

NEW YORK CITY
BOARD OF CORRECTION
MEETING OF APRIL 10, 1991

Members Present

Robert Kasanof, Chairman
John R. Horan, Vice Chairman
Rev. Irvine Bryer, Jr.
Louis A. Cruz, Esq.
David Lenefsky, Esq.
Barbara Margolis
David A. Schulte

An excused absence was noted for Judge William Booth

Representatives of the Department of Correction

Vito Turso, Deputy Commissioner
Robert Daly, General Counsel
Toni Bair, Assistant Commissioner
Leslie Keenan, Associate Commissioner
David Mallach, Executive Director of Substance Abuse Intervention
Division
Bruce Sullivan, Division Chief
James Kane, Warden
Ralph Mercado, Assistant Deputy Warden

Others in Attendance

John Guzman, New York State Commission of Correction
Patricia Thomas, New York State Commission of Correction
Frank Reay, State Senate Committee on Crime and Corrections
George Jordan, New York Newsday
Selwyn Raab, New York Times

The meeting began at 2:10 p.m.. Chairman Robert Kasanof welcomed the representatives of the Department of Correction and other guests. Mr. Kasanof called for a motion to adopt the minutes of the Board meeting of March 13, 1991. The motion was made by Board member David Schulte, seconded by Board member Barbara Margolis and approved by all Board members present.

Mr. Kasanof said that he was resigning as Chairman of the Board of Correction effective Friday, April 12, 1991. He announced that Vice-Chairman John Horan would assume the role of Acting Chairman of the Board. Mr. Kasanof expressed his sadness at leaving the Board and commended the good work of the entire staff of the Board. Mr. Kasanof noted the tremendous size of the City's jail population and said that he was concerned that effective management of the system was becoming too difficult. He said that Board staff had, however, done an exemplary job of enforcing the Board's Minimum Standards. Mr. Kasanof stated that of the Board's many accomplishments during his tenure, the promulgation of the New York City Correctional Health Care Minimum Standards was especially noteworthy. Mr. Kasanof expressed his thanks to the Department of Correction, as well as to other City agencies, for their cooperation and assistance throughout his term. Mr. Kasanof then noted the death of Board member Rose M. Singer who had served on the Board since its creation. He spoke of her devotion to the cause of promoting a

humane correctional system and said that her absence would be deeply felt.

Mr. Kasanof then asked Board staff to report on pending variance requests. Executive Director Richard Wolf reported that the Department had requested the renewal of existing variances, a new variance regarding the Correctional Institution for Men (CIFM) and a variance permitting jumpsuits for detainees in the Central Punitive Segregation Unit (CPSU).

General Counsel Robert Daly addressed the issue of uniforms for punitive segregation at JATC. Mr. Daly said that two percent, or approximately 300 inmates, would be selected to wear the uniforms or jumpsuits. Assistant Commissioner Bair emphasized that the purpose of the uniforms was to improve security, and noted the jumpsuits have no pockets or belts in an effort to make it more difficult to conceal contraband. Board Member David Lenefsky said he was concerned that the number of uniform changes per week was insufficient. Mr. Schulte voiced similar concerns, and said that the proposed two changes of undergarments was unacceptable. Mr. Kasanof proposed that the Board vote to approve the use of uniforms based on a six month trial period and carefully monitor the success of the program during that time. Mr. Schulte motioned for a vote on the variance and the motion was seconded by Board member Reverend Irvine Bryer. The vote was made on the condition that Department

and Board staff come to an agreement on the number of changes of jumpsuits and undergarments each week, with the understanding that the number of changes had to be increased.

Mr. Wolf then briefly explained the Department's variance request to permit the mixing of city-sentenced prisoners and parole violators in the High Impact incarceration Program (HIIP) Sprungs at CIFM. Mr. Lenefsky asked to review the terms of the agreement between the Department and the State Department of Parole. Mr. Bair said the Department would provide him with the relevant documents. Mr. Lenefsky then made a motion to approve the variance. The motion was seconded by Board member Louis Cruz. The motion was then passed with Board members Reverend Irvine Bryer and David Schulte abstaining.

Mr. Kasanof then left the meeting, turning the Chair over to Mr. Horan. Deputy Director Maddy deLone then reported on the revisions made to the Health Care Minimum Standards. Reverend Bryer moved to adopt the revised Standards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cruz and approved by all Board members present.

Mr. Lenefsky then requested an update of the Department's progress regarding the variance bed reduction plan. Mr. Bair reported that 200 variance beds would be removed as of April 10, 1991, leaving a total of 2225 beds at CIFM. Mr. Schulte asked whether the Department's census indicated the system might soon

be subject to another population crisis. Mr. Bair responded that while the system was strained by both the growing population and the measles epidemic, it was managing to stay in compliance with all relevant court orders and standards. Acting Chairman John Horan requested that the Department keep the Board informed of the status of the measles epidemic. Mr. Schulte then motioned for the Board to approve the existing variances. Mr. Lenefsky seconded the motion and all members present voted to approve the motion.

Mr. Bair then introduced the following Department staff; Associate Warden Leslie Keenan, Substance Abuse Intervention Division (SAID) Director Dave Mallach, Division Chief Bruce Sullivan, Warden James Kane and Assistant Deputy Warden Ralph Mercado. Ms. Keenan completed her report regarding the status of educational services offered through the Department. Mr. Mallach briefly expanded on his report at the meeting of March 13, regarding substance abuse services provided under the auspices of the SAID programs. Mr. Sullivan then reported briefly on existing and new HIIP programs operated in the new Sprung structures at CIFM. A full presentation will be made at the May meeting.

Acting Chairman Horan thanked the representatives of the Department of Correction and others present for their participation. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.