

Citizen's Advisory Committee Meeting
September 5, 2013
7:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Vice Chairman Bill Sanford. Roll call was taken with a quorum being present.

- III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Mr. Sanford presented the minutes from the May 7, 2013 meeting. Chris Baker made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jim Schrock. The motion carried unanimously.

- III. CCNO POPULATION STATISTICS/OPERATIONAL UPDATE: Dir. Dennis reviewed the population statistics. The average daily population for August was 583 or 91 percent of capacity. There was an overcrowding emergency in August. The facility was closed to Defiance County. There have been five overcrowding emergencies in 2013. In comparison, in 2007 there were 23 overcrowding emergencies. While the population has been higher for several months it is beginning to decrease. A question was asked what is done during an overcrowding emergency. Dir. Dennis responded that an overcrowding emergency is declared when the facility reaches 95 percent of capacity (606). Dir. Dennis then has the authorization to not accept offenders from any jurisdiction(s) that is over their bed allocation. With the exception of Fulton County, all jurisdictions have been close to or over their bed allocation this year. When a jurisdiction is over their bed utilization for four consecutive days, they are issued an additional invoice for bed over utilization charges, which is the per diem plus 15 percent. The over allocation revenue is then distributed to the jurisdictions who were not over their bed allocation based on the number of beds they had available during that period. In the last two weeks there have not been enough eligible inmates to be moved to M Building. This results in placing inmates on cots in the minimum unit classrooms.

The average case load for electronic monitoring decreased slightly in July. Work release numbers have been consistently down over the last several years. Judges are utilizing electronic monitoring as a diversion for this security level of offender. A question was asked as to what was the HITT program. Dir. Dennis stated that CCNO has an agreement with Northwest Products, a workshop for MRDD clients. CCNO inmates run some of the higher functioning equipment there. Inmates receive an hourly wage in the HITT program.

It was requested that a report be prepared for the next meeting to show how the implementation of video visitation has affected the number of visits being held. Dir. Dennis stated that operationally video visitation has resulted in less movement of offenders and less contraband in the facility.

IV. SECURITY UPGRADE FOR M BUILDING:

Larry Zuver and Jim Schrock participated in the subcommittee meeting with Sheriff Towns to discuss the proposed security upgrade for upgrading the security of M Building. Dir. Dennis explained the proposal that was presented to the subcommittee. This included a fence near the front entrance of M Building to secure the fire exit door and also fencing that would allow more secure movement between M Building and the Intake salleyport. Gates would be placed through the fencing between M Building and the Intake salleyport for the entrance of fire trucks. Dir. Dennis explained that after the subcommittee meeting ended, Dir. Dennis and Dir. Dennis Sullivan were reviewing the placement of the fencing between M Building and the Intake salleyport. Dir. Sullivan suggested that rather than fencing in the area between M Building and the Intake salleyport, the fencing should be run from M Building to the fencing surrounding the exercise yard and have the entrance for the offenders be into the ring corridor through the fire doors between B and C Units. This would decrease the amount of inmate movement through Intake and the amount of fencing needed for the project. The Fire Marshall reviewed the fencing plan today and he approved it. Quotes are being obtained for the new fencing proposal. A question was asked whether the fencing project was part of the budget. Dir. Dennis responded that funds from the capital budget earmarked for security upgrade will be used.

Dir. Dennis reported that there is a lack of space for lockdown offenders. Most of EA, which is administrative segregation, is being run as a disciplinary unit along with seven cells in EM, maximum security. This is affecting the amount of time that non-disciplinary inmates receive out in the dayrooms.

A question was raised questioning how inmates who have committed a high profile crime or may be well known in society are treated in the facility. Dir. Dennis responded that they would be placed in protective custody and housed in the administrative segregation unit.

It was questioned whether there is a sheet made that will not bear weight if someone attempts to hang themselves to commit suicide. Dir. Dennis stated there is not. At CCNO, when an inmate is booked they receive a health history, suicide, mental health and sexual abuse screening. If the inmate would be determined to be at a risk for suicide, they are placed on a suicide watch. If they are actively suicidal they could be placed in a paper gown because it is difficult to hang themselves with that. Dir. Dennis stated that he has seen inmates tear the paper uniform into strips and braid them or wrap and tie them together. The other option available is a quilted smock that the inmate cannot tear up. This is used when an inmate has been seen trying to tear up their paper uniform. Dir. Dennis noted that CCNO has had five suicides in 23 years. Every one of them were inmates that did not give any prior indication they were suicidal. Most of the inmates know that if they want attention they say they are suicidal. They are then watched and logged every ten minutes. Unfortunately,

most inmates who are serious about committing suicide do not talk about it amongst the other inmates and are very secretive.

