

**Minutes for the
Correctional Staff Health and Safety Sub-Committee**

Thursday January 7th 2010, 1:00pm
State Capitol, Room 410
Hartford

Members Present: Joe Vecchitto, Luke Leone, Lt. Catherine Osten, Mayor Scott Kaupin, Moises Padilla, Kevin Brace, Chief Joel Hurliman, Shayne Wilson, Todd Sokolowski, Donna Flores, Renee Cote, Lt. Brian McLean (Department of Public Safety), Director Michael Lajoie (Department of Correction), Sabrina Trocchi (Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services), Marie Desousa and Albert Chiucarello

- A motion to call the meeting to order was made by Kevin Brace, Chairperson of the Correctional Staff Health and Safety Sub-Committee at 1:07 pm, and accepted by Chief Hurliman, and seconded by Director Lajoie.
- All members introduced themselves.
- A motion was made by Kevin Brace to deviate from the minutes due the serious assaults on staff that had taken place before. Director Lajoie had asked to brief the Sub-Committee on the incidents previous to the meeting being called to order. The motion was passed by consensus.
 - Director Lajoie spoke about the 4 staff members that were assaulted by 2 inmates at Northern on January 6th.
 - CT. State Police were called and responded immediately.
 - Staff were treated and released from the walk in clinic.
 - Inmates were handcuffed at the time of the incident.
 - Because of the assault there will be further changes Administrative Directive 9.4
 - Lockdown for the unit that the assault took place in will remain until Monday. The rest of the facility would come off Lockdown slowly.
 - The Officer who was slashed in the neck by an inmate with a razor on December 22nd 2009 is recovering.
 - The inmate is very dangerous and highly assaultive, and is not wanted by any other State via interstate compact agreement.
 - Warden Quiros of Northern will be given more authority to manage highly assaultive inmates under the revised version of Administrative Directive 9.4.
- The Agenda item of future meeting dates.
 - The dates were accepted by consensus.
 - Albert Chiucarello wanted the time for the meeting to be 10:00am instead of 1:00pm. The Committee voted 10-6 in favor of the 1:00pm meeting time.
- Closing of Webster Correctional
 - Albert Chiucarello agreed with Lt. Olsten that the transition went smooth, but stated that Council 4's position is that it should not have been closed.
 - Director Lajoie was not sure how long it would be to re-open Webster. Albert Chiucarello stated that it would take 3 days.

- Inmate Population
 - Director Lajoie stated that under state law the Department of Corrections is mandated to accept all incarcerations.
 - Current inmate population is over 18,000

- Nursing Staffing
 - RN Donna Flores was asked by Kevin Brace to talk about the Nursing issues within the Connecticut Department of Correction.
 - Correctional Nurses are overburdened and are fearful of losing their nursing licenses,
 - Facility shift staffing is run minimally by Correctional Managed Health Care (UCONN).
 - Medications are being dispensed late due to nursing staff shortages.
 - Because of shift staffing shortages treating injuries to Staff and inmates is difficult.
 - Nurses have to act as mental health workers when Mental Health Staff are understaffed.

- Administrative Directive 9.4
 - Director Lajoie highlighted the following changes:
 - Restrictive Status. Restrictive status shall consist of the following categories: Administrative Detention, Punitive Segregation, Transfer Detention, Administrative Segregation, Special Needs Management, Chronic Discipline, High Security, Security Risk Group Affiliation (Close Monitoring), and Security Risk Group Safety Threat Member (Close Custody).
 - Special Needs Management. A placement status for inmates who have demonstrated behavioral qualities either through the serious nature of their crime, behavior, or through reasonable belief that they pose a threat to the safety and security of staff, other inmates, themselves, or the public.
 - Placement on Special Needs Management Status. Special Needs Management shall be authorized at the Northern, Garner and MacDougall-Walker (Walker Building) Correctional Institutions for adult males, Manson Youth Institution for youth males, and York Correctional Institution for females. Inmates on Special Needs Management status who are attending court, may be housed at Bridgeport CC, New Haven CC, Hartford CC and Corrigan-Radgowski CC with the authority of the Director of Offender Classification and Population Management. Any facility not authorized to place inmates on Special Needs Management shall place the inmate on Administrative Detention in accordance with this Directive and notify the Director of Offender Classification and Population Management to conduct a hearing. An inmate may be removed from any restrictive status category as defined in Section 3(R) of this Directive at any time for assignment to Special

Needs Management (in cases when this occurs, the inmate shall only be coded as Special Needs Management). An inmate shall not be placed in Special Needs Management without notice and a hearing. Request for placement hearing shall be made by the Unit Administrator in consultation with the DOC Director of Psychiatric Services.

- Management. Inmates placed on Special Needs Management status shall be managed in accordance with Attachment A, Restrictive Housing Status – Provisions and Management Standards. An individualized facility management plan for each inmate on Special Needs Management status shall be developed collaboratively by the facility custody and mental health staff, and reviewed and approved by the DOC Director of Psychiatric Services. The individualized facility management plan shall include recommendations to assist the inmate in achieving removal from Special Needs Management status.
- Lt. Olsten conveyed to the Sub-Committee the need to post an updated Special Management list in the Lieutenant's and Shift Commanders office in each facility. This list would help improve facility safety and make the management of Special Management inmates more effective. Kevin Brace was asked to write a letter to Commissioner Murphy outlining the Sub-Committee's concern regarding the posting of Special Management information.
- Informational Request from the Sub-Committee.
 - Assault Summary Sheet
 - Inmate population by security level per facility as of January 7th 2010
 - Population numbers that each facility was designed to hold.
 - Contract between Department of Correction and Correctional Managed Health Care.
- A motion to adjourn was made by Shayne Wilson and seconded by Chief Hurliman. Motion to adjourn was passed by consensus, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm