

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
PRISON ISSUES BOARD
Montana Women's Prison
Billings, MT
September 13, 2011

Roll Call, DOC Director Mike Ferriter, Patrick Smith – Chairman of the Board, MSP Acting Warden Ross Swanson, MWP DW Robert Paul, DCCF/Warden Tom Green, CCC/Warden Martin Frink, , MCE/Administrator Gayle Lambert

Cascade County was not in attendance.

There is a quorum present.

“In accordance with Montana Code Annotated Section 2-3-103(1), the Board will hold a public comment period. Please note that this open forum period for comment is the public’s opportunity to address the Board on any topic that is within the purview of the Board. While the Board may or may not take action on the issues presented, the Board will listen to comments, may respond to questions, may ask that particular questions, or comments be submitted in writing, and may ask that the issue be placed on a subsequent agenda for possible discussion by the Board. The Chairman of the Board will determine the amount of time allotted for public comment.”

“Pursuant to Montana Law, the Chairman may decide to hold a meeting or part of a meeting in executive session due to interests of individual privacy, or individual or public safety or security of public facilities, including jails, correctional facilities, private correctional facilities, and prisons, if disclosure of the information may jeopardize the safety of facility personnel, the public, or inmates of a facility.”

The minutes from the last meeting were offered to be approved. DW Bob Paul moved to approve the minutes. Warden Martin Frink seconded the motion. All approved.

Welcome and Introductions

In addition to the above people, the following were present;

Mike Mahoney, Ronald Nodland, Dale Henrichs, Colleen Ambrose, Ira Eakin, Andrea Evans, Charlotte Dolezal, Sue Orand, Kara Sperle, Lena Havron

Public;

Ruben McKinney, Joy Wellington, Marian Pappan, Nancy Schwend

Legislative and Management Team Updates – Director Ferriter

The Management Team meets next week for a half day. The Warden position at MSP has not been filled yet. The position was posted a second time. There were about 60 applicants. They were screened down to 10. Last Friday, there were a series of phone interviews. This will lead us to a traditional face to face interview. We had originally hoped to have the position filled by September 12th. They are working on a succession project at MSP. The Director anticipates in the next few years, there is potential for more changes in leadership. The people in the program will be mentored by the Deputy Warden and others. There are about eight or ten people participating in the program.

Another project is the re-entry grant. Gayle Lambert said this is a pilot project, but she is hoping it will go state wide. There are currently eighteen women participating in the project. Participants have to take an assessment test upon entering the program. Part of the grant enabled them to get technical assistance. They are working on this and making big strides.

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Director Ferriter said one of the things this group should know is how key re-entry is to what we do. There are some smaller pieces we can improve on. The assessment instrument is one of them. There are tools used to assess. Community Corrections is involved in this project. The Director asked that we have re-entry on the next agenda.

There was a Law and Justice Committee meeting last Friday. The key topic is restorative justice and Legislature requested we look at this. We had a panel made of Sally Hillander, Dan Burden and Greg Budd. Greg talked about the boot camp program. Another topic that came up was suicide prevention in the county detention facilities.

Division Updates – Deputy Warden Ross Swanson

STG – We are staying busy validating inmates involved in gang activities. It is semi-quiet on the gang front. Part of the reason is because there are about 20 STG inmates in lock up right now. It takes a combined effort to manage this.

One thing we are seeing a rise of in a number of facilities is a lot of dirty UA's. A number of inmates and visitors will not be visiting each other for a while. This affects the security of our facilities. Shaking down during visiting is not always easy, but it is necessary.

The Director already talked about re-entry. When we talk about risk and assessment tools for re-entry it is important to know this is separate from the classification system. It is about the risk of re-offending when released. We will work on a presentation for the next meeting.

There was an inmate assault that occurred at MSP. This is being investigated. Staff responded appropriately. As soon as the County Attorney finishes his investigation, they will decide what to pursue with the inmate.

There are lots of projects at MSP right now. Legislation gave us funding for 120 beds. This is still in the development stage.

The number of inmates in the county jails is steadily climbing. We are short of minimum security beds.

Legal Issues and Updates – Colleen Ambrose

Colleen said there has been a fairly rapid upswing in cases brought against the Department. Most are from the Women's Prison over lack of a boot camp program. Currently, there are two suits regarding pat searches. Both are in Federal Court. They are alleging excessive force during pat searches. There is an ongoing lawsuit with the ACLU with an inmate at MSP. This will be going to trial in February.

