

**ENFIELD PRISON/TOWN LIAISON COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, June 9, 2021 – 6:00 PM  
ENFIELD ROOM**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**Roll Call**

**Present from the committee:**

Chairman Nelson Rodriguez, Timothy Slade, Steven Niemitz, Kenneth Edgar and Nanci Harvey

Absent: Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall

**Present from the Department of Corrections:**

Eulalia Garcia, District Administrator  
Nick Rodriguez, District Administrator  
Zelynette Caron, Warden Carl Robinson  
Nicole Thibeault, Warden Willard Cybulski  
Aesha Mumin, Deputy Warden Willard Cybulski  
Jason Chapdelaine – Deputy Warden

**Present from the Enfield Police Department**

Chief Alaric Fox

**Present from the Town of Enfield**

Donna Szewczak, Deputy Mayor/Council Liaison

**Review of Minutes**

a. March 10, 2021 – Timothy Slade motioned to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021. Mr. Edgar Seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were approved.

**New Business**

- a. 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration – Chief Fox stated there is only going to be 4<sup>th</sup> of July committee is putting on a firework display only. There is some discussion about having music playing through ACC radio station. Not specific to Town Green there may be a mad rush effort for a parade. Mr. Niemitz confirmed there will nothing on the green. Chief Fox stated nothing on the green. We could not get food vendors and we couldn't cut the checks fast enough. With donations we are doing the fireworks.

**Old Business:**

- a. *Recruitment of New Committee Members* – None
- b. *COVID-19 Update* – District Administrator Rodriguez stated Positivity rates no positivity almost zero. County jails are higher because folks are coming in off the streets. Vaccines are offered to

all the populations. About 67-70% are vaccinated. They offer a lot of education in the county jails about the vaccines in hopes to increase the vaccination rates.

Mr. Slade asked about the correctional officer vaccination rates.

DA Rodriguez stated the Staff are offered the vaccines, but a lot of the staff have opted out. At first, he thought it was a local thing, but it is a national thing with law enforcement.

Chairman Rodriguez questioned if you are separating population vaccinated vs not.

DA Rodriguez stated they are not, only if they are symptomatic.

*c. Report of Population Counts (Wardens)*

| <u>Report of Population Counts</u> |                                         | <u>Current Qtr.</u> | <u>(03/2021)</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Warden Thibeault                   | Willard Cybulski Correctional Institute | 305                 | 317              |
| Closed                             | Enfield Correctional Institute          | 0                   | 0                |
| Warden Caron                       | Carl Robinson Correctional Institute    | 642                 | 773              |

Chairman Rodriguez questioned why the drop-in count.

District Administrator Rodriguez stated other than an increase in car thefts, there really hasn't been a spike in crime rates.

*e. Review of Significant Incidents or Policy Changes at Prisons*

Willard Cybulski

Warden Thibeault stated unit H is the quarantine unit. They still doing Goodwin College virtual, instructors will be coming in person soon.

Chairman Rodriguez questions if there are a lot of fights this time of year?

Warden Caron stated every now and then there are.

DA Rodriguez stated this year has been very tough. We thought taking visits away would be very tough. We thought there would be more assaults on inmates and officers, but there wasn't a spike considering. There are virtual visits now in the visiting room. We offer contact visiting and virtual visiting. They must sign up 72 hours in advance.

Chairman Rodriguez asked how many people can do virtual visits at a time?

DA Rodriguez stated it depends on the facility, McDougal 26 terminals, New Haven has 6, Willard has 7 CRCI has 10. They can sign up online through the DOC website.

DA Rodriguez stated the virtual terminals have reduced contraband. They can be on the computers for 45 minutes. They can speak with relatives out of state as well. More family members are opting in for the virtual visits. People from the Caribbean are calling in and it's expanding the family bond.

Mr. Niemitz asked if the DOC believes if they think it helped to reduce tensions with the inmates.

DA Rodriguez stated he absolutely thinks it helped because the tension was thick and they were concerned about their families, especially those with underlying conditions.

#### Carl Robinson

Warden Caron stated it has been uneventful. They test biweekly haven't had any positive in weeks. Still doing Pell program in-house.

#### *f. Update on the Closing of Enfield Correctional Facility*

Chairman Rodriguez questioned if there is any update on Enfield/Northern.

DA Rodriguez stated Enfield is still used for officer agility training. There is no communication on opening that up. Northern is officially closed.

Mr. Slade asked what is going to be done with the facility?

DA Rodriguez stated it will be part of the academy how to manage the control center. How to do counts, one on ones.

#### *g. Update on Town of Somers Joining Prison Liaison Meetings*

DA Rodriguez stated he has attended a few meetings.

Chairman Rodriguez stated he has not heard anything back from Somers on attending the Enfield meetings and will continue to pursue joining meetings.

#### *h. Everbridge System*

—  
District Administrator Rodriguez spoke with director Cotta and he is communicating with Sergeant Sean Maher at the CT State Police headquarters. Once Director Cotta receives an answer how to implement a process from a DOC process, he will give an update.

Chief Fox gave an update that last they spoke they were working on a DOC process. His concern was being the primary that DOC might be doing that he would not be abreast of, especially on an event that effects East Longmeadow and Somers that would be outside of his periphery. It sounds like EPD is going to be the secondary/supplement for a DOC need for the residents of Enfield.

Chairman Rodriguez requested Director Cotta to give an update.

Director Cotta stated he received a communication from the state police. He is working with Steven Hall (EPD emergency management director) and Sgt. Maher. They are going to move forward with the participation and apologizes for the delay. All of this will go through CT Alert.com and emergencies will go through the State Police. They have designated CT alert for the severe emergencies.

The Committee requested to include Director Cotta at the next meeting for an update.

Chief Fox noted there is a continued good working partnership with the DOC. On Friday there is a training exercise CREST Team that is a prison break followed by a theoretical uprising. The participants do know there is a training exercise but not what it is.

Chief stated he will be doing a notification via Everbridge and social media and the DOC will do their notification process.

**Open Forum and Public Participation**

None

**Date of Next Meeting: September 8, 2021**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Slade Motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM. Mr. Edgar seconded the motion. All were in favor (6-0-0).