

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
March 7, 2013
7:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Kevin Eff. Roll call was taken with a quorum being present.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Mr. Eff presented the minutes from the November 1, 2012 meeting. Andrew Kozal made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
- III. CCNO POPULATION STATISTICS/OPERATIONAL UPDATE: Dir. Dennis reviewed the population statistics. When reviewing the population statistics by court, Dir. Dennis explained that there has been a notable drop in the population for the juvenile courts due to a law change. CCNO will no longer receive pre-trial juveniles, unless unusual circumstances apply, that have been adjudicated as adults; they will remain at the juvenile facility. Any juvenile offender that was sentenced before the age of 18 and received a probation revocation did come to CCNO on their 18th birthday; now these offenders will remain at the juvenile facility even if they are over 18. This is good for adult facilities because juveniles have to be separated by sight, sound and touch of adult offenders. At CCNO, this resulted in the juveniles being housed in administrative segregation in isolation. Mr. Eff questioned whether the juvenile facilities will need to separate juveniles from those offenders revoked on their probation who are over the age of 18. Dir. Dennis stated he was not sure of their standards since the law change, but in keeping with adult standards, it would seem they would have to separate adults from juveniles.

Since 2008, the population has steadily declined in conjunction with the economy. The population began to rise in the summer of 2012. There have been two overcrowding emergencies over the two previous weekends. No offenders were accepted from the City of Toledo and Lucas County during the overcrowding emergency because they were over their bed allocation.

Dir. Dennis explained that when the female population rises to 90 or above, this creates classification concerns on where to house the females. Similarly, when the male population rises above 500, classification is difficult. For proper classification, the ideal population number is 10 percent below maximum capacity. This allows movement in security levels based on inmate behavior.

Electronic monitoring case loads are increasing. Currently the number of offenders on the program is 115. In addition, CCNO staff provides electronic monitoring services for the juvenile courts in rural northwest Ohio and courtesy supervision in Van Wert County. There are currently four electronic monitoring specialists providing the supervision.

The work release and HITT programs are being affected by the economy. These programs compete for the same inmates as the electronic monitoring program. M Building will be used more as a minimum security unit rather than community security. Work release, HITT and CPW will remain in M Building. Discussions are being held with staff on increasing the security level of M Building to minimum due to the changing inmate population being held there.

Mr. Scribner questioned on the Billing by Court report, how a court could have a ".25" as their total for the month. Dir. Dennis explained that if an inmate is sentenced on charges from two separate courts, e.g., Sylvania Municipal Court and Oregon Municipal Court, these two courts would each receive half of the bill for the offenders stay. In the same manner, if the offender is sentenced from four separate courts, they would each be billed .25 of the offenders stay.

A question was asked whether there is a problem with community public workers stealing items from their worksite. Dir. Dennis responded that there have been problems with that in the past. If this occurs, the inmate is removed from the program, issued a rule violation and moved higher in security back in the main facility. Depending on the amount of the theft, outside charges could be filed. The work site supervisor is required to check on each offender every 20 minutes, which is a large responsibility for the city or county supervisor. If there is a contract or rule infraction, the program is suspended pending the investigation. The work site supervisors do receive training, but not to the extent of a corrections officer. Offenders also receive a risk assessment to determine if placement in the community is a proper classification. Mr. Eff questioned how often it happens that family members or friends take items to inmates at the work site. Dir. Dennis responded that since the work site supervisor usually does not catch them it is unknown, but we usually find two or three instances a year. It was questioned if an offender walks away from their work site what the penalty is. Dir. Dennis responded that there has been a recent law change where if the inmate is incarcerated on a felony infraction, the resulting escape charge from walking away from a work site is a felony violation; if a misdemeanor charge incarceration, the escape charge would be a misdemeanor infraction. In the past, most offenders charged with escape from their work site receive an additional six month sentence.

It was questioned whether the proposed new jail in Lucas County would have a bigger bed capacity. Dir. Dennis responded that they are projecting they will need additional bed capacity. The Lucas County Jail currently has a bed capacity of approximately 300 inmates and has an average daily population of 425. They actually book approximately 25,000 people and release approximately 20,000 a year. Due to the federal court order guidelines they operate under, if an person is brought in on a misdemeanor charge they most likely will be released in about two hours which is frustrating for police. Current projections for the new facility include a capacity for pre-trial and sentenced minimum security beds. The sentenced minimum security beds are so the jail can have inmate workers to assist in cleaning the jail and preparing food in the kitchen to cut those costs. Currently the meals are prepared by staff which is

costing Lucas County approximately \$7.00 a day for meals compared to CCNO at \$0.78 a meal. CCNO uses inmate labor supervised by staff. By adding pre-trial bed space this will increase the number of people who appear for their court hearings as many people who are released under the federal court order do not show up for their court hearings. This change could increase CCNO's population. It was questioned if they are looking to build the new jail downtown. Dir. Dennis stated that it is too early to say where the new jail will be built. Ideally with the location of the courthouses, a downtown location would be ideal, but may not be possible. Lucas County has also looked at the minimum security building that is a part of the Toledo Correctional Institution that is currently unused. Mr. Eff questioned that when CCNO was first formed and jurisdictions committed to the partnership, did they commit to remain a part of CCNO for a designated period of time. Dir. Dennis responded it was a two-year commitment. However, with CCNO's per diem rate being \$63 and Lucas County's per diem rate being \$135 it would be prudent for them to remain a part of CCNO. Dir. Dennis stated that the committee is currently requesting a grant to fund a feasibility study for a new jail.