One pat search case will be in trial in November. We recently were served with another ACLU lawsuit from Crossroads regarding Native Americans. Ira Eakin has another case from MWP that is scheduled to go to court in December.

Colleen Ambrose noted that the number of attorneys in the department has been reduced, so we no longer have an attorney assigned to a specific division. She asked that legal requests go through the supervisors and that way legal has a single point of contact. Send emails to the legal mailbox or call 3930 in Helena so they can monitor and set timelines for response. She will get something formal out within a few days.

Another ACLU case is with Katka. The attorneys have filed a request or sentence review with Custer County. The hearing is on October 21st. This will be handled by Colleen and Ira.

There have been a couple escapes from Pre-Release Centers with the females. There was one out of Missoula and one in Great Falls. The Powell County Attorney no longer prosecutes these. We are playing it by ear to see if Missoula and Cascade County will prosecute. Right now, Yellowstone County has not been approached about assisting with these cases. The same weekend of the homicide at MSP, there were assaults at Pine Hills. The Investigators were busy with the homicide at MSP, so Ira is working with Custer County. We are seeing an uptake in other kinds of cases. It is stretching them pretty thin.

Federal Court has recommended the dismissal of both Rose cases.

Pat Smith would like to say our Legal Department has been doing a good job.

Pat Smith was also approached by the Director about having someone from juvenile attend these meetings. Steve Ray will be joining us in the future.

Director Ferriter said there is a lot of correlation in what happens in the juvenile facility moving onto the adult system. He heard from Cindy McKenzie from Youth Services and they are looking at things that will affect us.

Deputy Warden Swanson is working on an overall STG policy. STG is our number one issue and it is very high in the community. Community Corrections is looking at a lot of STG training. One of the things that is very alarming at Pine Hills is the number of inmates that are STG validated. Dan Hess, Shelly Steyh, DW Swanson and Patrick Smith will be going to Pines Hills to meet with staff and talk to the inmates. Staff from Pine Hills will be visiting MSP in the future.

Prison Issues Board Guidelines – Pat Smith/Ira Eakin

This was discussed at the last meeting. Patrick handed out the “Guidelines”. He asked that everyone look at the guidelines and opened it up for discussion or comments.

Ira Eakin said we are involved in a case – Rose vs. PIB – regarding the methods by which we conduct our meetings. Our position was that we were meeting within the laws. Good practice is to develop guidelines formally, such as we are looking at. Ira developed the guidelines based on a review of Montana Statutes. We have to give notice of the meeting. We must have an agenda. The meeting must have minutes and they must be made available. We have to allow for public comment during the meetings. The language that Pat Smith reads at the beginning of the meeting is to explain to the public that that they will be allowed to attend and address the Board with questions and comments. It also explains that if the chairman decides that what is being discussed deals with individual privacy, individual or public safety or security of prison facilities, that the chairman has the authority to close the meeting.

Patrick Smith said for the most part, we have followed these rules and guidelines since we became aware that meetings of the PIB are open meetings.

Ira Eakin said there is a distinguishing characteristic between the PIB and the Management Team meetings. Public participation, as opposed to public comment. The PIB does not have the authority to make rules for the department, it does not have authority to enter into contracts, and it does not make decisions of significant interest to the general public. Because of Statutes, we have an obligation to take comments from the public. It is a little different than saying the public has a right to participate.

Gayle Lambert commented that the Guidelines say “public participation”. Should it be changed to say public comment? Ira Eakin responded that by allowing the public to comment, we are allowing participation. By allowing the public to make comments, they can comment on anything that falls within the department’s jurisdiction.

Colleen Ambrose said perhaps the Guidelines should say level of participation, not just participation. When an agency passes a rule, you must allow public comment. We don’t make rules or contracts. The only decisions made here are ones which relate to what goes on inside the facilities and IWF funds distribution. Public comment is a form of participation.

Mike Mahoney wanted to commend our legal department. They have done a tremendous job in exposing this group to the public.

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Colleen Ambrose proposed the heading should say form of public participation.

Director Ferriter asked if the term "Board" was misleading. When he thinks of boards, he thinks of appointed people. Does this mislead the public? Ira Eakin said it really does not matter whether it is called a Board, or as it was previously called, a "Task Force."

Patrick Smith proposed we move forward with the exception of the change in the heading. DW Swanson moved to approve the Prison Issues Board Guidelines. Warden Frink seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The Guidelines will be posted on our site.

