

NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION

February 13, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT

John R. Horan, Acting Chair
Canute C. Bernard, M.D.
David Lenefsky
Barbara Margolis

Excused absences were noted for Chair William H. Booth and Members Louis Cruz, Peter J. Johnson, Jr., Stanley Kreitman and David Schulte.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Michael Jacobson, Commissioner
Tom Antenen, Deputy Commissioner
Antonio Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner
Gary Lanigan, Deputy Commissioner
Elizabeth Loconsolo, General Counsel
Ronald Galletta, Bureau Chief
Edward Reilly, Bureau Chief
James Psomas, Deputy Warden

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION

Andrew Harris, Associate Executive Director, Correctional Health Services

Acting Chair John Horan convened the meeting at 1:03 p.m. by requesting reports from Members and Board staff. Deputy Executive Director Cathy Potler asked about the status of the Health and Hospital Corporation's (HHC) Request for Proposal (RFP). Associate Executive Director Andrew Harris responded that he expects a decision on the "next steps in the process". Both Mr. Horan and Member David Lenefsky expressed their confusion over Mr. Harris's statement since it was their understanding that responses from bidders had been received and a decision was imminent. DOC Commissioner Michael Jacobson explained that the threshold question is whether any of the six responses were "responsive" to the RFP and secondarily, which one of those is the best. The Commissioner stated that the process has not changed, and that people are being more deliberative in their selection.

Acting Chair Horan and Mr. Lenefsky asked several questions about when decisions will be made. Mr. Harris responded that within two weeks a decision should be made identifying which proposals are responsive. Commissioner Jacobson stated that it should take a month or two before a final decision is made about which bidder submitted the best proposal.

Ms. Potler asked Mr. Harris to report on Correctional Health Services' (CHS) budget for the coming fiscal year. Mr. Harris responded that until a decision is made on the RFP the Executive budget has remained the same. With respect to State funding, Mr. Harris reported that the State has changed the way it allocates Article 6 funds so that it is difficult to determine at this early date what effect it will have on CHS.

Executive Director Richard T. Wolf asked about the Department of Correction's FY 98 budget. Commissioner Jacobson explained how the Department will absorb a required \$80 million cut without reducing programs: (1) The State population will be reduced substantially, and this in turn will reduce capacity. The number of parole violators has gone down from 2800 to 2000 for two reasons: (a) the Division of Parole (DOP) is not bringing anyone into the City system who will not be restored to parole

and (b) as of January 26, 1997, DOP revised its internal procedures such that time spent on Rikers Island will no longer count as "time served", and time to be served in the State system will be shortened. These changes should serve as incentives to defendants to refrain from adjourning their cases unnecessarily.

(2) The expedited case processing initiative, which has worked so well in Brooklyn, will soon spread to other counties in the City.

(3) An additional 400 officer recruits will be hired, and 100 recently have graduated from the Academy. Additional officers will reduce overtime costs.

Mr. Wolf asked the Commissioner to discuss his population assumptions for the coming year. Commissioner Jacobson reiterated that the Department's November Plan anticipates a decrease in the State prisoner population. However, he noted that Manhattan and Brooklyn North police initiatives will continue to increase the City's inmate population. Mr. Jacobson stated that he would like to make it to the summer without having to re-open BCF. The Commissioner explained that he made no population assumptions in the January Plan because the Department received \$16 million in Federal Crimes Bill money to reimburse the City for housing its immigration population.

Mr. Wolf requested that the Commissioner discuss population projections for the coming months. Mr. Jacobson said he anticipates that the population will remain in the mid-19,000 range until March or April when the population will increase to about 20,300. In addition, 600 beds will come off-line in the Spring to accommodate the cook-serve renovations.

Deputy Warden James Psomas requested that all existing variances be continued. This was approved by the Board. Vice-Chair Horan adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.