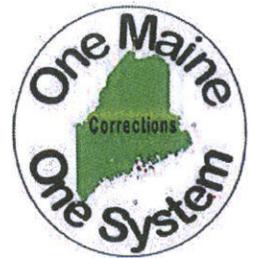




State of Maine Board of Corrections

State House Station #111
Augusta, ME 04333-0111



MEMBERS:

Neale Duffett*
Tom Brown
Irving Faunce
Martha Freeman
George Jabar
Tim King
Martin Magnusson
Scott Story
* Chair of the Board

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER:

Kate Snyder

EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATES:

Kelene Barrows
April Fortier

CORRECTIONS WORKING GROUP:

Sheriff Todd Brackett*
Denise Lord*
Karla Black
Bob Devlin
Sheriff Mark Dion
Scott Ferguson
Ralph Nichols
Michael LeVert
Malory Shaughnessy
Stephen Stanley
*Co-Chairs

FOCUS GROUPS:

Budget
Education
Inventory of Needs
Information Technology
Medical
Mental
Health/Substance
Abuse
Pharmacy
Pretrial/Diversion/Alter
native
Transportation
Victim Services

November 24, 2009

To: Senator Stanley J. Gerzofsky, Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
Representative Anne Haskell, Chair, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
All members, Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

Subject: Board of Corrections Fall, 2009 Site Visits

This fall, the Board of Corrections prioritized county and state correctional facility site visits in an effort to increase communication and improve understanding of the opportunities, issues and challenges that exist at both county and state facilities. To that end, we made two two-day trips this fall to Hancock, Washington, Penobscot, Aroostook, and Piscataquis counties; where we had the opportunity to meet with Sheriffs, County Commissioners and Administrators, Judges, Jail and Prison Administrators, and legislators. These visits provided board members with an important opportunity to communicate face to face about the daily operations at Maine's correctional facilities.

On Thursday November 6th we visited Hancock County Jail in Ellsworth and held a Board meeting at the Ellsworth City Hall. On Friday, November 7th we toured the Washington County Jail in Machias and the Downeast Correctional Facility in Bucks Harbor. During this visit, we had the opportunity to meet with Sheriffs Bill Clark and Don Smith, and Prison Director Scott Jones. Information shared during informal meetings, and observations made during tours of the facilities, enlightened the Board's understanding of specific issues these administrators face.

On Thursday, November 19th we traveled first to the Houlton District Court where we engaged in an informal discussion with two Aroostook County Judges, Sheriff Madore, the county jail administrator, Doug Beaulieu, the county administrator and several Aroostook County Commissioners, and subsequently held a BOC Board meeting at the courthouse. We also toured the Aroostook County Jail. On Friday, November 20th we visited the Women's Re Entry Center in Bangor, followed by a tour of Charleston Correctional Facility, and finally the Piscataquis County Jail. We were able to discuss these facilities and their programs with Women's Reentry Center Program Director Cynthia Reid, Charleston Director Jeff Morin and Jail Administrator David Harmon.

We plan to continue making site visits part of our work to develop and implement a unified correctional system that demonstrates sound fiscal management, achieves efficiencies, reduces recidivism and ensures the safety and security of correctional staff, inmates, visitors, volunteers and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,



Neale Duffett

NAD/ks

CC:

Board of Corrections, Members

Sheriff Bill Clark

Sheriff Don Smith

Sheriff Madore

Doug Beaulieu

Scott Jones

Cynthia Reid

Jeff Morin

David Harmon