

# **CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION, INC.**

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## **WEEKLY UPDATE**

To: State Board  
From: Pat Le Sage, Chief Operations & Financial Officer  
Date: December 3, 2004

PLEASE POST ON BULLETIN BOARD  
AND DISTRIBUTE TO  
CCSO MEMBERS VIA THEIR  
INSTITUTIONAL MAIL BOXES

The state prison system's parole chief has been ousted from his job over the Department of Corrections' failure to reduce its inmate population. Rick Rimmer was notified of his removal Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Correctional officials declined to comment about Rimmer's dismissal as deputy director in charge of the Parole and Community Services Division. Contacted by telephone at his home, Rimmer also declined to comment. However, correctional sources have cited his inability to establish the new parole "model" unveiled in May, which would decrease the state's prison population was the primary reason for his dismissal.

CCSO has a scheduled meet and confer over the 7% salary savings on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a priority issue for CCSO, as vacancies and cross coverage have increased far beyond a safe level.

The Seniority Assignments for Sergeants and Lieutenants are going well for many of our facilities. LAC implemented November 17 and November 18 for Lieutenants and November 23 and November 24 for Sergeants. We thank the Warden at LAC for such a fair and smooth implementation.

CCSO have submitted disputes that we will address for CIM and PBSP Seniority Assignments for Lieutenants and Sergeants. No date has been scheduled for these disputes as yet. VSPW seniority assignment dispute is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will provide an update next week, as I will be involved in the dispute process Friday.

## **CYA**

Published Sunday, November 28, 2004, Recordnet:

"Staff members don't carry billy clubs and pepper spray on their belts inside the walls of Missouri's version of the California Youth Authority.

Wards, who are called "kids" in the Missouri Department of Youth Services, live in small, carpeted dormitories. They're not locked in concrete cells. They sleep on bunks covered with bedspreads, wear street clothes and call staff members by their first names.

The California Youth Authority – criticized for its violence and lack of treatment—could start to look more like Missouri's system in the months and years to come, says CYA Director Walter Allen.

Allen said one of the first changes he proposes is creating two halls that he calls the California Living Unit Project. He wants to put one for female wards in Southern California and the second somewhere in the northern part of the state for boys.

A smaller state, Missouri treats about 1,300 juvenile offenders a year, compared with 3,700 in the Youth Authority. California houses older wards, up to the age of 25, while a handful of Missouri's oldest youth offender clients are 21.

California's high cost of living and salaries make it expensive to have a lower staff-to-ward ratio, such as Missouri's, Allen said. California's staff-to-ward ratio is between 1-to-16 and 1-to-25, depending on the security level. In Missouri, that ratio is 1-to-8.

Mark Steward, director of Missouri's Youth Services, said the cost to taxpayers goes down when youths get better treatment. A rehabilitated juvenile offender spends less time in the state's custody, and they need fewer trips to prison clinics because they fight less often while in custody, he said.

California doesn't have a monopoly on juvenile crime. Violence on the streets in St. Louis and Kansas City--Missouri's two biggest cities--rival that of any large city. He said the Missouri juvenile offenders he treats are tough.

You throw kids into a violent environment, and they're going to become violent, said Steward, who has been director of Missouri's Youth Services for the past 17 years."

### **YACA Meeting**

CCSO's meeting with YACA Secretary Rod Hickman, scheduled for Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to conflicting meeting dates. I will reschedule the meeting, as CCSO is anxious to bring to Mr. Hickman's attention concerns adversely effecting correctional supervisors.

Thought for the week: "Truth is the only safe ground to stand on". Elizabeth Stanton

On behalf of the CCSO State Board and staff, I want to welcome the new members who have joined CCSO this week. Member count is 2327.