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# CIC BULLETIN

NEWS FROM DC CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

## Message from CIC Executive Director

(Corrected Copy 5/1/19)



We are into the second half of the fiscal year and I am excited about the work planned by the CIC. In the remainder of this year we will be focused on strengthening our relationship with partners in the local, federal, and nonprofit sectors. We are looking forward to getting staff up to our authorized capacity, moving into new office space and revisiting facilities where we have not been in a number of years. Locally we look forward to building on our work with the Department of

Corrections (DOC) and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) with new and renewed MOUs and a new approach to our reviews that will provide useful data on a timelier basis.

In addition to conducting reviews within the BOP and DOC the CIC will be conducting a review of the half-way house provider in the District. The concern of the CIC is that the services provided be resident-sensitive and of a high quality. The CIC is also considering ways that we can look at subsets of the larger incarcerated population, i.e. women, youth, elderly, etc. The hope is that with a more focused scope we can produce reports quicker and hopefully have a greater potential impact on identified issues.

As we move ahead we welcome input from all sectors of the community. We encourage you to attend our open meetings, contact me or our analysts. We

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contracted halfway houses where District residents reside.

*Donald Isaac, Sr*

## Keep Us Posted: Mail Policies

The CIC is looking for copies of any written policy regarding postal mail at any BOP facility. The most recent agency-wide Program Statement regarding postal mail is outdated and doesn't include many of the newer restrictions that we know exist at the individual facility level. Two years ago the CIC compiled information by facility, but that list is now also outdated. Please ask any incarcerated friends or family who feel able to mail us a copy of any written policy they've received at their institution.



### **Parole Speak-Out Tonight at 6:30pm**

The D.C. Reentry Task Force wants to hear from you! The U.S. Parole Commission is among the harshest parole boards in the country, holding individuals at DC Jail prior to a hearing when they have committed no new crimes, and denying parole based on individuals' original offenses instead of focusing on their rehabilitation efforts. The USPC is scheduled to be shut down by November 2020, providing an opportunity to for DC to choose a different process. Come share your experience with the USPC and your thoughts on what a new parole board should look like. TONIGHT, April 30, 2019, 6:30 pm at First Rock Baptist Church, 4630 Alabama Avenue SE.

### **District Task Force on Jails and Justice**

The Center for Court Excellent is partnering with the Vera Institute of Justice and the

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make recommendations about who should and should not be held in our local facilities, and articulate our community's priorities for a jail's population, location, design, and services." The Task Force will conduct community engagement events throughout 2019 and produce a "Blueprint" incorporating community feedback, data on DC's current system, and best practices from other jurisdictions. Phase II of the Task Force's work will include exploring issues identified as priorities in the Blueprint, and in consultation with the community and experts, developing a detailed plan for the District to use going forward.

More information about the Task Force, including member biographies and upcoming community events can be found [here](#).

## Keep Us Posted: FCI McKean

The CIC has heard a few recent concerns from friends and family members of individuals incarcerated at FCI McKean about increased tension between staff and inmates at that facility. If you have friends or family at FCI McKean who are willing to speak with the CIC, please encourage them to contact us or send information as they feel able. We can receive CorrLinks messages ([kareem.mccraney@dc.gov](mailto:kareem.mccraney@dc.gov) or [dccic@dc.gov](mailto:dccic@dc.gov)) as well as phone calls and postal mail.

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## **Congresswoman Norton Introduces Two Bills Regarding the BOP and Returning Citizens**

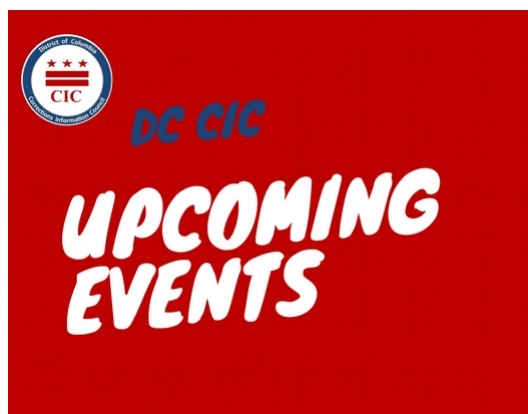
Congresswoman Norton announced yesterday that she has introduced two bills impacting individuals housed in the BOP and halfway houses. The Fairness in Federal Bureau of Prisons Medical Care Act of 2019 would remove the \$2 copay BOP inmates pay for medical visits in the BOP. The CIC frequently hears concerns from DC inmates regarding this fee, including that they are charged for requesting a medical visit even when they are not seen by medical staff, and that they are charged repeatedly for follow-up visits for ongoing medical concerns. The seemingly small copays add up quickly for incarcerated individuals earning less than fifty cents

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The Ensuring Successful Reentry Act would eliminate the "subsistence fees" the BOP imposes on individuals living in halfway houses. The current fee is 25% of a resident's income. This fee can interfere with successful reentry, making it hard for returning citizens to pay outstanding obligations such as child support and restitution, as well as secure stable housing as they transition to the community. The DOJ has previously recognized that the process for collecting these fees is costly and burdensome to the halfway houses and the BOP, calling them "counterproductive".

## CIC Inspection Report: Outside Recreation at DC Jail and CTF

On February 25 and 26, 2019, the CIC visited the DC Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), and the Central Detention Facility (CDF) to gather information about inmates' access to outdoor recreation in response to a number of reports that units were being denied access to outdoor recreation. The CIC's findings and recommendations are contained in a [short thematic report](#) now available on our website. The DC Department of Corrections has not yet issued a response to the report.



### CIC is Moving!

As of May 28, 2019 the CIC will be located at 1400 I St NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005.



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441 4th St NW, Suite 270N  
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