

NEW YORK CITY  
BOARD OF CORRECTION

December 10, 1997

MEMBERS PRESENT

John R. Horan, Acting Chair  
David Lenefsky  
David A. Schulte

Excused absences were noted for Members Canute C. Bernard, M.D.,  
Louis A. Cruz, Peter J. Johnson, Jr., Stanley Kreitman, and  
Barbara Margolis.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Michael Jacobson, Commissioner  
Tom Antenen, Deputy Commissioner  
Antonio Figueroa, Deputy Commissioner  
Elizabeth Loconsolo, Esq., General Counsel  
Roger Parris, Assistant Commissioner  
Ronald Galletta, Bureau Chief  
Sheila Vaughan, Assistant Chief, ISCD  
David Goodman, Deputy Warden, ISCD  
Clyton Eastmond, Deputy Warden, Asst. to Chief  
Amira Luqman, Urban Fellow

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION - CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

Gregory Kaladjian, Executive Director

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Erika Goodman, City Council  
Regina Poreda, City Council

Acting Chair John R. Horan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The draft minutes from the November meeting were adopted without objection by the Members present.

There being no reports from the Members, Acting Chair Horan asked for information about the recently signed contract with St. Barnabas Hospital. Gregory Kaladjian, Executive Director of HHC's Correctional Health Services, reported that the contract was signed on November 26th. He said that the contract contains several "firsts":

- it establishes a "partially capitated system" tied to the average daily inmate census, with special reimbursement provisions when the census at Rikers and the Manhattan Detention Center exceeds 15,500 inmates;
- the electronic medical records system should be in place by January 1st, and should enable practitioners to have ready access to the most recent lab test results and other medical information about each inmate/patient;
- it contemplates an "urgi-center" on Rikers Island - an on-Island facility that would provide services similar to those available at a hospital emergency room, thereby reducing substantially the need for emergency hospital runs which are expensive;
- the contract will cause several specialty clinics to be established on Rikers Island, thereby reducing the need (and expense) of transporting inmates off-Island for services;
- dental services, provided heretofore by Montefiore and also by Correctional Health Services dentists, will be provided exclusively by St. Barnabas.

Mr. Kaladjian said that the displaced City dentists will be transferred to the borough facilities, which will enhance dental services at those jails. Mr. Kaladjian added that the electronic medical records system should be available at the borough facilities next year, and that CHS was discussing with St. Barnabas the possibility of establishing a CATSCAN site on Rikers Island. Finally, he said that discussions were underway with St. Barnabas to establish an off-Island child care center for the children of officers who work on Rikers Island.

Mr. Kaladjian said that St. Barnabas' operation would employ between 800 and 900 people. Many will come directly from Montefiore or St. Vincent's correctional health services. Mr. Kaladjian stated that St. Barnabas is assigning quality assurance personnel to the City hospitals to ensure that proper care is rendered and that hospital stays are not "excessive". He said that CHS had established a telephone hotline and a weekly newsletter, "Transition Times", to provide information to current and prospective health employees on Rikers Island.

Board member David Lenefsky asked if the 800-900 figure represented the full complement of St. Barnabas' full-time employees. Mr. Kaladjian said it represented "full-time equivalents", and noted that Montefiore currently employed more

than 800 staff.

Mr. Lenefsky asked how the new electronic medical records system would relate to the significant numbers of inmates who are released directly from court, and particularly those inmates who are receiving protease inhibitor therapy. Mr. Kaladjian responded that the issue involves determining, with DOC, which medications inmates are allowed to carry with them when they go to court. Mr. Kaladjian said that until a decision is reached, released inmates can obtain protease inhibitors at Bellevue, Kings County and other City hospitals on the day of release, except for weekends when some pharmacies are closed. Mr. Lenefsky said that Mr. Kaladjian's information was inconsistent with what Board staff had been told by the hospitals. He said that the hospitals had different documentation requirements, and if an inmate did not present the required documentation, he/she would not receive the medications. Mr. Kaladjian said after care letters are in place, and that if there are sporadic procedural breakdowns, CHS will remedy them.

Deputy Executive Director Cathy Potler discussed the example of psychotropic medications. She said that inmates are not allowed to carry psychotropics, which must be administered directly from the jail's pharmacy. Ms. Potler asked whether

there are plans to enable a hospital to access a released inmate's medical information from the jail clinic, so that he/she could receive needed psychotropic medications without delay.

Board Member David A. Schulte suggested that the inmate be given written information explaining where he/she should go to get medication, or, in the alternative, Mr. Schulte suggested that CHS could establish a booth somewhere in the court system when an inmate could go to get medication.

Mr. Lenefsky asked about the supply of medications provided to an inmate who makes bail and is released from jail. Mr. Kaladjian said he believes it is a seven-day supply, but he would have to check.

