

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
May 1, 2014
7:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Secretary Andrew Kozal. Roll call was taken with a quorum being present.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Mr. Kozal presented the minutes from the March 6, 2014 meeting. Jane Hibbard 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 distributed the population statistics. The day's population was 505 or 79 percent of capacity. The average daily population for March was 513 or 80 percent of capacity and April was 524 or 82 percent of capacity. The population is significantly down from last year at this time. It was questioned whether the lower population would affect the budget with less overtime being needed. Dir. Dennis responded that the overtime has been higher due to vacancies caused by turnover and FMLA leave. Six new Correction Officers were hired and are working in the units. Another hiring process is currently in progress to hire ten Correction Officers.

The female numbers are notably down from last year. At the end of the year there were 110 females a day. Moving the females to M Building has been working well. A question was asked why the population was so high last year. Dir. Dennis responded that he believes it is the economy. When the economy took a dip the population was directly impacted. When the economy started to improve the population slowly started to increase but in this area the economy is stagnant and the jail population has remained low. Dir. Dennis stated that the Sentencing Commission would like to make additional changes in the law which will favorably impact the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections again.

There have been no administrative releases requested this year due to the low population.

The electronic monitoring program numbers are down but steady. Dir. Dennis stated that he would like the Judges to use electronic monitoring, GPS and TAD more as a jail diversion plus he is promoting it to Judges as a replacement for the work release program. Dir. Dennis stated that discussions are being held with the CCNO Board on the possibility of eliminating the work release program. Over the last 15 years the work release program numbers have dropped from 75 to as low as four to ten currently. Work release is a labor intensive program to operate between tracking these people and their work hours to the strip searches that must be done when they return to prevent the introduction of contraband. When a work release inmate leaves CCNO to go to work, there is no accountability on the inmate to go straight to work and if they do not report to

work we have to rely on the employer to notify CCNO staff of that, which does not always happen. There have been instances where the inmate was fired, but CCNO was not notified so the inmate continued to leave CCNO each day. If an inmate is placed on GPS their route to work can be programmed into the computer and an alert will be given to staff if they deviate from their route. Dir. Dennis stated that GPS holds an inmate more accountable than work release. Exclusion zones can be placed around victim homes or other areas for an alert to be transmitted if the inmate enters the exclusion zone. Inclusion zones can also be established that limit the area that they can be in. If the inmate goes outside of the inclusion zone an alert will be issued. The cost to the inmate is almost the same per day for work release and electronic monitoring and GPS. Inmates in work release pay 25 percent of their net pay to be in the program. They are not assessed the daily pay to stay charge of the full per diem but they are charged a booking fee. If the inmate was making minimum wage, the daily charge would be \$13.85. If the inmate is placed on electronic monitoring or GPS they are not assessed the booking fee and the daily cost of electronic monitoring is \$10 and for GPS \$14. It was questioned why the Maumee Municipal and Oregon Municipal Courts do not use electronic monitoring. Dir. Dennis responded that they have their own contracts with other vendors for electronic monitoring services. The Sylvania Municipal Court uses CCNO's electronic monitoring and work release programs. Dir. Dennis stated that the Judges were surveyed at the local community corrections planning board meetings to gain their input. Dir. Dennis stated that since Judge Ramey was unable to attend the Lucas County meeting Dir. Dennis contacted him to discuss eliminating the work release program. The Sylvania Municipal Court does not have a contract with Lucas County Work Release so he uses CCNO's program. Judge Ramey has asked that the work release program not be eliminated as has Judge North of the Bryan Municipal Court. Those are the only two Judges of the 34 Judges that CCNO serves who are opposed to eliminating the work release program. A decision will be made at the next CCNO Board meeting whether to continue or eliminate the work release program.

A question was asked as to who is supervising community service inmates. Dir. Dennis responded that the community service program is a Williams County Community Service program. Only probationers from the Williams County Common Pleas Court can participate in the program. The probationers are not incarcerated at CCNO while they participate in the program but a CCNO Corrections Officer provides supervision over the offenders in the program at the work sites. During the winter the program participants did a lot of indoor painting and now with the warmer weather they are picking up trash along with other projects. Several times now the trash crews have found remnants of portable meth labs in a ditch. Law enforcement was contacted and they found more in the area.

