
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 123

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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 AFTERNOON ARE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT QUINCY BOOTH, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS TONI PERRY. TODAY I WILL PROVIDE TESTIMONY AND RESPOND TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2016 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 ALMOST 10,000 INTAKES AND

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

IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO CONTRACT WITH TWO PRIVATELY OPERATED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS FACILITIES—HOPE VILLAGE AND FAIRVIEW-- FOR HALFWAY HOUSE BED SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 50 MALE AND 15 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. OUR WORK AS

PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS CONTRIBUTES TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND CREATES PATHWAYS TO THE MIDDLE CLASS BY FULLY SUPPORTING REENTRY AND EMPLOYMENT READINESS AS INTEGRAL COMPONENTS OF OUR MISSION.

DURING FISCAL YEAR 2015, WE ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL AS THE DCDOC TEAM WORKED COLLECTIVELY TO ENHANCE OPERATIONS AND BROADEN PROGRAMMING OPTIONS FOR INMATES IN OUR CUSTODY. I HAVE GREAT PRIDE IN THE DCDOC WORKFORCE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THEIR DEDICATED WORK AS PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS BUT BECAUSE OF THE COMPASSION DISPLAYED IN CARING FOR HUMAN LIVES AND SUPPORTING THE DISTRICT COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WE MUST ALL BE WILLING TO REACH OUT AND HELP OTHERS. AND AS MAYOR BOWSER HAS

DEMONSTRATED THROUGH HER SAFER STRONGER DC INITIATIVE, TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP OUR CITY BOTH SAFE AND STRONG.

EFFECTIVE POPULATION MANAGEMENT REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT. THROUGH A COMMITMENT TO FORMING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR PUBLIC SAFETY AND FEDERAL PARTNERS, WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN STREAMLINING PROCESSES THAT ALLOW FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS MOVEMENT OF INMATES FROM DISTRICT TO FEDERAL CUSTODY OR OTHER JURISDICTIONS.

I HAVE ALSO PRIORITIZED EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A PER DIEM INCREASE WITH OUR FEDERAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE HOUSING OF FEDERAL INMATES. DURING 2015, WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING THAT GOAL WITH THE

PER DIEM INCREASED BY OVER FIFTEEN DOLLARS PER DAY. THIS DIRECTLY BENEFITS DISTRICT TAXPAYERS PRIMARILY BECAUSE FOR YEARS WE HAVE BEEN SUBSIDIZING FEDERAL INMATES AT AN ANNUAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILLION DOLLARS.

THE MOVEMENT OF INMATES IN AND OUT OF THE DCDOC SYSTEM TAKES PLACE THROUGH THE JAIL'S RECEIVING AND DISCHARGE FUNCTION. DURING JUNE OF 2015, WE OFFICIALLY OPENED THE STATE OF THE ART INMATE RECEPTION CENTER (IRC) NAMED IN HONOR OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR CAROLYN A. CROSS WHO WAS SLAIN IN SEPTEMBER OF 2014. THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER IS THE CENTRALIZED POINT OF ENTRY AND EXIT FOR ALL INMATES REMANDED TO DCDOC CUSTODY. ADMISSION AND RELEASE FUNCTIONS ARE CO-LOCATED WITHIN THE IRC AND ENCOMPASS PROCESSES ASSOCIATED WITH

RECEIVING SUCH AS IRIS SCANNING, FINGERPRINTING, PROPERTY INVENTORY AND STORAGE—CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND NEEDS ASSESSMENTS, MEDICAL TRIAGE INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION SCREENINGS, RECORDS AND RELEASE PROCESSING. BY CREATING A “ONE STOP SHOP” FUNCTION, WE HAVE DECREASED WAIT TIMES AND SERVICE DUPLICATION, ENHANCED RELEASE PLANNING, AND CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT MORE CONDUCTIVE TO THE EFFICIENT PROCESSING OF THE INMATE POPULATION.

LAST YEAR I WAS PROUD TO REPORT THAT IN DECEMBER OF 2014, AFTER AN EXTENSIVE AUDIT OF THE FACILITY BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE D.C. JAIL WAS OFFICIALLY CERTIFIED AS COMPLIANT WITH STANDARDS OF THE FEDERAL PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA). THESE STANDARDS SET STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS THAT

COMPREHENSIVELY ADDRESS SEXUAL ABUSE IN ALL
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS HOUSING ADULT OR
JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

WE REMAIN VIGILANT IN MAINTAINING THE STANDARDS
SET BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR PREA COMPLIANCE.
IN THAT REGARD, DURING NOVEMBER OF 2015, OUR
CONTRACTED COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTERS, HOPE
VILLAGE FOR MALES AND FAIRVIEW FOR FEMALES, WERE
ALSO FOUND COMPLIANT WITH THE USDOJ PREA
STANDARDS AFTER COMPREHENSIVE AUDITS OF EACH
OPERATION-- FURTHER TESTAMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S
FULL COMMITMENT TO INSTITUTIONALIZING PREA
STANDARDS ACROSS FACILITIES.

THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY AS
THE DISTRICT IS ONE OF ONLY THREE JURISDICTIONS IN THE

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION TO HAVE ACHIEVED PREA CERTIFICATION BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. IN MAY OF THIS YEAR THE CENTRAL CELL BLOCK, OPERATED BY DOC, IS SCHEDULED TO UNDERGO AN AUDIT BY DOJ TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH PREA STANDARDS. AS WITH OUR OTHER FACILITIES, WE HAVE WORKED TO ENSURE THAT ALL PREA REQUIRED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.

DURING 2015, THE DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH UNITY HEALTHCARE ALSO ACHIEVED NATIONAL REACCREDITATION OF ITS MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE. AFTER A THOROUGH REVIEW OF OUR HEALTH CARE SERVICES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT DCDOC WAS THE GOLD STANDARD ACHIEVING 100%

COMPLIANCE WITH ALL REQUIRED HEALTHCARE STANDARDS.

AND IN JANUARY OF 2016, FOLLOWING AN EXTENSIVE AUDIT OF THE D.C. JAIL COVERING ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS, SERVICES, AND INMATE PROGRAMS, THE FACILITY WAS AWARDED RE-ACCREDITATION BY THE AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR CORRECTIONS, A NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT AS ONLY 7% OF JAILS NATIONALLY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING ACA ACCREDITATION.

INMATE VISITATION IS ANOTHER CRITICAL COMPONENT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS. WHILE THE VISITING PUBLIC CONTINUES TO MAKE FULL USE OF OUR VIDEO-CONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY BOTH AT OUR MAIN VIDEO

VISITATION CENTER AND OUR FOUR SATELLITE LOCATIONS, DURING 2015 WE IMPLEMENTED AN INCENTIVE BASED VISITATION COMPONENT THAT ALLOWS FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO ENTER THE FACILITY FOR IN-PERSON VISITATION (BEHIND THE PLEXIGLASS). INMATES WHO HAVE BEEN IN CUSTODY FOR 60 DAYS OR MORE AND WITHOUT DISCIPLINARY INFRACTIONS FOR AT LEAST 30 DAYS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE. WE VIEW THIS OPTION AS A MEANS TO REWARD THE POPULATION FOR POSITIVE BEHAVIOR WHICH IN TURN ADDS TO THE ORDER AND SECURITY OF THE FACILITY. THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN POSITIVE WITH VISITORS COMMUNICATING APPRECIATION FOR A SECOND VISITATION OPTION.

DCDOC ALSO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CUSTODY OF TITLE XVI YOUTH BEING ADJUDICATED AS ADULTS. THE 16 AND 17 YEAR OLD JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN OUR CUSTODY

ARE HOUSED AT THE CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY OUT OF THE SIGHT AND SOUND OF THE ADULT INMATE POPULATION AS REQUIRED BY LAW. DCPS OPERATES AN EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT ON THE HOUSING UNIT FIVE DAYS A WEEK WITH ALL JUVENILES REQUIRED TO ATTEND CLASS UNLESS INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION IS WARRANTED.

THE JUVENILE POPULATION ALSO PARTICIPATES IN A STRUCTURED BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION PROGRAM THAT REWARDS POSITIVE BEHAVIOR AND REINFORCES THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY AS THEY MOVE THROUGH THE BRONZE, SILVER AND GOLD TIERS.

DCDOC HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY PROACTIVE IN ADDRESSING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF OUR JUVENILE POPULATION. A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TREATMENT TEAM MEETS ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO ASSESS PROGRESS AND DETERMINE THE

MOST EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING AND TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR EACH YOUTH. A DEDICATED SOCIAL WORKER POSITION WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE JUVENILES WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN HIRED JUST LAST MONTH WHO PROVIDES INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELING AND IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE TREATMENT TEAM PROCESS.

AS AN ENHANCEMENT TO THIS PROCESS, ON A MONTHLY BASIS PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS PARTICIPATE IN CASE CONFERENCES TO HEAR FIRST HAND FROM TREATMENT TEAM MEMBERS ABOUT PROGRESS BEING MADE AND ISSUES ENCOUNTERED. THE FEEDBACK FROM FAMILY MEMBERS HAS PROVEN BENEFICIAL WITH THEIR BUY-IN HELPFUL AS THE TEAM MAKES IMPORTANT PROGRAM AND TREATMENT DECISIONS. BY SEEKING THE INVOLVEMENT OF FAMILY, WE REINFORCE THEIR VALUE AS ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE REHABILITATION PROCESS.

WE HAVE ALSO INITIATED CONTACT TOUCH VISITS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS ON HOLIDAYS, SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND AS AN INCENTIVE FOR JUVENILES ACHIEVING GOLD TIER STATUS, DEMONSTRATING GOOD CONDUCT AND MEETING THEIR PROGRAM GOALS.