Security Chiefs Annual Review of Property Lists – Bob Paul

See handout for complete list of items

Bob Paul brought a list of items reviewed at the annual Security Chief Property Meeting on May 10th. One thing the security chiefs have agreed to is, if they add something to the property list, they have to take something off to keep the list from growing.

DCCF asked to eliminate pomade as it is a security risk. This was done at the April PIB meeting.

A small standard dictionary was added to the Canteen. This was done for consistency between the facilities. Colleen Ambrose asked if we would be allowing foreign language dictionaries or just English. Bob Paul said the question had never come up. Gayle Lambert said the foreign language dictionary is okay. All agreed. They are looking at a small paperback version of the dictionary. DW Swanson said the library will still have a dictionary available. Dalen Henrichs asked if the inmates would be allowed two dictionaries. All agreed, this will just be part of their total allowable books.

DW Swanson said there has been a lot of discussion, comments and complaints regarding motors and electronics. Tattooing is one of our largest issues. One of the reasons for replacing the CD players with MP3 players are they are not being used for the listening of CD's. We are trying to remove the electric motor devices. Bob Paul added they are looking at lowering the amount of allowable property.

Gayle Lambert moved to approve the proposed property changes with the addition of a foreign language dictionary. DW Ross Swanson seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

Pat Smith said the Great Falls Regional Prison went live on Monday, so they should be starting canteen on Monday. We are working towards a standardized canteen and property items.

Gayle Lambert had the MP3 Player with her that we will be selling. There was a problem with the original MP3 player, so we will offer a Mini Max for \$57.50. This is the next one up from the original and is 8GB. It will be available for the same price. The offenders that get the MP3 player right away will get the best deal. The inmate's name and number will be on the player. If someone tries to take and load songs onto someone else's player, the music will be completely wiped off. This will be implemented sixty days after the contract is signed. The inmates will be able to pre-order songs and when they plug the player into the kiosk, the inmate account will be checked prior to downloading. The players come with a battery pack and they can order a charger. Batteries will be available from the canteen. There is a process for inmates to keep and use the players when they get released from the facilities. The players will have names and numbers so the officers will know if the player belongs to the inmate. Gayle said they checked to see if we could load the songs from already purchased CD's and we cannot.

DW Swanson said there is a grandfather clause for six months to get rid of the CD's and the players.

Dale Henrichs asked when the offender goes to the kiosk to choose songs, where is the catalog? Gayle Lambert said it is on the player. The smaller players will not have the catalog, but one will be available.

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Colleen Ambrose asked about the inmates who are visually impaired. Gayle Lambert said there is an attachment with Braille for this purpose.

Gayle Lambert said the player has been discussed with other states, and this is a new concept for corrections and is where other places are heading. The players will have a warranty.

Discussion of Correspondence and Publications – DW Ross Swanson

At the last meeting, we had a discussion on the amount of magazines and correspondence policy. We looked at having an approved magazine list, to be sold through the MSP canteen. We tried to have a fair process and have some input from the inmates. For the most part, there were good comments submitted. There were about 600 potential magazines. We wanted to go to a disapproved list for magazines so that we are all working off the same list. When you look at it, we have about 30-40 inmates who are trying to get questionable magazines. There was a lot of work put into it. We need to stay consistent with all the facilities. We propose a listing of allowable magazines to be determined and approved by a committee and these will be the only magazines allowed in the facilities.

Warden Martin Frink said when the list was posted; there was a lot of complaining and griping at first. He likes the idea of having a disapproved list of magazines.

DW Swanson said the old definition of nudity had to do with props. They took the props wording out. If the intent is for sexual stimulation, then they will be disapproved.

The canteen will not be selling the magazines. One thing that gets lost with this is the ability to get a single issue instead of a subscription.

This policy (MSP 3.3.6) will get sent out for five day review. All the magazines that are currently disallowed will stay on that list. All members agreed to review the policy changes and go with the new proposed policy and committee.

Grievance Review – Charlotte Dolezal

Handout

At the end of the year, there were 497 Informal Resolutions at MWP. This is for the fiscal year. There were not a lot of formal grievances; most are taken care of at the informal level. There was not one grievance on the new pay policy.

DW Swanson said everyone is aware that we are trying to get everyone automated on OMIS to get these types of reports. This way we can go back to the facilities and look at their reports and find problem areas. Our grievance officers take care of a lot of issues prior to filing grievances. It says we are doing a lot of work on the ground level. There is a lot of good information in these reports.

