

**BOARD OF CORRECTION  
MINUTES  
JUNE 14, 1989**

**Members Present**

Robert Kasanof, Chairman  
John R. Horan, Vice-Chairman  
Rev. Irvine Bryer Jr.  
David Lenefsky  
Barbara Margolis  
Rose M. Singer

Excused absences were noted for Judge William Booth, Angelo Giordani, and David Schulte.

**Representatives of the Department of Correction**

Richard J. Koehler, Commissioner of the Department of Correction  
Thomas Murray, Chief of Operations  
Peter Seitchik, First Deputy Commissioner  
Julian Prager, Deputy Commissioner of Management Evaluation and Specialized Services  
David Frankel, Special Counsel  
Steven Thomas, Assistant Commissioner, Program/Health Services Management  
Michael Cleary, Executive Director, Management Evaluation Division  
Reginald Allen, Assistant Chief of Operations  
Martin Levy, Warden, George Motchan Detention Center  
Michael Pepe, Warden, The Bibby Resolution  
Carl Coppola, Deputy Warden, Commanding Officer, Supervised Detention Program  
Ray Diaz, Director of Substance Abuse Services  
Ralph Montalvo, Addiction Treatment Specialist

**Inmates from Serenity House, Rikers Island**

Joe Echols and Arthur Adams

**Project Return Foundation, Bronx.**

Paco Mieses and Robert Beauchamp

**Others in Attendance**

Patricia Thomas, New York State Commission of Correction  
Frank Reay, State Senate Committee on Crime and Correction  
Dale Wilker, John Beck, Staff Counsel for the Legal Aid Society  
Diane Steelman, Office of Compliance Consultants  
Paul LaRosa, Daily News  
Evelyn Hernandez, New York Newsday

Chairman Kasanof opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. He moved for adoption of the minutes of the May 10, 1989 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by David Lenefsky, and approved by all Board members present.

Chairman Kasanof then presented a Special Achievement Award to Julia Reed, Correction Standards Review Specialist. The award was presented to recognize her excellent performance at the Rose M. Singer Center. Ms. Reed was instrumental in efforts that enabled an inmate mother and her child to remain together in the nursery program. Ms. Reed thanked the Board members for the award, and announced that she had recently become a grandmother.

Executive Director Richard Wolf introduced two new staff members, Deborah Amato, Correctional Standards Review Specialist, and Connie Cheathem, Office Aide. Mr. Wolf also introduced two summer interns presently working at the Board. Joe Hiraoka, who attends New York Law School, is working for Counsel Annette Gordon-Reed. Shobitha Stanislaus, who attends New York Technical College, and is working for Jim Bennett, Director of Information Systems.

Chairman Kasanof then stated that Corrections Commissioner Richard Koehler would make a presentation.

Commissioner Koehler introduced the representatives of the Department of Correction present. He then introduced two former inmates, Paco Mieses and Robert Beauchamp, who had lived in Serenity House, a drug intervention dormitory at the George Mochon Center, and also two current inmates from Serenity House, Joe Echols and Arthur Adams. He said they would briefly recount their experiences at and opinions of Serenity House.

Commissioner Koehler stated the Department wants to accomplish more in Corrections than simply warehousing people. Some three years ago, the Department created 450 drug treatment beds for people who are addicted to heroin. The Department wanted to expand drug treatment to include drug free programs and programs specifically for inmates addicted to crack. The Department asked New York State officials to fund 50 drug treatment beds for crack addicts, and with these 50 beds the Department began the program called Promesa for adolescents. Commissioner Koehler reported that the Department was so satisfied with Promesa that it decided to fund an expanded program out of its own budget. The additional 100 beds became Serenity House and Dignity House.

The Commissioner then discussed the Department's other drug intervention effort, the Bibby Resolution, whose 384 beds are to be used to house inmates who want to participate in a new drug free treatment program. The barge is scheduled to open at the beginning of July, 1989, for drug intervention with crack users. Funding for this program will come from the City of New York and not from the State. In order to convince the City's Office of

Management and Budget (OMB) fund the program, the Department indicated that it would be able to save money on the staffing once the barge was converted into a full-time drug intervention jail. Commissioner Koehler said that based on the Department's experiences at Serenity House, and some experience from the Promesa Program, he believed that the reduction in staffing is a good trade-off than can be undertaken without a sacrifice of security interests because:

1. The staff at the facility feel they can operate on the Resolution with fewer correction officers because of the nature of the program and because of the impact that program will have on the conduct of the inmates.
2. Funds that would have been used to pay for staff will now be used to pay for the operation of the drug treatment program.

Commissioner Koehler said that OMB was delighted with this arrangement because the Department of Correction would be paying for the drug treatment themselves without the need of extra money from the City's budget. Commissioner Koehler then mentioned that there was data on incidents of violence from the Department's other drug treatment programs that would be presented to the Board members. He stated that this information would show the dramatic impact these programs have on the conduct of the inmates. The Department looked at the violence in the drug treatment dorms in comparison to "regular" dorm.

Commissioner Koehler said that the data suggests that the drug treatment programs lessen violent incidences among inmates. He reiterated that nothing is more important to the Department of Correction than the safety of the staff.

Commissioner Koehler said that he wanted to moor the Bibby Resolution in lower Manhattan because it is in the center of the City of New York. The facility will be a visible example of drug treatment operation, a place where the Department of Correction can show that drug treatment can be effective and that an inmate in drug treatment can change.