It was questioned how pay-to-stay charges are collected after an inmate is released and how it is credited back to the jurisdiction. Dir. Dennis explained that inmates leave CCNO with an invoice. The inmate's information is transmitted electronically to Intellitech, who is a collection agency that specializes in pay-to-stay. If an offender has money when he is booked into CCNO, those funds are applied towards their booking fee while they are still at CCNO. For those funds collected from an inmate prior to release, CCNO retains 70 percent of those funds and Intellitech receives 30 percent of those funds. For all funds collected after an inmate is released, Intellitech receives 70 percent to CCNO's 30 percent. Dir. Dennis explained that there are very specific legal requirements and steps that need to be taken to collect the pay-to-stay fees. It was questioned what CCNO's per diem rate is currently. Dir. Dennis responded \$63.70. It was questioned how pay-to-stay is fair to someone who does not have a job. Dir. Dennis explained that if the Court declares the inmate indigent they do not have to pay the fees. It was questioned what the per diem rate is at the Lucas County Corrections Center (LCCC). Dir. Dennis responded \$130.00. Dir. Dennis explained that the LCCC is very staff intensive due to the poor design of the building. Their inmate pods are very isolated and they operate under the concept of indirect supervision with control rooms and isolated pods. In addition, the LCCC has been under Federal Court Order for many years and with that come obligations that must be done. Due to the building design and indirect versus direct supervision, comparing CCNO and LCCC per diem rates is unfair unless people understand the vast differences between the two facilities.

VI. INSPECTION RESULTS:

M Building, B, C and Booking: Everything looked good. Were impressed with Commander Kepler and the detail in which he explained the classification process. Was impressed that offenders receive staff input throughout their time in CCNO to ensure they are properly classified. Impressed that there was no double celling in the units; only single cells. Appreciate the direct supervision contact. Dir. Dennis stated that over the last seven to eight years he has been able to travel into different jails and prisons across the country and CCNO is the only one that is single celled.

DF, DM, E units and J1: The women's units are very full. The climate of the facility is orderly. Mike Walker stated that he noticed three inmates walking around in a circle. Does that cause concern when they are in groups like that? Dir. Dennis responded that staff look at the groups and take into account the noise level, racial parings, gang involvement and whether they are huddled together or walking. Most times, if they are moving there is no cause of concern, especially if walking laps for exercise.

Minimum male units: The units were clean. The area that has been carpeted was a nice change. Dir. Dennis stated that he resisted installing flat screen

televisions due to tax payer perception, but they have been a tremendous help in keeping the noise level down in the units. When mounted on the wall, the speakers project to the wall which minimizes the sound. Televisions are purchased with commissary revenue. There was a sense in the four different units that the inmates seemed to understand the rules and did not sense any issues. The dayroom areas of K1, K2 and L1 are currently in the process of getting carpet which is why all the tiles were missing. The bed frames are not looking good due to scratches, etc. Can those be painted? Dir. Dennis stated that they could but it will probably look worse if they are painted.

Maintenance, Medical, classrooms, library, GED and Kitchen: Very impressed with the library and the amount of books available. The number of programs that they can participate in is also good. Maintenance was very organized. Very impressed with the security of all the equipment in the food area. Everyone was friendly. Impressed with the organization throughout the facility. Medical was very impressive also. Dir. Dennis stated that focus groups and meetings were held on being more efficient in medical. Changes made included software changes and changing the records area into a holding area. Those changes have worked out well.

It was questioned whether it has ever been considered to computerize the logs that are used throughout the facility. Dir. Dennis stated that is under consideration. Dir. Dennis stated that currently the security equipment is being reviewed for upgrade. It was questioned what is involved in the proposed security upgrade. Dir. Dennis responded that all the push button panels on the Officers' desks and in Central Control that control doors will be replaced with touch screen computers. In addition, in the programming area, the duress system is all on one circuit. If a duress signal is received from that area, responding staff do not know if the emergency is in medical, library or classroom. That circuit needs to be split so the exact location can be identified. There are some doors that we want to go into alarm if they are opened. Similar to the duress system circuit, some of the doors are also in groups which need to be individualized. It was questioned whether more cameras will be added. Dir. Dennis responded that additional cameras are purchased every year. There are some areas of the facility that currently have no cameras that will need them in addition to adding more cameras in the units.

There being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.