

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting  
May 7, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Andrew Kozal. Introductions were made for the new members. Roll call was taken with a quorum being present.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Mr. Kozal presented the minutes from the November 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. In April the average daily population was 562 or 88 percent of capacity. The City of Toledo numbers are down because in October 2014 a billing change was made and every offender whose criminal complaint was written under Ohio Revised Code from the Toledo Municipal Court are now billed to Lucas County. Dir. Dennis then reviewed the breakdown of offenders by sentencing court.

The average daily population for the previous five years was reviewed. Dir. Dennis noted that 2008 was a high population year with 9,500 offenders booked into CCNO and almost the same number being released. The recession then occurred which resulted in a notable decrease in the population for CCNO and many jails in the State of Ohio. Currently the male population is down and the female population is up.

The administrative release report was reviewed. When CCNO's population exceeds 90 percent of capacity, courts in the jurisdictions utilizing 90 percent or more of their bed allocation receive administrative release requests. If granted, an inmate is released early from their sentence.

Electronic monitoring data was reviewed. The capacity of the program is 120 per day. Dir. Dennis would like the numbers in this program to increase.

Work release and HITT (Helping Inmates through Training) numbers were reviewed. These numbers are also down and approximately a year ago discussions were held with the Board on the possibility of eliminating the work release program. The numbers have increased slightly. Jail and court fees are collected from the inmates participating in these programs and are then sent to the sentencing court/jurisdiction. A question was asked why the jail fees are higher for the Sylvania Municipal Court than the Toledo Municipal Court. Dir. Dennis responded that Judge Ramey could not get as much access to Lucas County Work Release so he started using CCNO's work release program. Judge Ramey has a lot of defendants in the program and fees are collected from each.

The community public works report was reviewed. These are hours donated by inmates to county agencies or non profit agencies. Inmates receive no pay for the hours they work in this program.

Dir. Dennis stated that CCNO has been in the news lately because of Board discussions regarding Lucas County, the City of Toledo and proposed changes to the Operating Agreement. Lucas County notified CCNO in August that they were considering building a larger jail than initially discussed which would result in them withdrawing from CCNO. This has evolved over the last six months into Lucas County possibly building a smaller jail than discussed previously but would still result in Lucas County and the City of Toledo needing fewer beds at CCNO. Dir. Dennis stated that with the changes in sentencing law occurring both at the Common Pleas and Municipal Courts level there may be a need for fewer beds for all jurisdictions. Dir. Dennis stated that CCNO needs to evolve and look at the beds in a different way. Dir. Dennis stated that he believes there is a market for jail beds but a commitment is needed from the members at the beginning of the year on the number of beds they will use so that Dir. Dennis can seek contracts to fill empty beds. Dir. Dennis noted that possible options for available beds are federal prisoners (US Marshalls), ICE (immigration) prisoners, state prisoners (felony threes, fours and fives), municipalities and specialty beds for drug treatment. A commitment is needed from the members to not exceed their bed allocation so that beds can be contracted out. You cannot get contracts for rental beds and then if the population rises from the members and the facility needs to release the contract beds. Many of the proposed changes to the Operating Agreement are how CCNO identifies those beds, who is responsible to pay for those beds and finding a market for the available beds. Another change in the Operating Agreement is a member needs to give three years notice of their intent to withdraw so that these issues can be resolved prior to a member leaving. Lucas County provided three years and ten months notice, however they are having serious discussions with the City of Toledo to resolve their outstanding conflict. Mr. Kozal stated that for the immediate future it appears that Lucas County would have to raise their bed allocation because of assuming responsibility for the Ohio Revised Code inmates from the Toledo Municipal Court. Dir. Dennis replied that another proposed change in the Operating Agreement is that if a municipality is a member they are responsible for the payment of inmates sentenced from their municipal court. This would take CCNO's billing procedure to the way it was prior to the change made by the City of Toledo. Dir. Dennis stated that the City of Toledo has always paid their way at the Lucas County Jail and at CCNO. Mr. Kozal questioned whether a unit would be converted if a residential program for drug offenders was begun. Dir. Dennis responded that currently staff is looking at utilizing M Building for a residential treatment program. There are 143 beds on two floors. Currently females are housed on the first floor of M Building. Another option discussed was to have CCNO house the females from Lucas County. Dir. Dennis stated that he would like to see representatives from throughout the criminal justice system sit down and look at things as a system looking at the Lucas County Jail and CCNO together to better utilize the available beds. Tom McCarter questioned when a decision will be made. Dir. Dennis responded at the next Board meeting, Wednesday May 13. A question was asked whether it would assist Lucas County to

