

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CORRECTION

August 1, 1975

A regular meeting of the Board of Correction was held on Friday, August 1, 1975 at the Adolescent Reception and Detention Center ("ARDC"), 11-11 Hazen Street, East Elmhurst, New York.

Present were Mr. Jackson, Mr. Kirby, Father Rios, Mr. Schulte, Mr. Tufo, and Reverend Wilson. Also present by invitation of the Board were Marc Rosen, Executive Director; Michael D. Cleary, Executive Secretary/Fiscal Officer; Barbara J. Armstrong, Acting Director, Clergy Volunteer Program; Jerome Cappellani, Stephen Fisher and Charles Hamiel, Staff Assistants; and Peter Busch, Robert Gerrard, Abigail Jones, Nancy Kessler and Kathi Roisen, internes.

Mr. Tufo served as Chairman and Mr. Fisher as Secretary of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

It was noted that Warden LaTorre was in court and would be unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairman stated that Time Magazine would like to do a story on the jails in New York City. He noted that six senior editors were at HDM and ARDC earlier in the week.

At 10:10 a.m. Mr. Cleary, Mr. Hamiel, Ms. Jones and Ms. Kessler entered the meeting.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, a request for an excused absence from Mrs. Singer was approved.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the lawsuit brought by the Legal Action Center against many correction officers at ARDC as well as senior officers and members of the executive staff of the Department.

The Board discussed whether it would prepare a report on ARDC such as the HDM report to the Commissioner and Mayor. A discussion ensued on the number of alleged assaults against inmates by officers. The questions which were raised were whether there should be only certain staff members assigned to investigate such complaints and whether the Board had the authority to undertake an extensive investigation. It was noted that the best thing the Board could do would be to give all the information to the Inspector General's office of the Department of Correction or the Department of Investigation. It was also noted that there was some problems of access for Board and staff members at ARDC, and, in fact, Mr. Jackson had to call Deputy Commissioner Birnbaum on a Saturday afternoon to gain entrance to the institution.

Father Rios commented that the staff's initial background work on ARDC was very informative and that, perhaps, an in depth report would be necessary such as the one at HDM. It was agreed generally that the specific areas to be studied need to be researched further, but that the staff are pretty aware now as to what needs to be done. The Chairman stated that he would like a similar team of Ken Jackson, Jerry Cappellani and Steve Fisher to do this report as they did at HDM. It was also agreed that the report would stay away from undertaking investigations of alleged assaults since the Board did not have the capacity to do this at present but that any material developed would be reported to the proper agencies. It was agreed generally that the Board would take a look at the problems at ARDC over the month of August and then in the beginning of September they will be more capable of defining the problem areas at the institution.

Mr. Rosen stated that he had spoken to Deputy Commissioner Birnbaum about the problems of access. Deputy Commissioner Birnbaum noted that when Chief D'Elia returned from vacation a teletype order would go out concerning access for staff members.

Upon motion duly made by Father Rios and seconded by Reverend Wilson it was

RESOLVED THAT the Board of Correction will examine conditions at ARDC during the month of August. After an initial report the Board will decide whether conditions warrant further study of the institution. A sub-committee of Mr. Kirby, Father Rios and several Board staff will undertake this project.

The problems of the Clergy Volunteer Program were raised. It was noted that at the end of August the program would be losing all of its part-time students and would be left with two full-time people supervising the whole operation. Ms. Armstrong declared that she needed more staff in order to efficiently operate the program. Reverend Wilson and Father Rios will look at the CVP operations with the thought of making recommendations for additional staff.

The matter of the next Board meeting was raised. It was decided that the meeting would be held on September 8 or 9 probably at the office of the Supervising Warden of Rikers Island. In addition, at that time the election of a Vice-Chairman will be considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.