ALONG WITH JURISDICTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WE ARE EXAMINING OUR PROTOCOLS FOR RESTRICTIVE HOUSING WITHIN DCDOC FACILITIES. TO PROACTIVELY ADDRESS THIS ISSUE, I HAVE FORMED AN INTERNAL TEAM TO REVIEW AND EVALUATE OUR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND TO ESTABLISH SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS TO SAFELY REDUCE THE USE OF SEGREGATION OR RESTRICTIVE HOUSING. THESE CHANGES MUST BE MADE IN A PLANNED MANNER WHICH ENSURES THE SAFETY OF BOTH STAFF AND OTHER INMATES.

I AM ALREADY IMPLEMENTING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THAT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: ALL INMATES PLACED IN ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIVE HOUSING WILL NOW RECEIVE A 7 DAY HOUSING REVIEW FOR THE FIRST 60 DAYS AND EVERY 14 DAYS THEREAFTER. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM WHAT WAS IN PLACE PREVIOUSLY WHICH WAS 7 DAYS FOR THE FIRST 60 DAYS AND EVERY 30 DAYS THEREAFTER. AND THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS AN INMATE MAY REMAIN IN DISCIPLINARY RESTRICTIVE HOUSING HAS BEEN REDUCED BY HALF FROM SIXTY TO THIRTY DAYS. IN ADDITION, OUT OF CELL TIME FOR RESTRICTIVE HOUSING IS BEING INITIALLY INCREASED BY ONE HOUR PER DAY.

WE ARE ALSO WORKING TOWARD OTHER OPTIONS INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF RESTRICTIVE HOUSING FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS; ON-THE-UNIT SHORT TERM CELL RESTRICTION FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES; AND COMMUNAL

RECREATION FOR RESTRICTED GROUPS. IN MOVING FORWARD WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK AT VIABLE OPTIONS THAT ALLOW FOR REDUCED RESTRICTIONS WHILE SECURITY IS MAINTAINED AND STAFF SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHER INMATES IS NOT COMPROMISED.

DURING FISCAL YEAR 2015, WE CONTINUED TO IDENTIFY NEW AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR THE INMATE POPULATION. THEY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- ✓ THE PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO OPERATE THE WORK READINESS PROGRAM ON A DEDICATED HOUSING UNIT WITHIN THE JAIL. D.O.E.S HAS STAFFED THE PROGRAM WITH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS THAT PROVIDE TRAINING TO PREPARE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE TRANSITION TO COMMUNITY BASED JOB READINESS ACTIVITIES.

- ✓ PARTNERSHIPS WITH OSSE AND THE UDC COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO PROVIDE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN THE AREAS OF HOSPITALITY, CORE CONSTRUCTION AND JOB READINESS.

- ✓ OUR CONTINUING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DC PUBLIC LIBRARY SUPPORTING THEIR FULL OPERATION OF A MOBILE LIBRARY WITHIN THE JAIL. THE DCPL TEAM OFFERS OUR POPULATION A FULL ARRAY OF READING AND LEARNING RESOURCES AND ENGAGES THEM IN OTHER INNOVATIVE READING ACTIVITIES.

- ✓ AN INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP FORGED WITH THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY TO OFFER A COURSE TITLED “CRIME AND JUSTICE BEHIND THE WALL”. BOTH HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND DCDOC INMATES PARTICIPATE FULLY IN COURSE ACTIVITY WITHIN THE JAIL SETTING. THE “INSIDE OUT” MODEL IS VERY

SIMILAR TO THE PROGRAM FIRST ESTABLISHED BY
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY THAT FOCUSES ON THE SOCIAL
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONSEQUENCES ASSOCIATED
WITH INCARCERATION.

DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES IN MOVING FORWARD INCLUDE
OPENING OUR MENTAL HEALTH STEP DOWN UNIT THIS
SPRING AS A JAIL-BASED THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY
FOCUSED ON FURTHER STABILIZING AND REINTEGRATING
THOSE DIAGNOSED WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESSES. WE
WILL ALSO CONTINUE ESTABLISHING ENHANCED
PROTOCOLS FOR RESTRICTIVE HOUSING; EXPANDING
PROGRAMMING OPTIONS FOR OUR JUVENILE POPULATION;
AND WORKING TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF PREA
CERTIFICATION FOR THE CENTRAL CELL BLOCK WHICH IS
SCHEDULED FOR AUDITING IN LATE MAY OF THIS YEAR.

FINALLY, BEFORE CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO PUBLICLY
APPLAUD THE DCDOC WORKFORCE FOR AGAIN SURPASSING
ALL CITY AGENCIES IN D.C. ONE FUND CONTRIBUTIONS ---
WITH A TOTAL OF OVER \$113,000 DONATED TO DISTRICT
CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS BY OUR EMPLOYEES. THIS IS
THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW WE HAVE BEEN THE LEADING
AGENCY IN ONE FUND DONATIONS AS OUR EMPLOYEES
HAVE UNSELFISHLY GIVEN TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE IN
OUR COMMUNITIES.

I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT ON OUR
PERFORMANCE AND I AM NOW PREPARED TO ANSWER ANY
FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS.