**Erie County Correctional Advisory Board**

**Minutes**

**August 6, 2013**

**Attendance:** LaVonne Ansari, Karima Amin, Joseph Cercone, Barry Covert, Charles Culhane, Thomas Diina, Nan Haynes, Rev. Eugene Pierce, Joseph Sacco, Brendon Dickman, William Schultz, Ben Swanekamp

Excused: Michael Ranney, Neal Russo, Kenneth Colon

1. **Opening Business**

**Rev. Pierce** called meeting to order at1:05 with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call

**Action:** **Rev. Pierce r**ecommendedto that the approval of the June 4, 2013 board minutes be suspended due to the minutes not being available. Motioned by J. Cercone; seconded by Superintendent Diina; motion carried.

1. **News Article** Rev. Pierce

**Discussion: Rev. Pierce** discussed a newspaper editorial which suggested that there was a lack of response from Superintendent Dina on addressing the educational & rehabilitation programs. **Superintendent Dina** disagreed with the article’s statement that “our request from Dina to tell us what educational & rehabilitation programs are provided to prisoners have gone unanswered.” **Superintendent Diina** noted that from a previous meeting that he brought in the Education Directors from both facilities to respond to request. **Superintendent Diina** stated that at the request of **Rev. Pierce,** he provided all the educational data of the inmates to **W. Schultz**. Further, **Superintendent Diina** also stated that “in 2012 at the request of Legislator Chair Holder and Betty Jean Grant, he wrote a letter documenting all programs for the inmates. “ **Rev. Pierce** stated that multiple requests have been made in writing and a response was requested to be put in writing by **Superintendent Diina**. **Superintendent Diina** stated that he was served with a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request and could not respond to the second request that was sent to him because it requires a response from legal. It was recommended that a couple of advisory members meet with **Superintendent Diina** to work on the responses to the advisory board. **Superintendent Diina** agreed to meet with **Dr. Ansari**, **W. Schultz** and **J. Sacco** to review the items that were requested from the board. The results will be reported to the board at the next meeting.

1. **Telephone Funding**

**Discussion: Rev. Pierce** discussed a letter dated July 19th, 2003, written by the Legislator Grant to the Sheriff about the use of the telephone funds. **Rev. Pierce** asked, “what is met by funds have been committed.” **J. Cercone** provided an overview of the history of the how the telephone funds were viewed by the former comptroller and the county attorney**. J.Cercone** explained that the former comptroller conducted an audit. However, the results did not state if the telephone funds should be treated differently from the commissary. Therefore, it was assumed that it would fall under the same principle. The county attorney based on research wrote an opinion that said the telephone funds should be separate from the commissary. The monies should be under the control of the County and deposited with the County. In summary, the county attorney thought that the telephone funds should be placed in a general account and used for the operation of jail management division. It was reported that of the $772,000; only $300,000 was turned over. There were commitments with the remainder of funds. **J. Cercone** stated that the process is that funds sit in a trust account until there is a resolution/procreation to approve. There is roughly $423,000 which includes fund from 2012.The funds have not been used for any resolution. The remainder of the funds is being used for pending purchase orders and checks that had been written.

**Discussion:** Letters from the Advisory Board **- J. Cercone** discussed the letter that was sent on advisory board letterhead to the superintendent did not represent his views. **J. Cercone** did not have a problem with a letter being sent on behalf of the advisory board that requests information but editorial comments should not be part of letter. **J. Cercone** suggested that a policy be written that establishes letters should be written on behalf of the board. **David Marciniak’s** email expressed the similar commentary.

1. **J. Sacco** conducted a research between Monroe County and Erie County Jail. His findings were the following:

**Erie and Monroe Counties Statistics**

**Population:**

Erie- 918,000 ppl

Monroe- 745,000 ppl

**Jail Budget:**

Erie: Over $86M

Monroe: Approximately $76M

**Per-Diem Rate**

Erie: (2013) $175

Monroe: (2010) $150

**Jail Population:**

Erie: 524 inmates

Monroe: 1100 inmates

Alden: 808 inmates

**Average Day Population:**

Erie: 1332

Monroe: 1453

**Revenue:**

Erie: (2012) Commissary Sales- $2,023,000

Monroe: General Revenue- $6,378,000

**GED Program:**

**Monroe**

245 inmates that are between the ages 21 and up

152 inmates under the age of 21

95 achieved their GEDs

**Erie County Holding Center - GED Program**

GED 90-100 inmates are participating in the GED Program

**Programs offered at the Erie County Holding Center**

Library

Religious Service- 156 programs per year

First-time, Last- Time Crisis Intervention (ages 16-21)

AA & NA

**Programs offered at the Monroe County Holding Center**

Inmate Visitation

Prisoner Transportation

Work Program

Chemical Dependency

Educational

Vocational

Food Service

Rehabilitation

**Service Action Court Hours**

26,000 man hours

108 inmate participants

**Mental Health**

35% of inmates were treated for mental illness

**Suicide Prevention**

**Inmates are screened three times in their duration:**

Initial admittance

When they are remanded to the jail

After the inmate is sentenced

**Clinical Expenses**

$1M on inmate prescriptions

$1.8M on clinical services (including medical, dental, radiology, etc.)

1. **Work Development**

**W. Schultz** has been doing research on future work development such as food service and landscaping. **Rev. Pierce** would like to reinstate the re-entry program.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15