

**Erie County Community Corrections Advisory Board**  
**Minutes – Meeting #8**

**August 7, 2012**

**1. Call to Order** at 1:07

**2. Roll Call**

**Present**

Pierce  
Cercone  
Haynes  
Sacco  
Lex  
Burgin  
Amin  
Ansari

**Absent**

Cabrera  
Carr  
Kubik  
Covert

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Approval of minutes**

Motion to approve by Lex  
2nd by Haynes

Motion carried for approval of May and June meeting minutes.

Karima Amin enters at 1:12

Dr. Ansari enters at 1:13

**5. Introduction of New Appointees**

Joe Sacco introduced by Rev. Pierce to the Board.

All members present introduce themselves to Sacco.

Sacco states he was employed by the Gowanda Correctional Facility for 19 years. His appointment was at the recommendation of Legislator Lynn Dixon.

## **6. Election of Vice Chair**

### **Rev. Pierce:**

Informs the Board Legislator Hogues took part in the interviewing of candidates to replace Bob Koch, as the Superintendent of Jail Management.

### **Karima Amin:**

Asks does Vice Chair have to be from Jail Management?

Rev Pierce says no. States before Bob Koch was Vice Chair of the board, he held that position.

All members of the board will be eligible for nomination and election of this position.

Karima Amin nominates Nan Haynes for Vice Chair.

Nan Haynes says she would rather be Vice Chair than secretary, yet she must officially resign from her position as secretary before being nominated to hold another position.

Make a motion to move the election of vice chair to next meeting.

Motion made by Burgin/2nd by Amin.

Motion passes.

## **7. Ombudsman Position**

### **Nan Haynes:**

Wants it on the record that contrary to what has been stated by people, she has absolutely no desire to be the ombudsman. States: "My feeling is the ideal person is a retired judge or attorney who is respected in the community."

### **Jerry Schad:**

For the position to come to full fruition will take approximately one year.

### **Joe Sacco:**

Inquires about the funds created by the vending machines at the ECHC/ECCF. Where does this money go? References the fact that the proceeds in state facilities go to inmate programs.

### **Nan Haynes:**

Suggested the Chair of the Board write a letter to the Sheriff inquiring as to where the profits from the vending machines are allocated.

### **Joseph Cercone:**

He does not recall the county receiving any revenue from the vending machines at the correctional facilities.

**Rev. Pierce:**

States he will inquire about a report on vending machine profits from the ECHC/ECCF.

**8. Sanitation at ECHC/ECCF (COC-7015)**

**Rev. Pierce:**

Introduces Amy Nice.

**Amy Nice:**

Ms. Nice reads a portion of her letter outlining the conditions of the ECHC at the time of her arrest and subsequent confinement. She expresses that she was denied toilet paper and other basic hygienic necessities. Also, in her letter she stated how she was denied the proper papers to file grievances and telephone time to call her family. Her basic premise was that in the Holding Center, she as an inmate was denied basic human privileges and treated poorly by the staff.

**Karima Amin:**

States that although conditions have gotten slightly better at the facilities over the past three years, a lot still needs to be done. States there needs to be more proactivity. Thanks Ms. Nice for sharing her story.

**Discussion:**

Rev. Pierce floor is opens the floor for suggestion to the cleanliness issue.

**Dr. Ansari:**

Refers again to cleanliness issues and asks: "Where are we?"

What do we need to do to get the sheriff to clean the place up?

Notes that the germs that come out the holding center/jail are infecting the population outside.

States that often times the personnel at the facilities live in deplorable conditions as well. They may not be as put off by the filth as the general public and/or incoming inmates. We cannot allow these conditions to continue.

**Nan Haynes:**

Says she too, is frustrated by the lack of action regarding this issue.

**Jerry Schad:**

Says invite the sheriff to discuss the cleanliness of the ECHC and ECCF to review the records of cleanliness.

**Joe Sacco:**

Says he is more than willing to talk to the Sheriff's dept. to request information regarding medical care, cleanliness and safety.

**Rev. Pierce:**

Asks if Sacco and Ansari can work together to talk to Sheriff, and at the next meeting report on what has been found.

## **9. Division of Jail Management – Mission Statement (Inmate programs)**

Everyone reads the mission statement.

### **Rev. Pierce:**

Notes he has asked two police chiefs about programs aimed toward reentry. Both stated there are none in place at the Erie County Correctional facilities. If the mission statement states part of its objective is to provide GED and job training, then why is this not done? The money for Jail Management comes out of the budget, and they are not providing the services they have outlined in the mission statement of the division.

States he will have Rev. Chapman (St. John Baptist Church) at the next meeting discussing the Prison Ministry program that he participates in, which gives former inmates employment opportunities. This program also focuses on job skills, assessment and reentry programs for inmates still locked up.

“The day they get out should be the day they get a job.”

Inmates are being warehoused in Erie County. At no point are they receiving any sort of direction for improvement.

The idea is to find a *Placement Specialist* from the Sheriff’s Department, who would identify inmates coming out of jail that would like jobs in construction.

“We need to get them from a jail cell to a job.”

“We want them to reach for a lunch bag rather than a drug bag.”

### **Joe Sacco:**

States all of these potential programs cost money. We can talk about the need for such programs, yet the number one factor is that the funding would need to be made available. As well as the personnel to fill such positions. Funding is also required for the training and interview processes. Funding sources should be the main priority.

## **10. Other Business**

### **Rev. Pierce:**

Asks the Board if we should we change the time of our meetings. Johnny Cabrera can no longer be on the board due to his work schedule. Therefore, he must be replaced. As well as filling the Anne Constantino vacancy.

It is the consensus the board does not want to hold its meetings on Saturday.

**NO SATURDAYS!**

**Rev. Pierce:**

Received a letter from Rev. Darius Pridgen, requested a Chaplain be on staff at ECHC/ECCF. Noted that the 2005 budget cut out the chaplains to ECCF and ECHC. There is however, a person that goes in one day a week, for a few hours. Other than that, there is no spiritual support for inmates. Rev. Pierce expresses that he had a conversation with Sheriff Howard regarding the limited spiritual support, to which the Sheriff responded he is not in support of adding chaplains to his staff.

Formerly, there were 2 priests, an imam and a rabbi who provided spiritual support. We must look into re-establishing this support to the inmates at the ECHC/ECCF.

Motion to adjourn by Sacco  
2nd Burgin

Motion carried

**11. Adjournment** at 2:30pm