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— July 20, 2017 —



CIC BULLETIN

**NEWS FROM DC CORRECTIONS
INFORMATION COUNCIL**

New CIC Board Positions Available

The CIC Board is increasing from 3 to 5 volunteer members, with one additional Mayoral appointee and one additional Council appointee. If you would like to apply for the Mayoral appointee position, please apply here: <http://motaboardsonline.com/apply/p0fG2u/Corrections-Information-Council-CIC>

Upcoming CIC Inspections

The CIC is mandated to inspect and monitor the correctional facilities where DC residents are incarcerated. This summer, the CIC is visiting two medium security facilities:

- FCI McKean, in Bradford, Pennsylvania, where there are approximately 30 DC men, on July 20, 2017; and
- FCI Beckley, in Beaver, West Virginia, where there are approximately 70 DC men, on August 1, 2017.

If you know anyone at either of these facilities or have information you would like to share about these or other correctional facilities where DC residents are incarcerated, please contact the CIC at 202-478-9211 or via email at dc.cic@dc.gov.

Inspector General's Report on Mental Illness and Solitary Confinement in BOP

On July 12, 2017, the United States Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released the report, [*Review of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Use of Restrictive Housing for Inmates with Mental Illness*](#). This report examined the treatment of inmates with mental illness who have been confined to solitary confinement in Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities, including 111 facilities with segregated housing units (SHUs), the Special Management Unit (SMU) in Pennsylvania, and the Administrative Maximum Security Facility (ADX) in Florence, Colorado. Major findings include:

- The BOP does not adequately monitor, track, or address the needs of inmates with mental illness in its restrictive housing units. Inmates with mental illness may spend years in solitary confinement and tend to spend a longer time in restrictive housing units than inmates who are not mentally ill. Many are released directly from the SMU to the community, without adequate care or transitional services.
- BOP Mental Health Staff do not always document mental disorders; therefore, the BOP is unable to appropriately care for inmates with mental illness.
- Since the BOP's new mental health policy in 2014, there has been a 30% reduction in inmates who receive regular mental health treatment. The OIG Report concludes that BOP Mental Health Staff have reduced these numbers because they do not have the staffing resources to meet these new policy standards.

The Report also provides recommendations for change, many of which are consistent with recommendations the CIC has made in its inspection reports. Also, the CIC visited USP Lewisburg SMU Program and ADX Florence this year, and is drafting reports that will now reflect the findings of the OIG Report and noting whether the CIC has observed any differences from the 2015 data used in the OIG Report. The full Report can be found here:

<https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2017/e1705.pdf>.

To view CIC inspection reports, visit the CIC website: <https://cic.dc.gov>.

Proposed: Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act

On July 11, 2017, Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) introduced a bill entitled, "The Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act," with Senators Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Chuck Durbin (D-IL) signing on as well. The bill calls for federal prisons to provide free hygiene products (both pads and tampons), prohibit shackling of pregnant women, and prohibit solitary confinement for pregnant women. The bill also calls for consideration of proximity to children when designating women to facilities and other policies to make it easier and for incarcerated women to communicate with their children. For a more complete list of the issues this bill seeks to address, see the [press release](#) on Senator Warren's website.

Since all people convicted of felonies under DC Criminal Code fall under BOP jurisdiction, this bill would positively affect the DC women in federal prison facilities. As of May 31, 2017, according to BOP aggregate census data from CSOSA, the highest concentration of DC women was at SFF Hazelton in West Virginia (46). The BOP currently provides sanitary napkins to women in custody; women must purchase tampons or higher quality sanitary napkins. BOP policy prohibits shackling of women in labor, and this bill would extend the prohibition to all pregnant women. There is a video visitation program for women at SFF Hazelton, but there is a cost, as there is for phone calls. The bill calls for reduction of those expenses, as well as consideration of designation at facilities closer to home for more frequent visits.

Among other provisions, the bill calls for the creation of an ombudsman at US Department of Justice to monitor certain violations in prison. The CIC is an independent oversight agency with no investigatory or enforcement power; it does not possess powers inherent to an ombudsman. An ombudsman would be able to receive, investigate, and respond to complaints regarding violations of prison policies and procedures.



Our mailing address is:

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

Email: dc.cic@dc.gov

Website: <https://cic.dc.gov>

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