build additional beds at CCNO so they would not need a new jail. Dir. Dennis responded that they are not interested in building additional beds at CCNO. Dir. Dennis stated that the current Lucas County Jail building is unconstitutional and has to be replaced. When CCNO was constructed Lucas County was under a federal court order. Also at that time the citizens of Lucas County did not want a large jail inside Lucas County. A jail now is looked at as a source for jobs there. That is part of the reason Lucas County is interested in a bigger jail to retain Correction Officer jobs that may be eliminated due to constructing a more efficient jail. It was the Lucas County Jail's Corrections Officer Union that suggested a larger jail to house sentenced inmates for job retention. It was questioned whether the location for a new jail has been narrowed down. Dir. Dennis responded that it has been narrowed down but they have not released any of the potential locations to the public. Dir. Dennis stated that a concern is that both the City of Toledo and Lucas County having less of a need for CCNO. This concern prompts a serious study of the beds available and how can they be used either by contracting with other agencies or implementing residential drug treatment program. Dir. Dennis stated that he wants the Committee and public to know that while different types of inmates might be housed at CCNO, we are not going to put the community at risk. Mr. McCarter stated that the Department of Corrections (DOC) has been asking the Reentry Coalition for years to open up a reintegration center. Every major metropolitan area has a reintegration center except northwest Ohio and Mr. McCarter believes this would be perfect for CCNO.

Dir. Dennis stated that last spring CCNO became part of a reentry grant and a second grant funded from the Lucas County Mental Health Board. The focus on the second program was to identify the most severe, most profound mentally ill people that continue to come back to CCNO. Once identified, the program requirements are that while they are at CCNO they have to be compliant with taking their medications and attend each psychiatrist appointment. Prior to their release from CCNO, if an assessment is needed with Central Access that assessment is completed via video. This allows an appointment to be scheduled with a mental health facility in Toledo prior to their release. They also receive 30 days of medication when they leave CCNO to bridge them to their next psychiatrist appointment. Currently this program after six months has a recidivism rate of 16 percent. These are the people who normally come back to CCNO three to four times a year. It was questioned how many people are in this population? Dir. Dennis responded 91 people so far. Mr. McCarter questioned what results are being seen on the Second Chance grant. Dir. Dennis responded that the two grants have a lot of the same people in the programs. The Second Chance grant is working great. TASC is here every week in the housing units to talk to inmates one on one in the dayroom to make housing arrangements, begin the process for Medicaid prior to release, etc. Mr. McCarter questioned whether the portion of the grant offering free legal assistance has begun yet. Dir. Dennis responded it has not. Mr. McCarter stated he will ask Tom Luettker, who took over what he previously did, contact Dir. Dennis to get this portion of the program started. Dir. Dennis stated that video can be made available for the attorney conferences also.

IV. CURRENT ISSUES: A question was asked on the status of the security upgrade. Dir. Dennis responded that the installation has begun and they are currently approximately 25 percent done. Central Control has been switched over to the new system and they are currently working in DM and DF units. While some issues have arisen, overall the conversion is going smoothly. It was questioned if the conversion will be done before the end of the year. Dir. Dennis responded that it will probably be completed within the next four weeks.

It was questioned whether home visitation is growing. Dir. Dennis responded that he cannot say specifically how many, but more people are visiting from home. Securus is currently working on a cell phone app so visits can be held via cell phone. A lot of people do not have laptops with cameras but they do have cell phones.

V. MISCELLANEOUS:

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