Commissioner Koehler then turned the meeting to Steven Thomas, Assistant Commissioner Program/Health Services Management, to discuss the mission of the Substance Abuse Intervention Division.

Steven Thomas said that the health providers estimated that at least 60% of the inmates admitted to the Department's custody are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. He said that over 80% of the inmates surveyed by the Substance Abuse Division in March 1989 reported using drugs at least once a week. The Department of Health estimates that 50% of all inmates have a history of IV drug abuse, and 20-25% of the total inmate population is HIV positive. The mission of the Substance Abuse Intervention Division is to develop, operate, and coordinate the delivery of addiction intervention. The Department will identify and monitor

substance abuse trends and treatment needs within the inmate population. It will also create and operate jail-based assessment and intervention services and establish linkages within the courts, community-based treatment programs, the State Division of Substance Abuse Services and other funding sources. The Department will refer and help to place inmates in therapeutic programs upon their release from custody.

Mr. Thomas then turned the discussion to Ray Diaz. Mr. Diaz, Director of Substance Abuse Services for the Department, did an overview of the drug intervention program. He said that 71% of all inmates admitted to the Serenity House had reported cocaine/crack as the primary drug of abuse. Twenty-five percent reported heroin as their primary drug of abuse. In March, 1989, 39% of the inmates survey reported the use of several drugs. Twenty-eight percent reported cocaine/crack use and 17% has been reported heroin use. Seventeen percent of the over 100,000 inmates admitted to the Department of Correction custody each year requires detoxification from heroin. Mr. Diaz stated that the Department will implement a broad range of jail-based substance abuse services by the year 1990. The following is an outline of the program:

1. The Department of Correction will identify inmates with substance abuse problems in the borough jails' new admission housing areas and refer them to the screening and assessment unit at the George Motchan Detention Center, where they will

be housed for a period of 5 to 7 days.

2. The inmates in the screening and assessment unit will receive acupuncture and other therapeutic services to alleviate withdrawal symptoms. These services will be provided in a therapeutic atmosphere by the Department addiction counselors. 150 beds will be set aside to provide these services to over 9,000 inmates annually. Each inmate admitted to the screening and assessment unit will receive materials listing community-based treatment programs and describing the type of services those agencies provide.

3. Appropriate inmates will be referred from the screening and assessment units to therapeutic housing units at the George Motchan Detention Center, the Serenity House or the Bibby Resolution, where the Department will offer an array of structured intervention services. Efforts to secure placement slots in community-based treatment agencies will be made by addiction counselors for those inmates assessed treatment-ready.

4. The Department will provide 150 drug-free therapeutic housing beds on Rikers Island and 384 beds on the Bibby resolution. A 50 bed therapeutic housing unit will be available for females in the Rose M. Singer jail.

5. A stratified approach to pre-treatment will be provided on the

Bibby Resolution. This includes three levels of therapeutic services, each level providing a higher level of care based on counselors' assessments of positive change in the inmates behavior and their willingness to assume increased responsibilities.

Movement through these levels will be rewarded with recognition and status, as well as efforts on the part of the staff to secure slots in community-based organizations for those inmates achieving level three status.

Ray Diaz then introduced Warden Martin Levy of the George Motchan Detention Center.

Warden Levy discussed the operation of Serenity House and Dignity House. For the months of February through May, 1989, very few infractions were written for Serenity House. Comparing these records to the other areas of the jail convinced him that this program is going to succeed in its aim of rehabilitating inmates, and, at the same time, maintaining the security of the staff members involved in the program.

Board Member Barbara Margolis asked if someone could describe a day in the Serenity House.

Ray Diaz described the special training, supervision and counseling within Serenity House. He said there is a range of creative programs and effective services that are administered to the inmates.

Ralph Montalvo, Addiction Treatment Specialist at Serenity House introduced four current and former inmates from the Serenity House who joined the meeting. They explained that the program effectively assisted them in understanding that they were addicted to drugs and the negative effects that drugs had on their lives. Each praised the program and its staff, noting that staff and inmates treated each other with mutual respect.

Michael Pepe, Warden of the Bibby Resolution, said that the Bibby Resolution should be operating in the beginning of July, 1989. Additional security staff will be posted to comply with the mandates of the Fire Department. As the operation of the program proceeds, they can then estimate how many security staff are needed on the Bibby Resolution.

Chairman Kasanof then discussed his morning trip to Albany, New York, with Richard Wolf and Annette Gordon-Reed. Chairman Kasanof met with State Senator Christopher Mega. They spoke on a wide range of issues, including the ongoing problem of "overdue" state inmates in the City's jails.

Chairman Kasanof then discussed the increased level of violence in the facilities. He requested that Department prepare an outline for the next Board meeting, indicating the steps it will take to reduce the violence. He stated that the total number of state inmates has increased, and the number of

"overdue" state inmates was at an all time high.

Chairman Kasanof requested a certification that the Bibby Resolution meets all pre-occupancy requirements set by the Fire Department when it goes into operation in the beginning of July. He asked the Department to give a report to the Board members on the operation of the Bibby Resolution at the Board's next meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be Wednesday, July 12, 1989. Chairman Kasanof thanked the representatives of the Department for their participation in the Board meeting which was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.