

CIC Open Meeting: Thursday, January 25, 2024, 6:00 PM

January 2024 Meeting Minutes

Board Attendees: Chairman Charles Thornton, Nkechi Taifa

CIC Staff Members: Nicole Ukaegbu, Nailah Seabron, Eric Weaver, Dana DeMartino, Theo Nastase, Kareem McCraney, Patricia Marks, and Sydney Lang.

Executive Director Message:

Chief of Staff Nailah Seabron gave an overview of the CIC's recent activities and upcoming agency goals. Issued reports and publications include the monthly bulletin, DOC reports on Central Detention Facility (CDF) and Central Treatment Facility (CTF), , CTF Women, and an updated USP McCreary report.

In progress reports include those on the DOC visits on December 6th and 8th, 2023, and the reports from FCC Coleman. The CIC has in progress thematic reports on best practices, a legislative booklet, and survey results from our women's only survey. The CIC published two information sheets, one on residents with life or extended sentences, and one on resident demographics.

Noteworthy developments for the organization include the organizations hosting of Ella Haines, an intern sponsored by ReThink Justice, who worked with the CIC for her fall semester to learn about the CIC's role in the DC criminal justice system.

Ongoing agency tasks include weekly staff meetings and bi-weekly staff check-ins, quarterly informational sheets/ quick reference sheets for the website containing useful topics and aggregated data, and surveys sent to all BOP facilities with less than 30 DC code offenders in custody. The CIC continues to respond to inquiries and letters from both residents and families, logging that information in Ragic, observing progress on performance plans and strategic initiatives, tracking report timelines, and monitoring progress on compliance issues, such as Language Access and COOP. CIC staff members individually participate in professional development and learning trainings.

Agency goals for FY24 include quarterly DOC & BOP meetings and inspections, a BOP-wide mailing of reentry resources to achieve the District's racial equity goals, an IRAA community engagement video and presentation, continuation of the recommendations follow-up project, work with the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, New Beginnings, and Youth Services Center, and the addition of subject matter experts on agency inspections.

BOP updates:

The CIC is currently finishing FCC Coleman reports. Two are under the review of the CIC's board and one has been transferred to the Bureau of Prisons. The published reports for the public's view are forthcoming.

- Total Number of DC residents in custody: 2, 634
 - 2,442 Men
 - Asian: 4
 - Black: 2,329
 - Native: 1
 - White: 107
- Most male residents are located at FCI Hazelton.
- Most male residents are located in FCIs (includes medium and low)

Data on Female DC BOP Residents

- Most female residents are located at FCIs.
- Most female residents are located at SFF Hazelton. The second most populated female facility for DC residents is FCI Aliceville located in Alabama.
- Last 6 months (Jul.1, 23 – Jan.1, 24) (36% increase)
 - Amount of Women in BOP custody as of July 1, 2023: 39
 - Amount of Women in BOP custody as of January 1, 2024: 53
- In Quarter 1 of FY 24 (Oct.1, 23-Jan.1, 24) (23% increase)
 - Amount of Women in BOP custody as of October 1, 2023: 43
 - Amount of Women in BOP custody as of January 1, 2024: 53
- 53 Women
 - Asian: 0
 - Black: 49
 - Native: 0
 - White: 4

DOC updates:

The population totals as of December 29th,2023 were 1,193 at CDF, 478 at CTF, and 59 at CCB. This is a 25% increase in DOC population since November 2022 and we believe this is in part due to the recent pre-trial legislation. Noteworthy DOC updates include the residents in restrictive housing now have an opportunity to participate in recreation every day, all residents now have tablets, and those in maximum security are now able to participate in the GED program. The DOC has also set up programming in the maximum-security unit, it is a program called Crime and Justice Behind Bars. They also hired a Spanish speaking teacher for the education department. Finally, CCB will be relocating in 2025, but we do not know when or where that move will occur.

Community Question and Answer:

The following questions were asked by community members:

Q: What is the timeline for the most recent DOC reports and the Coleman reports?

A: Kareem McCraney (KM): We are waiting on the DOC response for the DOC reports.

Charles Thornton (CT): The report on USP Coleman II is with the BOP and we are awaiting their response, the reports on the FCI and USP I are with the board for review.

Q: How does the CIC track if residents receive mail from the CIC?

Pat Marks (PM): We track response rate and send a follow up mailing if needed, for example we resent our mail to incarcerated women for our women survey. We also follow up with the BOP if we get a lot of return to senders.

Q: When will the CCB be moving?

KM: We do not know exactly, just 2025.

There was no closed portion of the meeting. The CIC realized Board Member Nkechi Taija was no longer in the Teams meeting and after the organization was unable to contact her, the agency ended the meeting due to a lack of quorum.

Closing remarks.