
Government of the District of Columbia



Department of Corrections

Testimony

**Thomas Faust
Director**

**D.C. Department of Corrections
Performance Oversight Hearing**

Committee on the Judiciary
Kenyan McDuffie, Chair
Council of the District of Columbia

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
Room 500

February 19, 2015
10:00 am

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIRMAN MCDUFFIE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY. I AM TOM FAUST, DIRECTOR OF THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. JOINING ME AT THE TABLE THIS MORNING ARE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT QUINCY BOOTH AND WARDEN WILLIAM SMITH. TODAY I WILL PROVIDE TESTIMONY AND RESPOND TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015 TO DATE.

THE DOC SYSTEM INCLUDES TWO PRIMARY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES—THE CENTRAL DETENTION FACILITY ALSO KNOWN AS THE D.C. JAIL AND THE CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY, CURRENTLY OPERATED BY THE CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE D.C. GOVERNMENT. DURING THE LAST YEAR, DOC PROCESSED OVER 11,000 INTAKES AND

RELEASES INCLUDING PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES, SENTENCED MISDEMEANANTS, FELONS AND PAROLE VIOLATORS.

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO CONTRACT WITH THREE PRIVATELY OPERATED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES FOR HALFWAY HOUSE BED SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE 96 MALE AND 25 FEMALE PRE-TRIAL COURT ORDERED DEFENDANTS AND SENTENCED MISDEMEANANTS.

OUR MISSION IS TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC SAFETY OF CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY PROVIDING AN ORDERLY, SAFE, SECURE AND HUMANE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CONFINEMENT OF PRETRIAL DETAINEES AND SENTENCED INMATES, WHILE AFFORDING THOSE IN CUSTODY MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL RE-INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY.

DURING FISCAL YEAR 2014, AS PART OF OUR MISSION WE CONTINUED TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS, ENHANCE FACILITY SECURITY, AND EXPAND AND REFINE INMATE SERVICES AND PROGRAMMING. I AM PROUD OF THE DEDICATED WORK OF DOC EMPLOYEES—AS A TEAM WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE SECURE CARE, CUSTODY AND PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS AT THE MINIMUM, MEDIUM AND MAXIMUM CUSTODY LEVELS.

EFFECTIVE POPULATION MANAGEMENT CONTINUES TO BE A PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT. IT ENSURES OUR FACILITIES ARE OPERATED EFFICIENTLY, SAFEGUARDS TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS AND PROMOTES ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR NON-VIOLENT, LOW LEVEL OFFENDERS. THROUGH EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION WITH THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS, THE DISTRICT AND SUPERIOR COURTS AND THE

U.S. PAROLE BOARD, WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASING THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY FROM DESIGNATION TO RELEASE FOR SENTENCED FELONS—THOSE WHO ARE HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED BY DISTRICT TAXPAYERS.

AS PART OF THE OVERALL STRATEGY AND FULL COMMITMENT TO MANAGING INMATES IN DOC CUSTODY, WE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH OUR PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERS TO IDENTIFY AND EXPEDITE THE TRANSITION OF INMATES FROM DISTRICT TO FEDERAL CUSTODY OR TO OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY ENTITIES. EACH ORGANIZATION INVOLVED HAS COMMITTED TO SHARING DATA, EXPANDING COMMUNICATION, AND ENHANCING AND/ OR INSTITUTING CHANGES TO THEIR WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESSES INVOLVED.

THE PROVISION OF MEDICAL TRIAGE SERVICES WHICH WE IMPLEMENTED AT THE CENTRAL CELL BLOCK (CCB) CONTINUES TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES. IN DECEMBER OF 2013, DOC SUCCESSFULLY ASSUMED OPERATIONS OF THE CCB FROM MPD. TO AUGMENT THE OPERATION, AN ON-SITE MEDICAL CLINIC WAS ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE MEDICAL TRIAGE AND TREATMENT OF ROUTINE, NON-LIFE THREATENING AILMENTS SUCH AS MINOR CUTS AND ABRASIONS, ASTHMA, DIABETES, HYPERTENSION AND OTHER SUCH CONDITIONS. THIS ENHANCEMENT HAS PROVEN SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE IT ALLOWS MORE IMMEDIATE ON-SITE TREATMENT OPTIONS AND ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR HOSPITAL TRANSPORTS TO ADDRESS MINOR ISSUES. IN THE PAST, WHEN ANY LEVEL OF MEDICAL TREATMENT WAS REQUIRED, MPD OFFICERS HAD TO BE REDEPLOYED FROM STREET DUTY TO ASSUME HOSPITAL DETAIL WITH ARRESTEES. MPD REPORTED THAT ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT, 18 TO 40 OFFICERS WERE PULLED OFF

STREET DUTY TO ASSUME HOSPITAL DETAIL WITH CCB ARRESTEES. THE TOTAL TIME SPENT OUT-OF-SERVICE WAS EQUIVALENT TO 7 TO 13 OFFICERS FOR A FULL TOUR OF DUTY.

