

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION  
APRIL 7, 1971

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on April 7, 1971, at the offices of Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, Room 2520, 277 Park Avenue, New York, New York.

Present at the meeting were Messrs. vanden Heuvel, Dribben DeMonte and Schulte, and Mrs. Singer. Also present by invitation of the Board were John M. Brickman, Executive Director of the Board, Lesley J. Spector, Executive Secretary of the Board, and Terry Strauss, Research Assistant, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Mr. vanden Heuvel acted as Chairman and Miss Spector as Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:05 P.M. A discussion of Unusual Occurrence Reports was first on the agenda. At the request of Mr. Schulte, Mr. Brickman had asked the Department of Correction for copies of the Reports to be forwarded to Mr. Schulte. Mr. Schulte stated that the Department had not done so; Mr. Brickman stated that the Reports had not been forwarded to the Board office for more than three weeks. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Chairman was ordered to send a letter to the Commissioner requesting that the Board be placed on the distribution list for all Unusual Occurrence Reports. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was further resolved that any member of the Board shall receive copies of the Reports upon the request to the staff of the Board.

The Chairman stated that it would be in order to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 15, 1971. Mrs. Singer stated that the first sentence of the second paragraph of page 2 should read, "Mrs. Singer cited some examples of problems with the Department that she thought could be corrected." Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes, as amended, were adopted.

The Chairman then distributed a memorandum to the Board members regarding the use of Board of Correction stationery. The memorandum requested that Board stationery be used only for official Board business, and that a copy of any letter sent on Board stationery be forwarded to the Board office for filing. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Secretary was requested to forward copies of the memorandum to Board members not present at the meeting, and to file a copy of the memorandum with these minutes.

Mrs. Singer then suggested that Dr. DiBilio, Director of Rehabilitation of the Department of Correction, be invited to a meeting of the Board. The Chairman declared that Dr. Di Bilio had been invited to this meeting, but was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. The Chairman also stated that he had informed Dr. DiBilio that the Board is very much concerned with the problem of rehabilitation.

The Chairman then stated that the Mayor had toured the Manhattan House of Detention for Men with officials of the Department of Correction on Monday, April 5, and that a press conference was held thereafter to discuss the work of Dr. Vincent Dole in the methadone detoxification program in the Tombs. The Chairman further stated that he planned to send a memorandum to the Mayor outlining the sequence of events which led to Dr. Dole's assistance in the program: essentially, that his contribution is being made as a direct result of meetings that the Chairman had with Dr. Dole. The Chairman added that due to the personal supervision of Dr. Dole, as of today over 140 addicts are being treated in the Tombs.

Mr. DeMonte stated that he felt it would be appropriate for the Board to send a letter to Dr. Dole thanking him for his services. The Chairman added that he felt letters should also be sent to Commissioners McGrath and Malcolm complimenting them on the initial success of the methadone detoxification program.

An estimated budget for the Board of Correction was submitted to the members for their consideration. Some changes were suggested, and the budget will be considered at a future meeting of the Board. Mr. Dribben stated that he would like to see a job description for each member of the staff of the Board. Mr. Brickman stated that he would prepare such descriptions and bring them to the next meeting. The Chairman declared that he would like to get a supplementary grant, perhaps to hire another attorney, so that the Board can begin to work in institutions other than the Tombs.

With respect to the delivery of newspapers to the MHD, Mr. Brickman stated that the New York Times will let us know within the next few days how many papers they will make available, and how they are to be picked up. With respect to the visitors' telephones in the MHD, Mr. Brickman stated that bids are now being taken for the equipment, and that the Department of Purchase expects to let the contract by next week. With respect to the recreation area in the MHD, the Chairman stated that it is being renovated for approximately \$11,000 and that he has been informed by the contractors that the renovations would be completed by May 1.

The Chairman then stated that Mr. George Camp, Assistant Commissioner for Rehabilitation of the Department, was present. The Chairman then welcomed Commissioner Camp to the meeting and introduced him to the members of the Board. The Commissioner stated that, although his primary area of responsibility is rehabilitation, he is certain that he will be getting involved in other aspects of the prison system as well. He then briefly discussed his background in the field of correction. He holds a master's degree from Florida State University in criminology and corrections, and a Ph.D. from Yale University in sociology, where he did his dissertation on bank robbery in America. He has worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Indiana as a Parole Officer; in a Federal penitentiary in Illinois; the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington, D. C.,



and finally at the Lompoc Institution in California, where he was Associate Warden. The Chairman asked the Commissioner if he had been at Lompoc during the riots there last year. The Commissioner responded that he had and that, in his opinion, the major prisoner grievance at the time was the delay in awaiting prosecution by those prisoners who were segregated.

