Victorville visitation room is being used to house some of the detainees. The BOP website pages for each of the facilities within Victorville FCC state that, "All visiting at this facility has been suspended until further notice."

On Tuesday, June 19, [LAist](#) reported a detainee had been diagnosed with chickenpox. The warden released a letter stating, "Measures are being taken to identify and contain inmate contacts who are at risk for getting chickenpox.," On Monday, June 14 [eleven cases of scabies](#) were confirmed by medical staff in the medium-security lockup. American Federation of Government Employees Local 3969 Vice President Jon Zumkehr stated, "We haven't got any more medical staff, and that's a big problem to us. We want to ensure that we can provide for everyone that we have at the facility."

While the CIC has published inspection reports for [USP Victorville](#), [FCI Victorville Medium I](#) and [FCI Victorville Medium II](#) in the past, please contact the CIC if you have information you would like to share about these facilities and issues affecting incarcerated DC residents. Contact the

Date: June 18, 2018

Chickenpox (Varicella) Alert – Employees

A case of chickenpox (varicella) has been identified in an inmate who was housed in E-U Housing Unit. The inmate with chickenpox has been isolated. Chickenpox is a contagious infection caused by the varicella virus.

Measures are being taken to identify and contain inmate contacts who are at risk for getting chickenpox. Any pregnant women should avoid this housing unit for 21 days after the last chickenpox case on this unit is diagnosed.

Chickenpox can be spread from 1-2 days before the rash starts until all blisters are crusted over. In general, exposure to a chickenpox case is defined as at least one hour of close contact sharing indoor airspace. It may take up to 21 days for an exposed person to develop chickenpox. Chickenpox virus (varicella) is spread from person to person by direct contact with the blisters or through the air when a person with chickenpox coughs or sneezes. It normally causes an itchy blister-like rash, fever, and fatigue that may last up to 6 days.

Persons are protected from contracting chickenpox if they had a history of chickenpox disease or if they have had 2 doses of varicella vaccine.

Varicella can cause complications in people who are either pregnant or immunocompromised (i.e., HIV infection). It is recommended that pregnant or immunocompromised staff, who have been exposed to chickenpox, consult their healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Other exposed employees, who have never had chickenpox or the vaccine, should also consult their healthcare provider regarding varicella vaccination. Varicella vaccine can prevent chickenpox if it is received within 3 to 5 days after exposure. Staff who do not have history of either 2-dose varicella vaccination or history of chickenpox should alert their supervisor so that the information is taken into account when scheduling the housing assignments.

Staff should be alert for new cases of chickenpox. **Immediately report any inmate who is found to have a rash to Health Services.**

Employees who develop a rash or other signs and symptoms of chickenpox should immediately report this to their supervisor.



M. Carr, Warden

Did you miss the CIC Open Meeting?

The CIC held an open meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) on 100 42nd St NE, Washington, DC 20019. Among the information discussed were:



- Introduction of New Staff: Program Analyst Nicole Ukaegbu
- CIC Board Composition Update: Nkechi Taifa nominated by the Council to serve on CIC Board
- Recent reports of stabbings at the DC Jail
- Movement of DC incarcerated residents to Virginia Regional Jails

For more details about this and other CIC open meetings, visit our [website](#).

Future CIC Open Meeting Dates

Thursday, Sept. 6, 2018, location TBD

Thursday, Dec. 6, 2018, location TBD



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Our mailing address is:

Corrections Information Council (CIC)
2901 14th St NW, Ground Floor
Washington, DC 20009

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