A question was asked whether CCNO uses the prison clear televisions. Dir. Dennis stated that the clear televisions are sold in prison commissaries to the inmates. The clear case allows Officers to see if the inmates are hiding anything

inside of the television. CCNO inmates cannot buy televisions from the commissary.

On this day there were 41 offenders on electronic monitoring, 26 on GPS and 19 on TAD for a total of 86. The numbers of offenders on GPS have been increasing. Dir. Dennis stated that when he attends the local Community Corrections Planning Board meetings he promotes GPS and TAD because those programs increase accountability of the offenders in the community.

Dir. Dennis has been involved in revising the Ohio jail standards. Those revisions were finalized and approved on March 17. They became effective April 20. Dir. Dennis and Ryan Kidwell, Hancock County Jail Administrator will be presenting the changes to the standards and the inspection system to the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association on May 22. They will also be conducting four regional trainings for jail administrators across the state.

The American Correctional Association (ACA) re-accreditation audit is scheduled for May 19 to 21. There will be three auditors conducting the audit. The chairperson is the head of the accreditation unit at the Jacksonville County Jail in Florida. The auditor responsible to reviewing the programming and medical standards was a health administrator for a federal prison. The third auditor is a retired jail administrator for the Gwinnett County Georgia Jail.

The electronic monitoring program audit was held on April 16. The program was found to be compliant with all standards and received 100 percent. Most programs do not achieve 100 percent compliance on the standards.

Six new Corrections Officers were hired on April 7. Another class of Corrections Officers is scheduled to begin on June 9.

Dir. Dennis is also involved in working to update Ohio Revised Code §2933.32 which is referred to as the strip search law. In the Florence case two years ago the Supreme Court ruled that any person that is arrested and placed in general population in a jail can be strip searched. Current case law in Ohio states that pretrial misdemeanants and sentenced misdemeanants cannot be strip searched. There are many instances where misdemeanant offenders are attempting to smuggle in contraband knowing that they cannot be strip searched. The original case was out of New Jersey. Dir. Dennis is working to change the Ohio law so that any person placed in the general population of a jail can be strip searched.

Dir. Dennis is involved in planning the second annual Ohio Jail Administrators conference. This will be held the end of August.

Maumee Valley Vending implemented their Avanti Market in the employee break room. Instead of the standard vending machine, items are available through an open concept where employees scan the product they would like to purchase at a kiosk and then pay for the item with a pre-paid card that is

loadable with a credit or debit card. This concept allows more fresh food and a wider variety of items to be available to staff.

IV. CURRENT ISSUES:

A question was asked who provides food service for the offenders at CCNO. Dir. Dennis responded ARAMARK. Dir. Dennis stated that he is pleased with the service ARAMARK has provided and noted that they have gotten the bid each time it has been put out. ARAMARK has competitively won the bid each time, some times for as low as pennies per meal less than a competitor. It was questioned whether ARAMARK also provided inmate food service at the state prisons in Ohio. Dir. Dennis responded that was correct, they just got the contract. Discussion was held regarding the State not being pleased with ARAMARK. Dir. Dennis responded that over the last 24 years he has been pleased with the services provide although there have been difficulties through the years. The Food Service Director in charge of the food program makes a difference in the quality of the program. Dir. Dennis stated that ARAMARK is having a difficult time in the prison system because for the last 200 years the inmates have been able to cook what they wanted. The prison system spent an enormous amount of money to feed the inmates and now ARAMARK are controlling costs and portion sizes. This has been met with resistance by inmates and staff alike.

It was questioned whether the fencing project between the main facility and M Building was completed. Dir. Dennis stated that it was completed in March. Dir. Dennis stated that staff are happy with the new walkway.

It was questioned why the stakes are up around the road. Dir. Dennis stated that he assumed they would be doing ditch work but he has not been notified by the Township what work will be done along the road.

There being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.