

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Vice Chairman Bill Sanford. Roll call was taken with a quorum being present.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Mr. Sanford presented the minutes from the September 5, 2013 meeting. A motion was made 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. The day's population was 561 or 88 percent of capacity. The average daily population for September was 572 or 89.7 percent of capacity. The average daily population for October was 558 or 87 percent of capacity. Dir. Dennis noted on the Billing by Court report that CCNO is not receiving many offenders from the juvenile courts anymore. The laws have changed that adjudicated juveniles are now remaining in local juvenile facilities rather than being housed in adult facilities. Most of the offenders being sentenced by juvenile courts to CCNO are adults on nonsupport of dependants charges. It was questioned how the bed usage is calculated. Dir. Dennis explained each court that has sentenced the offender to CCNO shares the bed cost for that offender. For example, if the Defiance County Common Pleas Court sentences an offender to CCNO and the offender also has a charge from the Fulton County Eastern District Court, these two courts would have half of that person on their bed count and the jurisdictions would share the cost.

Dir. Dennis stated that the facility population dropped from the 2008 levels and has slowly risen in 2012 and 2013. The female population has risen and there are not many female beds available currently. The male population has been running at a manageable level.

Due to the rising population numbers, the number of administrative releases granted has risen in 2013. Dir. Dennis explained that the Actual Releases section of the report shows how many offenders were actually released on an administrative release. If an offender has charges from different courts or judges within the same court, they may receive an administrative release from one court or judge but not both so they would remain at CCNO.

The electronic monitoring program numbers were up in August but leveled out in September. There are currently 95 offenders on a community security program (60 on electronic monitoring, 18 on GPS and 17 on TAD). Dir. Dennis stated that he would like to see more people in the program. It was questioned why Maumee and Oregon do not use electronic monitoring. Dir. Dennis explained that they have an electronic monitoring program operated by a different vendor as does the Defiance Municipal Court.

Work release and HITT numbers are down. This program has declined steadily after the implementation of electronic monitoring. A question was asked what the HITT program is. Dir. Dennis explained that it is similar to work release except that the offenders are not currently employed in a regular job but are placed into a paying job with Northwest Products while they are at CCNO.

The Williams County Health Department conducted their annual facility inspection on September 12. No deficiencies were noted.

A test of the emergency notification system was conducted on September 19. A test call was placed to the neighbors of CCNO. Of the 97 neighbors who registered to receive call in case of an emergency at CCNO, 91 percent of them received the call within five minutes of the call being placed. CCNO uses a web based provider to make the telephone calls. It was questioned what mile radius is covered in this service. Dir. Dennis responded five miles. Jane Hibbard stated that one of her neighbors told her that she has never received a call. Dir. Dennis asked if the house was new to the area. She responded in the past five years. Dir. Dennis asked that she have the neighbor call or to give him the information to add into the system.

The Judicial Advisory Board met on September 25. Only one Judge attended the meeting. Dir. Dennis explained that the Judicial Advisory Board was created because for almost 20 years the Judges were members of the Corrections Commission. However, an Ethics Commission ruling removed the Judges from sitting on corrections boards.

The first annual Ohio Jail Administrator's Conference was held on October 4. Dir. Dennis conducted a presentation on PREA. That was the first event that jail administrators' planned themselves. Dir. Dennis stated that discussion has occurred on the possibility of creating an Ohio Jail Administrator's Association also.

Representatives of the Ontario Correctional Service were at CCNO on October 8 to observe the operations of a direct supervision jail. They intend to build their new facilities to be direct supervision. The Correctional Service received funding to visit different direct supervision jails Michigan, New York and CCNO. Dir. Dennis stated that the visiting Officers were put in housing units with CCNO staff to observe first hand. They were very complementary of CCNO staff and how interactive they are with the inmates.

The annual jail inspection for Ohio Minimum Jail Standards was held October 22. CCNO was found compliant on the standards. During a Fire Marshall inspection a citation was noted that the batteries were low on the diesel generator during the "generator" inspection. The batteries were on order and have now been received and installed. The Fire Marshall has removed the citation. The generator worked fine with the low batteries and is tested every Wednesday.

The Champions for Life event was held on November 2. This went well with 170 in attendance. This is the highest number attending in the past four years.

A Lucas County Forum was held last night regarding the sentencing changes made in House Bill 86. Part of the change was the implementation of a new risk assessment instrument known as ORAS. All offenders who are involved in a program funded with Community Corrections Act (CCA) funds must have an ORAS risk assessment completed. In addition, all offenders who have been sentenced by a Common Pleas Court need to have an ORAS instrument completed. The ORAS identifies criminal factors in the person's life that may prevent them from being successful upon leaving the jail. Research has shown that offenders who are noted as high risk on the ORAS are most in need of programming and respond best to programming. Historically, most programming was done for low risk, first time offenders. The research has shown that is detrimental because most of these offenders have made a bad decision and being placed in jail exposes them to offenders with criminal thinking behaviors. This forum also outlined the diversion programs available in Lucas County. Participants in this forum were Judges, Prosecutors, Probation Officers and defense attorneys. Discussions are being held on holding a similar training in northwest Ohio for the four rural counties. Dr. Knueve has offered Defiance College as a site for this training.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC) architect will be at CCNO tomorrow to review the M Building fencing proposal. The project needs to be approved by the ODRC architect prior to starting the project. The work will be done by local vendors because they have the lowest price once the project is approved by the ODRC.

IV. CURRENT ISSUES:

A question was asked, how inmates' family and friends feel about video visitation? Dir. Dennis stated that they are not complaining regarding the change to video visitation. What is causing concern is the technical difficulties that are being experienced with the equipment that causes the visits to be cut short or not held. Dir. Dennis stated that wall units and hard drives have been replaced on new equipment and problems are still occurring. Today all the units became inoperable. They are all now back on line, but it has been frustrating to staff. Dir. Dennis stated that there have been seven home visits completed so far. Dir. Dennis believes that the home visits will increase once it catches on. Securus is also working on developing a mobile app for visits to be held.

V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: A motion was made by Tom McCarter to retain the current slate of officers. The motion was seconded by Jane Hibbard. Motion passed unanimously.

There being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.