The population at CCNO this day was 601 or 94 percent of capacity. There were also 117 offenders on an electronic monitoring program (electronic monitoring, GPS or TAD). In addition, there were over 20 offenders on electronic monitoring for the juvenile courts and Van Wert County.

The Bill Glass Crusade was held on November 10. That was a successful event.

The staff annual Christmas potluck and fundraiser was held in December. Staff raised \$3,206 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Based on electricity usage in 2012, Northwest Electric issued CCNO a refund of \$43,090.99. Cost saving measures that CCNO implemented was adjusted temperatures, turning off unnecessary lights during high peak usage time in the summer and replacing ballasts for energy conserving light.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections Bureau of Probation and Parole held jail self-certification audits in 2012. CCNO successfully completed this audit with 100 percent compliance.

Six people began employment as Corrections Officers on January 7. They have completed pre-service and on-the-job training and are currently working in the units.

An offender was charged with escape after he walked away from his community work site in Defiance. He was apprehended the same day. The Bryan Recycling program is also currently suspended due to an inmate being found with a cell phone and the presence of drugs on the grounds. Both programs were shut down while CCNO reviews the training currently being conducted for work site supervisors.

The Minimum Jail Standards for the State of Ohio are currently being reviewed. A committee has been established of jail administrators to work with the State on this project. Dir. Dennis is the Chair of a subcommittee.

The video visitation project is continuing. CCNO staff designed the mounts that will hold the video units to the unit walls. These mounts will allow the video units to be turned so they can be observed by the unit Officer. With the implementation of distance video visits, there is concern with the possibility of inappropriate conduct during the visit, i.e., nudity, gang signs, etc. so extra precautions are being made. The cost for a distance video visit will be \$25 for each visit. If the family member/friend comes to CCNO for the visit there will be no charge. It was questioned how the home visits will be monitored. Dir. Dennis responded that the current visitation Officer will monitor the visits and the visits will also be recorded.

Dir. Dennis was contacted by the Ontario Corrections Service in Canada. They will be converting their entire jail system to direct supervision. They are building new facilities and want to learn how to do direct supervision. They will be visiting two locations in Michigan and CCNO. While at CCNO their staff will be shadowing CCNO staff in the units.

On January 25 a regional jail directors meeting was held. During this meeting it was discussed changing legislation to allow a corrections board to take out bonds to finance construction. Currently, each jurisdiction involved in the regional jail has to obtain the bond. This was discussed at the last CCNO Board meeting with the Board in favor of the legislation change. The County Commissioners Association is also supporting this change.

Dir. Dennis met with the Lucas County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and conducted a presentation on the mentally ill inmates at CCNO and the problems they encounter after release. Currently when a mentally ill offender is released they have to be assessed by Central Assess prior to receiving an appointment with a psychiatrist. The current process can take up to three months for an offender to get in to see a psychiatrist which means they have gone that length of time without their medication. Dir. Dennis proposed using video technology to do the evaluation before the inmate is released. This has been approved. It was questioned if there are confidentiality issues with holding the assessment via video. Dir. Dennis stated they will use the same technology as attorney-client conversations.

When the legislation changed that removed judges from correction boards, a provision was contained to establish Judicial Advisory Boards. At the last Judicial Advisory Board there was not a quorum. Judges may be losing interest in attending this meeting.

Also at the last CCNO Board meeting, the Board approved the purchase of a car for electronic monitoring staff. In addition, approval was received to purchase GPS and TAD equipment to save on leasing costs. These purchases

were funded through revenue received from the electronic monitoring supervision fees.

IV. CURRENT ISSUES:

Mr. Eff stated that in the November election there was an issue reported in The Blade where a woman with the NAACP came to CCNO and picked up absentee ballots from offenders. The Board of Elections then rejected these ballots because state law prohibits anyone but the voter or a relative from hand-delivering an absentee ballot. Mr. Eff questioned what was done about that on the CCNO side. Dir. Dennis explained that the NAACP has come to CCNO in prior years to register offenders to vote. The difference this year was that the Board of Elections no longer includes postage on the return envelope for the absentee ballot to be mailed. Dir. Dennis stated that a jail does not have the obligation to supply the postage for the mailing of absentee ballots. Voting is a right and privilege and if the offender wanted to vote they have to pay the postage. They can purchase stamps at CCNO.

V. ESTABLISH NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

No additional nominations were received. Dan Scribner made a motion to keep the current slate of officers. Jane Hibbard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The current slate of officers is: Kevin Eff, Chairman; Bill Sanford, Vice Chairman; and, Andrew Kozal, Secretary.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS:

There being nothing further to come before the committee, Jerry Coy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.