

ARTICLE 29 MINUTES

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY & SOLICITOR GENERAL

September 14, 2010

Attending:

MANAGEMENT MEMBERS:

Julie Spiteri Co-Chair (*Strategic HR*)
Steve Martin (*Superintendent of Motor Vehicles*)
Bruce Ganie (*Community Corrections*)

UNION MEMBERS:

Dean Purdy (*Corrections/Sheriff Services*)
Mike Eso (*BCGEU Staff*)
Judy Fox-McGuire (*Corrections*)

GUEST OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS :

None

Regrets:

Ron McCabe (*Correctional Officer, Fraser Region
Correctional Centre*)

Recording Secretary:

Caitlin Quigley (*Management Services*)

1. Introductions

- Last meeting minutes accepted and adopted.

2. Update on Article 13 Placements (All)

- the last three placements were finished; None outstanding for the Ministry.
- Julie brought up that there was some question at last meeting on the Committee's role in regards to placements
 - Discussion on process
 - Phase one: Ministry checks internally if there are placement options. Phase two: Cross ministry placements is where PSA manages the list and placement options. For example PSA looks at all online postings and placement lists prior to any hiring. Interministry placements only to happen after internal options are exhausted.

3. H1N1 (Union)

- Hit Adult Corrections hard last winter; some staff were affected, and inmates and living units were quarantined.
 - Vaccination was made available to inmates prior to staff; were eventually given to all staff, but as they received it later, it not as effective.
 - This year, staff maybe should receive vaccination first to reduce initial infection.
 - New inmates may cause issues with contamination as it spreads fast, especially in overcrowded cells.
 - TO DO: Bruce will look into this further and report back.
 - Concerns to be relayed to Dr Rotheron's replacement.

4. Community Corrections Sub Committee (All)

- Judy presented option paper from sub-committee
 - Original purpose of Sub-Committee was that valuable time is being used up on issues that could have been dealt with quicker
 - Currently two options presented in paper to address Appendix 4
 - refer to sub-committee directly or

- refer to Article 29 committee issues and recommendations from sub-committee
 - Julie option 2 appears most effective and preferable; issue can go straight to the sub-committee. Also, can respond to work site first, as long as the Article 29 Committee is copied the information/discussions
 - Article 29 Committee endorsed sub-committee dealing directly with issues and recommendations. Article 29 committee can provide guidance without being a barrier; be available when needed, and a place for sub-committee to report back to on progress.
- Agreed that the Subcommittee is a brilliant idea; Julie states it seems to be making a lot of progress,
 - Rob Wood is no longer the chair of this meeting Micheila Cameron had taken over.
 - Judy says there are the right people at the table and is very optimistic.

5. WES Scores – KRCC (Union)

- Dean says overall scores were quite good.
 - Adult and Community Corrections did well – 63 to 64
 - Some individual regions were very good:
 - 71 FRCC
 - 75 ACCW
 - 63 VIRCC
 - Adult Corrections 64
 - Others didn't do so well:
 - 43 – KRCC – (Kamloops Regions Correctional Centre)- Dean added that the union is concerned that the numbers dropped at KRCC and advised this has all come about since 2006/07. The union has been meeting with the upper branch management to discuss ways of improving morale and the working environment at KRCC.
 - Bruce had a meeting with the managers, and they would like to meet with someone from the Committee.
- Julie confirmed that Pete Coulson and Brent Merchant are well aware of the scores and are also concerned.
- From an Executive perspective, WES is an ongoing topic throughout the year.
 - Ex: people plan monthly discussion – “it’s part of the ‘fabric’ of what we do,” says Julie.
 - Very pleased with, even with the pressures, that the WES scores are doing well. It is indicative of the commitment.
- Dean discussed WES timing - April to August we get results which leaves 8 months to deal with any issues, it would be nice to have more time and would like to see the scores come out earlier. Julie confirmed, however, due to the sheer volume for BC Stats to release it is not possible to get all results right after survey completed.

6. Tamil Migrants (Union)

- 492 arrived in Victoria Harbour
 - 50-60 at MCFD
 - 38 at ACCW
 - 380 at FRCC
- First person released September 13 – Pregnant lady and family
- Main concern for FRCC is that it’s a facility build for 254, has average count of 500 regular inmates, and is currently over 800, due to Tamil migrants.

- Staff working very long hours, overtime; Potential for burnout with a lot of staff.
- There is a rumour that 2 more boats with an estimated 500 migrants each are said to be headed our direction. Question: Can we confirm boats are on the way and will we be required to process and house? TO DO: Julie to follow up with Brent Merchant or Pete Coulsen, however her initial understanding is that we don't get a lot of warning.

STANDING ITEMS

7. Adult Corrections Overcrowding & Gangs (Union)

Need for new Facilities

- 9 Provincial jails, with 180 per cent to 200 per cent over capacity
- 3000 inmates 1557 hard cells in the province – higher capacity facilities are needed.
- The ministries own service plan notes from the March budget in 2010 admitted that the nine jails are overcrowded and have reached a critical capacity. They also say that the overcrowding is directly linked to inmate on inmate violence, inmate riots and assaults on staff. The North Fraser Pre-Trial Centre (NFPC) has staff to inmate ratios of 1:60.
- With the Harper governments new “Get tough on crime” 2 for 1 sentencing and ‘Soft Drug’ legislation means that we can expect 3400 new Federal inmates and similar percentages from Provincial jails in the near future.
- Question: with new expansion at Surrey, what capacity will it be when doors are opened and what will the staff to inmate ratios be? TO DO: Julie to follow up with Pete Coulson or Brent Merchant.

8. Cost Savings (All)

- Julie says there are no initiatives that have come to attention other than ministry wide efforts such as reducing travel; sharing office supplies between areas etc. Dean: All ideas have been exhausted at this point.
- Julie asks if anyone else would agree to remove “Cost Savings” from agenda as a standing item.
 - Adopted and passed unanimously with the condition that it be brought up in future meetings if needed.

9. Final Remarks/Closing.

Next meeting: November 30, 2010

All future meetings will be the last Tuesday of every other month, alternating locations of 910 Government St, and 2994 Douglas St.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:40am