

NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION
MEETING OF MARCH 13, 1991

Members Present

Robert Kasanof, Chairman
Judge William Booth
Louis A. Cruz, Esq.
Rev. Irvine Bryer, Jr.
David A. Schulte

Excused absences were noted for John R. Horan, Vice Chairman,
David Lenefsky, Esq., Barbara Margolis and Rose M. Singer.

Representatives of the Department of Correction

Vito Turso, Deputy Commissioner
Robert Daly, General Counsel
Toni Bair, Assistant Commissioner
John Shanahan, Assistant Commissioner
Leslie Keenan, Associate Commissioner
David Mallach, Executive Director of Substance Abuse Intervention
Division
Hector Eugui, Deputy Chief of Operations
Roger Parris, Director of Health Services
Brian Conroy, Warden
Eugene Ienuso, Warden
Francis Patterson, Warden

Others in Attendance

John Guzman, New York State Commission of Correction
Leslie Hurdle, Mayor's Office of Operations
Mary Jo Mullan, Office of Compliance Consultants
Frank Reay, State Senate Committee on Crime and Corrections
George Jordan, New York Newsday

The meeting began at 2:15 p.m. Chairman Robert Kasanof welcomed the representatives of the Department of Correction and other guests. Mr. Kasanof called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of February 20, 1990. The motion was made by Board member Louis Cruz, seconded by Board member Judge William Booth and approved by all Board members present.

Mr. Kasanof then asked Board staff to report on the progress of the variance reduction plan. Executive Director Richard Wolf reported that the reduction of variance beds was proceeding on schedule. He explained that the completion of the new Sprung structures at the Adolescent Reception and Detention Center (ARDC) increased system capacity by 300 beds and that the Department had therefore eliminated 150 variance or "squeezed" beds at the Correctional Institute for Men (CIFM) and Wards Island.

Mr. Wolf also reported that the Department had requested the renewal of existing variances. Judge Booth said that in view of the Department's action on the reduction of variance beds, he offered a motion to approve the pending request to renew existing variances. The motion was seconded by Board member David Schulte and approved by all Board members present.

Mr. Wolf then reported that the Department had also requested structural variances to permit the absence of

acoustical barriers between dayrooms and sleeping areas in the new Sprung structures, as well as program variances for the new Sprungs at ARDC, the George Motchan Detention Center (GMDC) and CIFM.

Assistant Commissioner Toni Bair introduced Dave Mallach, Executive Director of the Substance Abuse Intervention Division (SAID). Mr. Mallach reported on the services provided by the SAID program. He said that the SAID programs provided drug-free treatment based on the therapeutic community model. He noted that the SAID programs had a dramatic pay-off in terms of jail management. He explained that, for example, use-of-force rates in the SAID Sprungs compared very favorably with those in other units, including those featuring other treatment programs such as the Bibby Venture. He further explained that the program required less uniformed staffing and, therefore, cost significantly less to operate than other types of housing.

Mr. Mallach said that he could not yet report definitively on the program's effect on recidivism, but noted there was a growing consensus that episodic drug treatment can be effective in the long term. He said he would send the Board the analysis on recidivism when it was completed. Mr. Kasanof then asked whether there were plans to expand the program to more difficult populations. Mr. Mallach responded that on July 1, the Department intended to start a high security program. Mr.

Schulte then asked how the SAID program compared with the High Impact Incarceration Program (HIIP) in terms of staffing, violence rates and recidivism. Mr. Mallach said that the Department had not yet collected sufficient data to make such a comparison. He promised to send Board staff an analysis of the cost savings of SAID. In addition, Mr. Mallach said that he would send the Board monthly reports of SAID activities and would also send an analysis of community-based programs comparing SAID participants with other participants.

Judge Booth then introduced a motion to vote on the pending structural and program variance requests. Board member Louis Cruz seconded the motion and all Board members present voted to approve the motion, with a direction that Board staff meet with Department staff to review the GMDC and CIFM Operating Plans, and to set variance conditions.

Board Member Reverend Irvine Bryer then requested a report on the status of the programs Commissioner Sielaff presented at the September 1990 Board meeting. Mr. Bair said that Marian Tsugi, Assistant Commissioner for Alternatives to Incarceration, would attend the next Board meeting and report on the status of these programs in detail. Mr. Kasanof requested that the Department also report on the status of the conditional-release program at that time and that the Department prepare a list of current alternative programs including start dates and the

numbers currently involved and participating to date.

Assistant Commissioner Leslie Keenan then reported on the Department's educational programs. Ms. Keenan reported that the Board of Education operates schools at the Rose M. Singer Center (RMSC), ARDC and CIFM and offers literacy, GED and limited vocational programs. Mr Cruz asked how many adolescents were currently registered for classes. Ms. Keenan said that 470 adolescents were registered, but explained that figure may not be useful because the adolescent population was very dynamic. She estimated that of an average population of 1200 adolescents, approximately 530 should be in school. She further explained that with the addition of the Sprungs, current program capacity was limited to 380 students and, therefore, the Department needed space for another 150 students. She noted that the actual figure might be lower, again because the adolescent population was very dynamic. She promised to send copies of the Department's biweekly report to the Board of Education on adolescent school capacity to the Board.

Mr. Schulte reported that when he last toured ARDC, he observed what was clearly an excessive number of parole violators housed there. He noted that these inmates should be housed in state facilities and that the practice of housing them in city jails resulted in tremendous costs to the city--costs more appropriately borne by the state. Mr. Kasanof added that an

equally important issue was that city institutions were ill-suited to confine this class of inmate. He also noted that the increase in the number of parole violators was equal to the number of beds provided by the Department's recent building program, thereby significantly reducing the benefit provided by this expensive effort. Mr. Schulte also reported that the poor condition of ceiling panels in certain of the main corridors at ARDC seriously compromised security there.

Chairman Kasanof thanked the representatives of the Department of Correction and others present for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.