

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

April 14, 1975

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on April 14, 1975 in the 14th floor conference room, 100 Centre Street, New York, New York.

Present were Mr. Lehman, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Kirby, Mr. Schulte, Mrs. Singer, Mr. Tufo, and Reverend Wilson. Also present by invitation of the Board were John M. Brickman, Executive Director; Marc Rosen, Assistant Executive Director; Greg Harris, Director, Clergy Volunteer Program; Jerome Cappellani, Staff Assistant; Richard Bernard, Law Intern; and Kathi Roisen, Student Intern.

Present from the Department of Correction were Benjamin J. Malcolm, Commissioner; Jack Birnbaum, Deputy Commissioner; Alphonso Ford, Assistant Commissioner for Program Services; Agenor L. Castro, Director of Public Affairs; Arnett Gaston, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner; James Hickey, Deputy Director of Operations; and Dr. Stephen Kelleher, Director of Volunteer Services.

Messrs. Lehman and Tufo served as Chairmen and Messrs. Harris and Cappellani as Secretaries of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:25 p.m.

Upon a motion duly made by Mrs. Singer and seconded by Reverend Wilson, a request for an excused absence from Father Rios was approved.

The Chairman reported that the Board had held several meetings with the Department concerning the Board's application for a CJCC grant, and that the Department of Correction had the revised application for more than ten days. He added that the CJCC Executive Committee will meet on April 22, 1975.

The Chairman then declared that his resignation will take effect after April 22, 1975.

There followed a discussion of Bronx District Attorney Mario Merola's proposal for facilities for mentally disturbed inmates. It was agreed that Mr. Brickman would contact Mr. Merola's office and Senator Donovan's staff, to gain additional information.

At 2:40 p.m. Mr. Schulte entered the meeting.

The Board agreed upon the following schedule for future meetings:

1. April 29, 1975, at 2:30 p.m. at Mr. Tufo's office.
2. May 5, 1975, at 2:00 p.m. at the 14th floor conference room, 100 Centre Street.
3. May 20, 1975, at 2:30 p.m. at the Queens House of Detention.
4. June 2, 1975, at 2:00 p.m. at the 14th floor conference room, 100 Centre Street.
5. June 17, 1975, at 2:30 p.m. at the Brooklyn House of Detention.

At 2:45 p.m. Mr. Cappellani entered the meeting and began acting as Secretary.

At 2:50 p.m. Mr. Kirby entered the meeting.

The next topic of discussion was the Department's architecture grant. It was noted that Curtis and Davis was selected as the architectural firm to prepare the plan, and that the Board had been asked to sit on the project steering committee. It was agreed that Mr. Kirby will be the Board member to attend such meetings regularly, and that Mrs. Singer will serve as alternate.

There followed a discussion of the court monitoring project. It was agreed generally that additional judges would not be contacted until there is a discussion between Mr. Tufo, Mr. Brickman, and Judge Damiani.

The question of what course of action the Board should take with reference to the Correction Officers Benevolent Association suit challenging mandatory overtime was raised. It was suggested that Mr. Brickman submit an affidavit in

support of the suit. The Board members were of the general opinion that there was sufficient time to enable the Board to obtain more information before making a final decision on the matter, and the staff agreed to prepare a position paper on the issue.

It was reported that CVP members are having difficulty gaining access to Inmate Liaison Meetings. It was agreed generally that the Chairman would take the matter up with Commissioner Malcolm.

At 3:36 p.m. Commissioner Malcolm, Deputy Commissioner Birnbaum, Assistant Commissioner Ford, and Messrs. Castro, Gaston, Hickey, and Kelleher entered the meeting.

The principal topic then considered was the Board's Citizen Volunteer Program grant application. The Commissioner questioned the propriety of requesting 1,000 volunteers in the grant application, noting that only 119 correction aides had been lost. The Chairman declared that the Board certainly would not attempt to replace 119 aides with 1,000 volunteers. Commissioner Malcolm stated he had no problems with the figures, as long as he was assured that the Board would not try to replace quality with quantity. He was given such assurances.

The Commissioner inquired as to whether the Board intends the volunteers mentioned in the grant to be under the direction of the program person within the particular institution, or Board personnel, and was informed that they are to report to institutional supervisors.

The Commissioner cited that part of the grant application which calls for a Volunteer Program Planning Committee; he expressed concern that it might duplicate the efforts of the Department's Program Services Division. He was assured that the Board expects the planning process to be a joint one, with coordination between the Board and the Department.

Assistant Commissioner Ford raised the question of what procedure would be followed should the Board and the Department disagree upon the merits of specific volunteers. He was informed that the needs of the Department are the paramount criteria. Commissioner Malcolm declared that if a personality conflict is involved, the volunteer could be transferred to another institution rather than be dismissed.



Dr. Kelleher noted that after the cutback of 119 correction aides, there remains a core of highly qualified people who could act as supervisors for the new volunteers.

Commissioner Malcolm suggested that in order to have a volunteer staff that could deal effectively with the inmate population, it would be wise to work in cooperation with religious organizations in recruiting people from minority groups.

At 4:10 p.m. Mr. Lehman left the meeting and Mr. Tufo assumed the Chair.

A discussion ensued of Mr. Merola's report on the City's prison mental facilities. Commissioner Malcolm declared that he would support a system of forensic hospitals, but that he was concerned that a possible result of the report might be the creation of a "centralized monster."

Mr. Tufo, who had attended the funeral of Officer Gittons, stated that he thought the services were handled very well. The Commissioner expressed his appreciation of the Board's presence.

It was noted that the Task Force on the Manhattan House of Detention is to meet at 9:00 a.m. on April 21. Commissioner Malcolm informed the Board that a tour of the Tombs, a review of the Rhem decision, and a statement by Task Force Chairman Vaccarello were on the agenda. He added that the meeting will enable the Department to determine whether the Task Force is just a facade to satisfy public opinion. Mr. Tufo will be the Board's representative on the Task Force.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.