Executive Director Richard Wolf asked if it remained the plan that paper medical records would be scanned into computers at the borough jails for incorporation into the electronic medical records system. Mr. Kaladjian replied that this would not occur. Mr. Wolf observed that this meant that complete computerized records would exist only for inmates who were admitted through the Manhattan Detention Complex, which will be the only borough facility at which St. Barnabas will provide services. Mr. Kaladjian agreed, and said that it was in St. Barnabas' interest to have a completely integrated electronic

system as soon as possible, because it could save money by not unnecessarily repeating tests and procedures about which its providers could learn by reviewing complete, computerized records. Mr. Kaladjian said he expected that all DOC facilities would be integrated into the computerized system within the first six months of 1998.

Mr. Wolf asked Mr. Kaladjian to explain what he meant by a "partially capitated" budget. Mr. Kaladjian said that the budget was a line item budget for the first 15,500 inmates, and that if the average monthly census at Rikers and MDC exceeds 15,500, the City will pay \$17 per inmate per month for each additional inmate. Also, \$6 per inmate per month is included in the cost calculations for inmate hospitalizations. To the extent that St. Barnabas can reduce hospitalizations, it can save money. This is providing a strong impetus towards creation of an on-Island "urgi-center". Reduced hospitalizations also would save money for DOC in reduced associated overtime and transportation costs.

Mr. Lenefsky asked about the status of the plan to create an intermediate mental health care center for female inmates, similar to C-71 for men. Mr. Kaladjian said that HHC had submitted a preliminary proposal, seeking \$966,000 to establish such a center. He said the proposal contemplates six

psychiatrists, and is designed to address the "shortage of services for women". He noted that if OMB rejects the proposal, CHS will discuss ways of funding it with St. Barnabas through the existing contract. He added that CHS recognizes the need for additional mental health services for women, and will vigorously advocate for additional funding for it.

Acting Chair Horan asked whether disciplinary action had been taken against any staff involved in the suicide at the Rose M. Singer Center (RMSC). General Counsel Elizabeth Loconsolo said that two officers - the "B" and "C" officers - were being brought up on charges. One was charged yesterday; the other has not yet been charged as she has been absent from work due to trauma. Ms. Loconsolo said there were numerous charges, including failure to supervise and leaving one's post without authorization. She said there was no evidence of dereliction of duty by the "A" officer. Mr. Lenefsky asked that the Department provide the Board with a copy of its report, and Ms. Loconsolo agreed to do so.

Mr. Schulte asked what the "A" officer is required to do if he finds that one of the other officers is off his/her post. Ms. Loconsolo said it would be the "A" officer's job to notify a supervisor. She noted that the investigation had concluded that

it was not unreasonable for the "A" officer to fail to notice that another officer was off-post. The "A" officer was responsible for two housing areas, and had performed numerous duties in the moments immediately preceding the suicide.

Mr. Horan asked Mr. Wolf for the staff report.

Mr. Wolf said that Security Chief Ronald Galletta had just faxed a memo to the Board which indicated that the Department had reviewed the uses of force that had occurred during Tactical Search Operations (TSOs) at the Central Punitive Segregation Unit (CPSU) from January through the present. He said that the Department had concluded that each individual extraction of an inmate from his cell was now to be counted as a separate use of force, a position that the Board had previously advocated when the Department was using stun shields during extractions.

Chief Galletta said that although an "Island-wide" review had occurred, the problem was limited to CPSU, because that is where the majority of the TSOs occurred. Mr. Wolf responded that, through October 14, 19 of the 65 TSOs undertaken by the Department were performed at CPSU. Mr. Wolf asked if DOC had reviewed the TSO performed at other facilities to see whether there existed a similar problem of under-counting. Chief Galletta said that all TSOs were reviewed, and that the only



problem was at CPSU.

Mr. Schulte asked about the magnetometer-like security "chair" that the Department was using. Chief Galletta said the chair has two operational parts to detect metal concealed in the body: the seat and the chin rest. DOC has one machine on loan from the manufacturer, and has used it during approximately 60 incidents to test hundreds of inmates. Chief Galletta said that approximately 50 contraband metal items had been recovered. He said he hopes to purchase several for each command.

Assistant Chief Sheila Vaughan requested that the Board renew all existing variances. A motion was adopted without opposition.

At 1:40 p.m., Acting Chair Horan announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session with representatives from the Department of Correction.

The Executive Session concluded at 1:55 p.m..

Meeting of the New York City  
Board of Correction

January 14, 1998

A G E N D A

1. Approval of December 10, 1997 BOC meeting minutes
2. Acting Chair's report
3. Members' reports
4. Staff report
5. Department of Correction requests for variances
6. Discussion of Correctional Health Services - transition  
to St. Barnabas