

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
PRISONS & CORRECTIONS SECTION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
State Bar Building
Lansing, MI. 48823
November 3, 2018

Present: Sandy Girard, Mike Marutiak, Barb Levine, Pat Streeter, Michelle VanDusen, Korbin Felder, Kyle Kaminski, John Cooper, Nicole George, and Ron Emery

Excused Absences: Keith Barber, Steve Gobbo, Carol Siemon, Marilena David-Martin, and Dan Manville

Unexcused Absence: Gary Kasenow, David Gilbert

Guest: Amanda Elliott (MDOC), Kevin Harris of Nation Outside

Chairperson Mike Marutiak called the meeting to order at 10:10AM. A quorum of 8 voting members was present.

1. Attendances and Welcome:

2. Adoption of Agenda:

The Chair added an item to the Agenda for discussion on the open Associate position on the Council. On motion by John Cooper, seconded by Barb Levine, the agenda as revised was adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of April Minutes:

On motion by John Cooper, seconded by Sandy Girard the October minutes were unanimously approved as written.

4. Treasurer's Report

In Treasurer Dan Manville's absence, Mike reported that our current balance at the end of September was \$5100. This is historically a very high balance for our Section at the beginning of a fiscal year. He also predicted that with dues expected over the next few months that balance could increase by \$4000 making our finances look good for the next year. This money will be available for such things as speakers or programs.

Mike also reported that next Tuesday (November 6), the State Bar has set up a conference call for section officers, particularly treasurers, providing guidance on the spending of section funds. Dan Manville will participate in the call for our section. Mike also advised that if any council member interested wishes to participate in the call simply e-mail Mike.

5. Newsletter Update

Pat reported that the deadline for articles and postings for the next section newsletter would be November 28th. At this time Pat will include articles on the following topics:

Sheryl Kubiak's departure from MSU to Wayne State as its dean of the school of social work.

Legislative proposals to clarify the authority of the legislative ombudsman to investigate matters and to give the ombudsman some immunity from judicial subpoenas.

Legislative proposals to limit or cap telephone and electronic date rates for inmates and families. (HB 6148 and 6149)

5A. MDOC Updates

Kyle reported on the following topics:

Current inmate count is down to 38,712

The closure of the Ojibway facility is almost complete. 200 are still housed there but are expected to be out by December 1st, unless a lawsuit in the court of claims delays the process.

Specialty programs: DOC continues to establish a Women's Vocational Village at the Huron Valley facility. The program will provide 27,000 sq ft of space for multiple vocational programs for female inmates such as cosmetology, carpentry, graphic design, and commercial driver licensing. MDOC expects around 300 to participate.

A college program for both men and women through Jackson Community College at multiple sites statewide providing access to degree programs. About 700 inmates currently participate.

Veterans' program at Saginaw provides inmates who are veterans are provided extra privileges and programs than ordinary inmates. About 300 are currently involved in this program.

Kyle reminded council members that he is available to answer any questions they may have concerning MDOC operations during and outside of our meetings. Queries can be e-mailed to him at his MDOC address.

6. Chairperson Elect

Mike reported that Marilena David-Martin expressed interest in the position. On motion by Ron Emery, seconded by Pat Streeter, Marilena was nominated for this position and was elected unanimously.

7. MDOC Presentation

Kyle introduced Amanda Elliott of DOC who presented a PowerPoint entitled "Trauma and the Criminal Justice System." The presentation summarized research that shows a relationship between childhood trauma and adult incarceration rates. Research reveals that a high percentage of those incarcerated have a high incidence of childhood abuse, neglect and household dysfunction in their life experience. MDOC training for staff at women's facilities now includes "trauma informed" training. This training tries to identify inmates with a trauma history and strategies

on how to deal with them more successfully. Ms. Elliott was hopeful that this type of training would be extended to staff at all facilities, not just female facilities. She also offered any of her information and/or research to anyone on the council through her e-mail at AmandaE2@michigan.gov.

8. June Conference

Mike appointed Marilena David-Martin as the chairperson of the June Conference committee to set up and formulate ideas for the June conference. The Governors boardroom has been reserved for June 1st for the conference. Michelle, Nicole, Barb, and Korbin volunteered to serve on that committee.

9. Introduction of Guest

Korbin introduced Rev. Kevin Harris of Detroit to the council. Rev Harris has expressed interest in the open associate council member position. He is currently the statewide coordinator of the Nation Outside advocacy group whose goal is to organize ex-offenders and their families in political activity concerning criminal justice issues.

In addition to Rev. Harris, Hakim Crampton, a juvenile violence specialist and ex-offender, has also expressed interest in the associate position. Mike explained that to qualify for that position a person has to be a member of the Prison and Corrections Section. Both will be given time to join the section and then Mike will submit their requests to join to a council member vote by e-mail.

10. Adjournment

On motion by John, seconded by Korbin, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:55AM. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 1 at 10 AM at the State Bar Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Emery
November 4, 2018