THROUGH HEALTH CLINIC OPERATIONS (12 HOURS PER DAY, 5 DAYS PER WEEK), THE NUMBER OF HOSPITAL TRANSPORTS WAS REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY 98% IN FY 2014 WITH 1,464 ARRESTEES BEING SERVED THROUGH THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2014.

WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMMITTED TO MAKING THE FEDERAL PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) PROTOCOLS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF OUR AGENCY CULTURE. IN DECEMBER, DOC UNDERWENT AN EXTENSIVE AUDIT AND WAS SUCCESSFULLY CERTIFIED THROUGH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AS COMPLIANT WITH THE FEDERAL PREA STANDARDS. THESE STANDARDS, RELEASED

IN JUNE 2012, SET FORTH STRICT REQUIREMENTS TO ADDRESS SEXUAL ABUSE IN ALL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY--BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS THAT HOUSE ADULT AND/OR JUVENILE OFFENDERS. TO DATE, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS ONE OF ONLY TWO JURISDICTIONS IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION TO HAVE ACHIEVED PREA CERTIFICATION BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

DOC HAS MOVED FORWARD AGGRESSIVELY WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC REFORMS FOCUSED ON STAFF TRAINING, INMATE EDUCATION, POLICY DEVELOPMENT, SCREENING METHODOLOGY, INVESTIGATIVE PRACTICES, AND DATA COLLECTION. ONE SUCH UNDERTAKING WAS THE FORMATION OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENT REVIEW TEAM (SAIRT) TO CONDUCT CONFIDENTIAL INCIDENT REVIEWS—THIS PROCESS INVOLVES COLLABORATION WITH

MPD, VICTIM SERVICES, THE USAO, THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE AND OTHERS TO ENHANCE THE INVESTIGATIVE PROCESS AND STREAMLINE COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION AROUND ABUSE ALLEGATIONS.

WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DC PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO OPERATE A MOBILE LIBRARY IN THE JAIL. THE D.C. JAIL LIBRARY, WHICH IS STAFFED BY A DCPL LIBRARIAN AND LIBRARY TECHNICIAN, OFFERS INMATES ACCESS TO BOOKS AND OTHER READING MATERIALS ON THEIR HOUSING UNITS. IN MOVING FORWARD, THE COLLECTION OF MATERIALS WILL BE EXPANDED PERIODICALLY BASED ON STAFF ASSESSMENT OF THE POPULATION'S NEEDS AND INTERESTS. THIS INITIATIVE IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY WITH THE INMATE POPULATION LOOKING FORWARD TO

EXPANDING THEIR READING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

WE CONTINUE TO MAKE JAIL VISITATION MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE VISITING PUBLIC. BASED ON FEEDBACK PROVIDED BY VISITORS, THE DEPARTMENT REACHED OUT TO OUR SISTER AGENCIES IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE COMMUNITY-BASED VISITATION A VIABLE OPTION. THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE DC PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, WE'VE ENHANCED ACCESS BY OFFERING VIDEO VISITATION AT FOUR COMMUNITY-BASED SITES INCLUDING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY (WARD 2) AND THE ANACOSTIA NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY (WARD 8) ALONG WITH THE DEANWOOD RECREATION CENTER (WARD 7) AND THE BALD EAGLE RECREATION CENTER (WARD 8). COMMUNITY-BASED VISITATION HAS BEEN

WELL RECEIVED BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF INMATES HOUSED AT THE D.C. JAIL, AND HAS INCREASED ACCESS FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT DRIVE OR AFFORD TRANSPORTATION COSTS TO TRAVEL TO THE MAIN CENTER.

CONSTRUCTION OF OUR NEW INMATE RECEPTION CENTER IS NEARING COMPLETION. THIS NEW JAIL COMPONENT, NAMED IN HONOR OF CAROLYN A. CROSS, OUR FALLEN DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WILL STREAMLINE THE RECEIVING AND DISCHARGE PROCESSES AND CONSOLIDATE CRITICAL FRONT AND BACK END INMATE SERVICES. THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES CONTINUES TO OVERSEE FINAL CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS WHICH ARE NOW LARGELY FOCUSED ON SYSTEMS INTEGRATION. ONCE FINAL SYSTEMS TESTING HAS BEEN COMPLETED, THE CAROLYN A. CROSS INMATE RECEPTION CENTER WILL BECOME FULLY OPERATIONAL.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS I'D LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT:

IN THE AREA OF INMATE HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

- ✓ CONTINUED RECOGNITION BY DC APPLESEED FOR EFFORTS AROUND HIV TESTING, EDUCATION, DETECTION, COUNSELING, AND TREATMENT. DOC REMAINS IN THE FOREFRONT AND IS ONE OF THE DISTRICT'S LARGEST TESTING AND EDUCATION SITES
- ✓ SUPPORTED GWU'S HIV CARE CONTINUITY EFFORTS THROUGH A NIH FUNDED GRANT AWARDED TO THE DISTRICT. GWU'S CARE+ TEAM HAS ESTABLISHED AN HIV EDUCATION COMPONENT THROUGH VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND ALSO RECRUITS VOLUNTARY PARTICIPANTS FOR THE CARE+ PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DOC AND ITS HEALTH SERVICES

PROVIDER TO ENSURE AND ENHANCE POST-RELEASE
CONTINUITY OF CARE

- ✓ UPGRADED THE INMATE ELECTRONIC MEDICAL
RECORD AND THE INMATE PHARMACY INFORMATION
SYSTEM
- ✓ CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ENHANCE INMATE MENTAL
HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND CARE ALONG WITH
SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND TRAINING

IN DC JAIL OPERATIONS:

- ✓ ESTABLISHED A FORMAL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE
INSPECTION PROGRAM
- ✓ IMPLEMENTED AN ELECTRONIC ROUNDS TRACKING
SYSTEM FOR SECURITY AND CASE MANAGEMENT
STAFF ON ALL HOUSING UNITS.
- ✓ IMPLEMENTED NEXTALK VIDEO REMOTE
INTERPRETING SERVICES (VRI), WHICH PROVIDES ON-

CALL SIGN LANGUAGE OR SPOKEN LANGUAGE
INTERPRETING SERVICES FOR DEAF AND HARD OF
HEARING INMATES.

- ✓ IMPLEMENTED IRIS SCANNING FOR INMATE
IDENTIFICATION.
- ✓ INCREASED SURVEILLANCE CENTER STAFFING TO
PROVIDE ENHANCED FACILITY SURVEILLANCE.
- ✓ MODERNIZED THE DOC DATA CENTER, VIRTUALIZED
DOC'S SERVERS, AND ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE
STORAGE CAPACITY.
- ✓ PARTNERED WITH THE OFFICE OF UNIFIED
COMMUNICATIONS TO PROCURE 450 INTEROPERABLE
RADIOS FOR DOC CUSTODY STAFF AND THOSE
ASSIGNED TO TRANSPORT, COMMUNITY OR OTHER
OUTSIDE FUNCTIONS—THIS ALLOWS COMMUNICATION
WITH OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES DURING

EMERGENCIES OR OTHER EXTRAORDINARY
OCCURRENCES.

IN THE AREA OF REENTRY SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMMING:

- ✓ WE HAVE NEGOTIATED IMPROVED REIMBURSEMENT TERMS WITH THE FBOP FOR AN ANNUAL IMPACT OF UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$1 MILLION THAT INCLUDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DAYS HOUSED AT THE CDF PRIOR TO PLACEMENT OR FOR OTHER PROGRAMMATIC REASONS.

- ✓ IMPLEMENTED USE OF COMPAS, AN EVIDENCE BASED ASSESSMENT TOOL THAT SUPPORTS BOTH PRE AND POST RELEASE REENTRY PLANNING.

DOC'S OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES IN MOVING FORWARD INCLUDE COMPLETING THE FINAL PHASE OF THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER; FINALIZING PROCUREMENT OF OUR NEW HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT;

ACHIEVING NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE (NCCHC) REACCREDITATION FOR INMATE HEALTH SERVICES AT THE D.C. JAIL AND CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY; ACHIEVING AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION (ACA) REACCREDITATION OF D.C. JAIL OPERATIONS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND BROADENING REENTRY PROGRAMMING TO INCLUDE DEDICATED EMPLOYMENT READINESS UNITS FOR BOTH THE MALE AND FEMALE POPULATIONS.

BEFORE CLOSING I WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE GENEROSITY OF OUR DOC WORKFORCE WHICH FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW SURPASSED ALL CITY AGENCIES IN D.C. ONE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS--- WITH A TOTAL OF OVER \$95,000 DONATED TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS BY OUR EMPLOYEES. I PROUDLY APPLAUD OUR EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR YEARS OF KIND AND UNSELFISH GIVING TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

THANK YOU CHAIRMAN MCDUFFIE. I WILL NOW ADDRESS
QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE
DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE.