**Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board**

**Minutes**

**March 5, 2013**

**1.    Call to order** Rev. Eugene Pierce 1:06pm

**2.    Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.    Roll Call**

Present

Amin

Ansari

Cercone

Colon

Covert

Culhane

Dickman

Diina

Haynes

Marciniak

Pierce

Ranney

Sacco

Schultz

Absent

Balys

**4.    Approval of minutes from February 5, 2013 meeting.**

Motion Made by Marciniak

2nd by Diina

Motion Passes

**5.    Holding Center cameras - Lt. Jackie Kretzmon**

**Lt. Kretzmon**

Here to speak about lack of cameras in the holding center.  I worked at the holding center for 23 years. I was a lieutenant for six years and a supervisor for ten.

Here to speak about excessive force prevention.  One recommendation is there is a need for more cameras. Cameras are needed in inmate areas and in many of the hallways. The current cameras in the facility are all old.

There used to be a videographer who recorded all incidents at the holding center.  They did that at the Alden facility, and I remember as a deputy I was flabbergasted that they wanted to film all the incidents. I didn’t like that because heaven forbid they saw us doing something wrong.

As I matured I realized that the film helps; it shouldn’t be viewed negatively it should be viewed as positive because if you aren’t doing anything wrong, then you have nothing to worry about in regards to what is captured by a camera.

Another thing is the use of pepper spray before we go in with fisticuffs to quell a disturbance.

I know that we have an entry team but to my knowledge, they do not practice a hell of a lot.  I think that issues need to be addressed - the practice and training of your entry teams to go in and take an inmate out without getting hurt or hurting an inmate. When I did extractions deputies usually got hurt; yet if they practiced more, fewer injuries to deputies would occur.

As far as the use of pepper spray, I feel that instead of sending people into a block to take someone out, we should be deploying pepper spray more, rather than getting people hurt and banged up.

I also think they need better training for supervisors.  I was in the jail Friday when an incident happened and the supervisor at the desk did not know the rules or what the proper procedure was for sending deputies in for a disturbance.  They had new supervisors shadowing current supervisors who refused to follow procedure and decided to make up their own practices.

**Tom Diina**

Supervisor training is a statewide issue.  I’m actually participating in a committee run by the department of criminal justice services along with jail administrators from around the state to develop a standard training curriculum for first line supervisors.

Captain Hartman, Deputy Superintendent Reardon, and I have already implemented many of the proposed training methods in Erie County.  We are staggering the training to make sure everyone is properly trained.  It is tough because of attrition retirements new positions.  Supervisors will be new and inexperienced.

I am working with several committees working on this issue right now.  I understand that it is a problem.  Our aim is to develop a curriculum similar to the model of the basic corrections academy.  Similar to what we do for newly hired deputies, that model and curriculum will be in place for newly hired supervisors.  And it is critical.

**Lt Kretzmon**

Also with class training you need to think about implementing a litigation training as well.

**Tom Diina**

I agree.

**Nan Haynes**

In the past we have talked about an ombudsman who would investigate claim of excessive force. In response to that people in jail management said we have a grievance system already in place.

In your (Lt Kretzmon) experience, are these incidents being properly reported through the grievance process?

**Lt Kretzmon.**

Many times not.

**Nan Haynes**

Can you explain why?

**Lt Kretzmon**

I know what’s supposed to happen according to the state.  The inmate asks for a grievance form and they are to be given one.  I know that we have instructed the deputies if an inmate wants a grievance form to give it to them.  However, a lot of the inmates don’t grieve it because of fear of retaliation.  The jail is only but so big and if I am grieving that deputy, he is in the same block. His buddy is watching me the next shift.  What chance do I have (as an inmate) to get anything done.

I’ve been on the other side of the grievance process as well to see how we as jail management would take scare of the grievance, and many times jail management would be on side of the deputy, even thought they were in the wrong.

**Nan Haynes**

Has there been a time when you reported an incident of excessive force to your superior?  What happened?

**Lt. Kretzmon**

Many times. Unfortunately, some of the times where I’ve reported it to my superiors, nothing happens. I came to the point where the only recourse I had was to call internal affairs myself, and that’s out of protocol.

**Nan Haynes**

Why did you feel it was necessary to call internal affairs?

**Lt Kretzmon**

It fell on deaf ears and then the repercussions of trying to put your own fellow deputies on the line and say “you did something wrong” is severe.  I’ve had “fire Kretzmon” written on the wall in black magic marker in the jail.  That was the repercussion from my fellow deputies that thought it was a good idea to abuse inmates.  I think a lot people in the Sheriff’s department need to step outside of where they are.  It’s not ok because as a citizen you just can’t let that go on.

**6.     Erie County Comptroller Stefan Mychajliw – Chaplaincy Program**

**Comptroller Mychajliw**

Spoke of his involvement with two different prison ministries:

\*KERYX Prison Ministries **(**[**www.keryx.org**](http://www.keryx.org)**)** at Gowanda prison

\*Kairos Ministries **(http://kpmifoundation.org)** at the Wende facility.

I think it’s very important that we provide services and care for those who have the least. I spend Friday nights at correctional facilities. Some of the challenges in Kairos that we face in a maximum security facility are that our participation is very high. Because of the nature of the crimes that the inmates have committed, we have a high volume of people that need chaplaincy care. There are very few transitional inmates in a maximum facility; there tends to be a lot of lifers so the participation is high. They are there every week.

Even medium security facilities present problems because of the high amount of transfers, thus a high turnover lever. This creates a frustrating issue with continuity in the program.

So it would be incredibly challenging at the county level to implement this program because of the turnover rate. So if I would give any advice if they want to start looking at programs that are short term in nature those would work best.

You may want to think about volunteers as far as people that can run the programs. I can help with that faith based communities. I can assist with ministers to volunteer for short based programs, whatever the denomination. Whatever avenue you chose to go in with your recommendation with Sheriff, I will reach out to offer my services in relation to faith-based help in the holding center. I would like to have prison ministry alive and well in Erie County.

**7.    Conditional Release Commission – Michael Lex**

*See attachment #1*

**8.    Education programs report**

**Bill Schultz**

In the interest of time, I will yield the discussion on the program report until our subcommittee can gather further information.

**9.   Guest Speakers - Mr. & Mrs. Seifert**

Spoke on the condition of ECHC based on their son’s experience during confinement.

*See attachment #2*

**10.    Other business**

**Joe Sacco**

Is there cellmate strategy team? Is there proper equipment? Who is on the team?

**Tom Diina**

It’s not a dedicated team; it’s a team of individuals that received the training. There probably could be more but it’s not a set team. I do not have the man power to have five guys sitting around waiting for an incident to occur.

**Joe Sacco:**

I understand, so there are times that an incident could happen and members of that team might not be working.

**Tom Diina:**

No, there are individuals on each shift that are selected for the “protective team” where everybody received that basic training in the corrections academy. They can be pulled off other posts to be a part of that team.

**Lt. Kretzmon:**

When I was lieutenant, and had to call a quick entry team I’d pick five guys that are not doing anything and suit them up.

**Tom Diina:**

That’s not how we do that, that’s maybe how you did it as watch commander but that is certainly not how policy is written.

**Lt. Kretzmon:**

Of course, but that’s part of the problem, the policies that are written.

**Tom Diina:**

And lieutenants not following the policy, then.

**Lt Kretzmon:**

That’s correct. That’s part of the problem.

**Tom Diina:**

So, you admit to not following the policy as it is written to what you just said there?

**Lt. Kretzmon:**

No, it’s just that the policies are there but it is impossible to follow them. And unless the policy was just re-written, when we did a quick entry team, we get whatever five guys are available. They just get suited up and you tell them they are going to do it. And I think I was one of the first to do it on video.

**Tom Diina:**

You have to do it on video, that’s part of the planned use of force policy.

**Lt. Kretzmon :**

That, that’s right that was just instituted.

**Tom Diina:**

That was not just instituted.

**Kretzmon:**

When, when I was a lieutenant that’s when it was instituted.

**Tom Diina:**

How long have you been a lieutenant?

**Lt. Kretzmon:**

6 years

**Tom Diina:**

So when you say just instituted, your saying six years ago?

**Lt. Kretzmon:**

Correct, but I’m saying I do not believe it’s being done correctly.

**Tom Diina:**

Based on?

**Lt. Kretzmon:**

My experience.

**Tom Diina:**

And you were the records and booking lieutenant on day shift.

**Rev. Pierce**

Any other questions before we adjourn? None.

**11.    Adjournment**

Motion made by Cercone

2nd by Diina

Adjournment at 2:17 pm