

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

May 1, 2009 - Weekly Update

CCSO Conference/General Meeting Overview – Reported by Sgt. Jason Bernard:

(The CCC Chapter President Sgt. Jason Bernard emailed the CCSO headquarters a copy of the overview he provided to the CCSO members at CCC regarding the CCSO conference and general meeting. The overview was right on, and a decision was made to use it as the official CCSO overview. When reading this, please keep in mind it was addressed to the members at CCC from their Chapter President. - Thank you Sgt. Bernard☺)

I went to the CCSO annual conference in Sacramento this weekend and as I promised, here is a rundown on what happened. I was amazed at the organization and the professionalism of the CCSO Headquarters staff, and at the other chapter members that I had the pleasure to meet and speak with. I have a newfound respect for the job that CCSO does for its members and a new respect for CCSO's working relationship with DPA and CDCR. David Gilb, Director for DPA and Mate Cate, CDCR Secretary genuinely seemed to accept CCSO as a force within the State of California and really seemed to be willing to work with our organization. You will see what I mean when you read this update regarding the conference.

Let me start out with the best news that I heard all weekend. DPA Director David Gilb opened his statements by saying that he is anticipating that within the next 30 to 60 days, CDCR managers and supervisors (that's you) will be going to one (1) furlough day per month instead of two. This is great news as we as supervisors were hit like everyone else with the almost 10% pay cut. This will give us back half of it when we are taken down to one furlough day per month. Mr. Gilb stated that this will be only for Supervisors and Managers at this time and that he hopes to have this completed within the next 30 to 60 days. There still needs to be cost saving and cost cutting measures within the Department; however it will not be on the back of just staff salaries and supervisors salaries. Remember, this is for CDCR Supervisors and Managers only, not for all CDCR employees.

During the Presidents meeting on Friday night, Pat Le Sage from CCSO said that she is working on a laminated card that members can carry on their person that will remind members that they are protected under a court injunction from being interrogated without their representative of choice. I emailed this injunction to all local members here at CCC and recommend that you stay aware of this.

Also during the Presidents meeting, State President Richard Tatum informed attendees that CCSO is working on an added vision benefits package for CCSO members. The details are still on the drawing board, but the hopes are possibly additional frame allowances or additional services for CCSO members only at no additional costs to members. Our headquarters will advise us when this happens.

The 3.125% retro pay lawsuit that was filed by CCSO has some big differences from previous lawsuits filed by other organizations. The biggest difference is that this lawsuit will be a jury trial and not a judge trial. There is no chance that a biased or "friendly to the State" judge will just dismiss this without hearing us out. Remember the venue was filed in an area other than Downtown Sacramento, and a jury will hear the trial. CCSO feels confident about this court action.

Saturday's guest speakers were David Gilb, Director DPA and Matt Cate, Secretary CDCR. Mr. Gilb opened with the comments about 1 furlough instead of 2 for supervisors, and then addressed several other issues. First of all, any rumors that have been spread about "Golden Handshakes" are false. There is no Golden Handshakes program. Second, Mr. Gilb informed members that our retirement program is secure and stated that because of all the budget issues and lack of money, "We're going to get through this." Mr. Gilb took numerous questions from members after saying that he wanted us to stay on the job and didn't want a quick

and mass retirement of supervisors. One question that was posed was, "You need to fix the Matrix (disciplinary) and quit making it scary to stay employed when it's just easier to retire." Mr. Gilb deferred the matrix questions to Mr. Cate, Director. Another member stated, "We can't wait to retire, there is no incentive to stay." Members are reminded that CCSO sponsored AB704 "drop" legislation that was introduced gives the state a cost saving option in regards to salary and retirement benefits for supervisors.

Matt Cate, Secretary of the CDCR spoke to the members and brought up the recent cell phone issues within the Department of Corrections. Mr. Cate stated that the possession of a cell phone will probably never be more than a misdemeanor, but will carry RVR penalties for inmates and Administrative action for staff. Mr. Cate said that the Department has asked the FCC to allow signal blocking for cell phones within state prisons, but was denied because they are afraid that the signal will affect others around the institution. The Department is looking for other ways to combat this problem like cell phone sniffing dogs and continued communication with the FCC and other states departments of corrections.

Mr. Cate said that the three judge panel that said they wanted us to release 40 to 60 thousand inmates will be fought by the Department and that the department will file an appeal with the United States Supreme Court and that this appeal will take a long time. Most likely a "stay" will be issued and Mr. Cate said that we have no intention of releasing 40,000 to 60,000 inmates any time soon.

AB900 gives us the ability to build what we need as far as housing goes, but the emphasis needs to be on Level 4 cells and not level 1 & 2 beds, Mr. Cate said. Mr. Cate said that there are plans on the table to build all beds, but he has concerns for the type of beds that are built. He said that we have open beds on 1 & 2 yards, CCF's and Camps but we are hurting for Level 4 and SNY beds. This needs to be our priority for building.

Mr. Cate was asked about the Disciplinary Matrix and how it is being interpreted by some Wardens. Mr. Cate said that the Matrix is a result of the Madrid Lawsuit and said that the Department is really close to getting out from under that lawsuit. We have complied and have done well adhering to the outlines of that lawsuit. The matrix was built and designed by the OIG and the PLO as a result of the lawsuit and individual Wardens need to not always go with the exact wording or punishments that are outlined within the matrix, and on occasion circumstances will dictate punishments for staff. Mr. Cate said that this is a "training issue" with Wardens and he will pass along this information. As I saw it, there are apparently some issues with certain wardens around the state and I am glad that we don't have that issue here at CCC.

Mr. Cate was drilled pretty hard about inmate medical care and the waste within the state. Apparently we are not the only prison sending inmates out for stupid reasons when we have certified doctors on duty. Mr. Cate said that the department is gaining a better working relationship with the receiver and is asking for some say and independent review of the costs that are associated with inmate medical care. All institutions are dealing with wasteful spending on inmate care and the department is aware of it and is doing something about it.

Mr. Cate addressed integrated housing and gave his opinion. Mr. Cate said that in dorms similar to SCC and CCC, inmates of different races are literally three or four feet away from each other and that sounds pretty integrated to him. However, Mr. Cate said "It just pisses me off that inmates can dictate to us where they will live, they already try to dictate their gangs, programs, privileges and get TV's, canteen and everything else, but they won't accept housing assignments, jobs or whatever we give them, it's BS." This comment was very well received by the audience.

The conference was very enlightening and very informative. The CCSO Chapter Presidents meeting will be held in Ontario on October 24th. And the CCSO convention will be held in Anaheim next year in May. If any member of the local chapter has the opportunity to attend, it is definitely worth the trip and the time.