

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

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“Supervisors Representing Supervisors”

WEEKLY UPDATE FOR AUGUST 20, 2008

Good News for August – Pay is On the Way!!

State Workers will receive full pay this month: Superior Court Judge Timothy Frawley on, Wednesday August 20th, set a hearing, to decide the pay dispute regarding the Governor’s Executive Order to pay state workers federal minimum wage, for September 12th. Since the court hearing is set for September 12th, it is too late to affect this month’s state payroll. Therefore, state workers will receive their full pay for August.

Teamwork does pay off. Although this is just a delay regarding the pay dispute, CCSO applauds the labor organizations that have come together with one voice to oppose the minimum federal wage order cited in the Executive Order. CCSO also wants to praise State Controller John Chiang for defying the Governor’s Order regarding paying the federal minimum wage to state workers. Chiang’s decision is the pivotal key to state workers being paid this month. He has not given orders to the Controllers Office to change anyone’s pay rate to the minimum wage to date. Good Job to All Involved. We await the September 12th court decision to determine if this can occur in future years.

CDCR, DPA & CCSO Meets: Wednesday, August 20th, CCSO met with DPA regarding the Governor’s Executive Order’s negative impact regarding safety in state prisons. CDCR has been attempting to comply with the Governor’s Executive Order of not utilizing overtime, by redirecting, modifying programs, cross covering and doing rolling lockdowns. The unsafe practice of cross covering, especially on 3rd watch weekends has shown to be unsafe and problematic. CCSO’s position remains that CDCR should be exempted from the Executive Order, but until that occurs we recommend inmate programs be modified to accommodate the needs and safety of staff, to stop cross covering, and redirect only as needed.

DPA representative Frank Marr and Dana Manning informed CCSO that once the Budget is passed the Executive Order will remain in place until the Department of Finance certifies that California has an adequate cash balance to meet the State’s obligations. Marr said it should only take a few weeks for the Department of Finance to certify the cash balance once the Budget has been passed.

Budget Update: Republicans and Democrats were not able to compromise, on Sunday August 17th, regarding California’s Budget. The vote taken by the legislature failed and we still do not have a budget. The Democratic proposals to close the \$15.2 billion deficit would raise taxes from 9 to 10% for joint filers making more than \$321,000 per year, and from 10% to 11% for joint filers making \$642,000. The plan would also suspend for 3 years businesses ability to apply past losses to their tax returns. Corporate income tax would be raised. Both parties rejected the Governor’s proposal to temporarily increase by 1% the state’s sales tax. Democrats say these proposals were a true compromise while Republicans say raising taxes during a recession only delays the current downturn. Republicans also claim that Democrats are ignoring a viable spending cap. If a budget is not approved soon, the state will have to take out loans from Wall Street, that will burden taxpayers with additional \$300-\$400 million in added debt.

Congratulations to U.S. Marshals: Congratulations to the 25 of 67 CDCR Office of Correctional Safety Fugitive Apprehension Team agents sworn in as U.S. Marshals. They were sworn in this July by Antonio C. Amador who is the U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of California. The CDCR Office of Correctional Safety Assistant Secretary Richard Rimmer said the fugitive teams started in 1996 and over

time, his agents and the U.S. Marshals found themselves crossing paths on some high profile cases that led to an informal working relationship about five years ago. “This formal relationship with the U.S. Marshals is the next step in the evolution of these teams and is definitely where this department wants to go,” Rimmer said. “With the U.S. Marshals we are able to take the absolute worst-of-the-worst off the streets.”

Once again, congratulations to all the sworn Parole Agents especially to CCSO Parole Agent III Lydia Holmes. We are so proud of you, Lydia, at CCSO.

Not Only CDCR Inmate Health Care Bad: Eighteen (18) California hospitals have been fined by the state for violating laws regarding quality care for patients. Most of the 18 hospitals are in southern California: Anaheim General, Coastal Communities Hospital in Santa Ana, Fountain Valley Regional Hospital, Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian in Newport Beach, Los Alamitos Medical Center, Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs, Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo, Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa, Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Riverside, Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Fresno, L.A.County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, L.A.County-USC Medical Center in Los Angeles, Loma Linda University Medical Center, Palomar Health System in Poway, Promise Hospital of San Diego St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno, San Geronio Memorial Hospital in Banning, and Scripps Green Hospital in San Diego.

It would appear that medical neglect is not only confined to CDCR inmate healthcare, but touches all our lives and is in many of our own hospitals.

Take Care and Be Safe!