The Chairman asked Commissioner Camp if he had experience in rehabilitation. The Commissioner declared that he had had such experience in the federal institutions in educational and vocational rehabilitation. Additionally, he has worked on programs using offenders and ex-offenders as agents of social change, i.e., programs similar to Phoenix House. Commissioner Camp said that he had never worked on rehabilitation programs for detention inmates. The Chairman declared that the New York City prison system seems to be becoming solely a detention system and that there is a desperate need for some form of rehabilitation for detention inmates. He also stated that the Mayor is seriously considering closing the Women's House of Detention in Greenwich Village and the Branch Queens House of Detention. If such closing are effectuated, even more sentenced prisoners will be removed from City institutions.

Mr. Schulte declared that Commissioner Camp's job in the Department of Correction is one that has been neglected for a great number of years, and suggested to the Commissioner that a valuable resource for him to utilize would be many of the volunteer agencies that are willing to assist.

Mrs. Singer presented a report of a special committee of The Decorators' Club, Inc. The report embodies a proposal whereby the Club would involve itself in the decoration of the new Women's House of Detention. Upon motion duly made and ~~seconded~~, the Chairman was instructed to send a letter to Commissioner McGrath enclosing the proposal with the endorsement of the Board and the Secretary was instructed to file a copy of the report with the minutes.

The Chairman stated that the most important aspect of the prison system should be the attitude of all concerned that the prison is a community facility, serving a community purpose, and therefore should be open to community representatives. For example, the four prison chaplains are very overworked and could use the assistance of outside clergy to ease their workload. The Chairman stated that this was one of the reasons for the Clergy Workshop. The Chairman further stated that he felt that correction officers could also use assistance to ease their burdens, perhaps in the form of community representatives who could work as correctional aides.

Mr. Dribben stated that all volunteers who are going to work in an institution should be given a standard briefing before they enter the prison for the first time. The briefing should outline, among other things, what is expected of them, the rules of the institution, and the reasons for certain rules, etc.

The Chairman stated that the report which the Board is submitting to Commissioner McGrath requesting authorization to expand the Manhattan Volunteer Project specifically states that any volunteer must fill out an application, be approved by the Commissioner, and participate in a briefing session.

The Chairman informed Commissioner Camp of the Volunteer Doctor program that has been instituted. He also stated that the labor unions might be interested in working with the Commissioner on a rehabilitation program.

Commissioner Camp stated that whatever programs he undertakes, he is committed to their implementation and success. The Chairman stated, on behalf of the Board, that the Board is willing to cooperate in whatever way possible.

The Commissioner declared that the one resource that is continually not utilized is that of inmates themselves.

Mr. Dribben then raised the issue of the Rand Study that was done for the Department of Correction for \$300,000 and paid for from the Department's budget. The Board also discussed the work of Learning Systems, Inc., an organization funded by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to develop rehabilitation programs for detention prisoners and/or projects that will keep the prisoners busy and interested.

Mr. Schulte then reported on the progress of the installation of telephones on the housing floors of the MHD. He stated that he has been advised that the problem now is that there are no pipes in the MHD through which the Telephone Company can run its cables. Mr. Schulte declared that these pipes must be installed by the Department of Public Works. The Telephone Company can install the telephones within one week after the pipes are installed. Mr. Schulte stated that the pipes should be installed within the next three weeks and therefore estimates that the telephones will be installed on or about May 10.

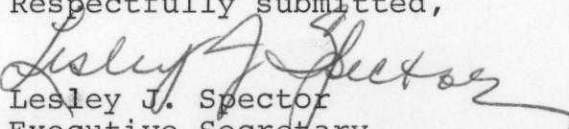
The Chairman stated that he is hopeful that the Administrative Board of the Judicial Conference will adopt rules limiting the maximum time of detention of any prisoner awaiting trial and instituting the "Judicare" system.

The Chairman declared that he would like to ask permission of Commissioner McGrath for the Board to sponsor a lecture series at the Tombs at which any prisoner who is interested can attend. Prisoners could suggest speakers and the Board would try to arrange to have those speakers visit the Tombs. It was generally agreed that this is a worthwhile project.

The next meeting of the Board of Correction will be on April 19, at 2:00 P.M., in the 14th floor Conference Room at 100 Centre Street.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lesley J. Spector  
Executive Secretary