Patrick Smith said he uses and reads the reports from the facilities to see where the problem areas are. Overall it shows our grievance system is working.

Roundtable Discussion

MWP – DW Bob Paul

Warden Acton sends her regards. She is traveling out of country.

They have a garden project out back. The purpose is to offset organically grown vegetables for the chow hall and also for the food bank. They should be able to put a ton or so of vegetables into the food bank.

Director Ferriter asked if this is an industries program.

DW Paul said this is just an MWP program. One of the things they have learned at MWP with the Right Living Therapeutic Community is there have been a lot of inmates interested in participating in the garden project.

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The control system project is out to bid right now. They had thirteen vendors take a tour of the facility. Hopefully by next April, they will have an updated system. They are updating the hardware and software.

They are doing a lot of work revisiting the mental health contract. They have two mental health workers that are DOC employees. They are organizing and moving things around. DW Paul gave kudos to Sue and her crew. As far as STG stuff is concerned, they are staying on top of it. The Women's Prison is more of a refuge from the STG stuff the women see on the outside. They have very few (STG) and their behavior is not tolerated. Women are more likely to come forward and let the administration know what is going on.

The current population is 191. They have 194 total beds. Last week, they had 197, but were anticipating several leaving. The jail hold for them is eight. They have been looking at other avenues for short time offenders, possibly housing them in the county jails.

Alley closure – MWP bought the property in the back of the facility and raised all the buildings back there for the gardens. There is an alley back there and it is constantly a problem. Closing the alley has become a problem with the local government.

MCE – Gayle Lambert

Two top managers retiring in the next couple months. Bill Dabney has been there for over 30 years. The industries director is also retiring. They are trying to find a different way to keep going. The furniture portion of industries is what keeps the program going and with so many budget cuts, people are not buying furniture.

MSU Billings was just awarded a grant for a mentoring program that deals directly with female offenders.

The Women's Prison has an embroidery and silk screening program that is doing quite well.

MSP – DW Ross Swanson

There are a lot of projects going at MSP. The low side is almost done. There will be additional ADA cells and showers, a new library, low side visiting, classrooms, a bigger infirmary and an improved transportation department. We are now putting new roofs and boilers in Close I and II.

All of our jobs are really hard and trying to strike a balance sometimes interferes with the business of running a facility. We end up chasing a lot of grievances and complaints that, when you really look at them, they have no merit. We need to find a happy balance between inmate manipulation and running the facility and being progressive.

Budget – Lena Havron/Kara Sperle

Nothing to report

DCCF – Warden Tom Green

The garden program continues to do well. They use what they can in the kitchen.

The horse program is going well.

The TV shelves have been installed. New TV's in the pods have been installed.

They are looking at signage for their boundaries.

There is an oil boom in Eastern Montana. The motels and restaurants are full. It is very hard to compete with the wages.

DCCF has a year left on their phone contract and will be trying to get the same system as MSP.

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Dale Henrichs said their STG Coordinator is having problems with where to send photos. Rob Kersch used to do this, but does not anymore. DW Swanson advised him to send the photos to Dan Hess or Tracy Napier at MSP.

DW Swanson will send out an email to the facilities and let everyone know that Tracy Napier has joined Dan Hess at MSP and is a STG Staff Sergeant. We have been working with the Information Technology Department on OMIS about going into OMIS and getting a master printout of our identified STG members. Tracy is getting this cleared up.

CCC – Warden Martin Frink

As some are aware, there is a new Associate Warden at CCC. Mike Mahoney has recently started in his new position. They are looking forward to his experience and expertise.

There was a lot of participation with the inmate picnics.

A lot of dogs have completed the dog program and there were a lot of happy people.

They continue to monitor the STG population. They received information and were able to intercept contraband through the visiting area.

CCC is trying to coordinate to get the new phone system.

Update on Inmate Pay Policy – Lena Havon

The theme has been consistency of the facilities. A year ago, we saw the need across all the facilities for consistency. We worked together on this and it is not an inmate pay policy. It is an inmate assignment policy. They had a lot of goals for this policy. It was signed on May 18, 2011. It is 5.1.1 and is on the internet. If you are an Inmate Swamper at MSP, you are compensated the same as an Inmate Swamper at DCCF.

Lena will be out working with the facilities. We have to hold everyone accountable. The Legislators cut our inmate pay and what we can pay them for.

Pat Smith thanked Lena for taking the project on. It is not popular and she did a good job.

IWF Account Updates, Requests, Funding Reviews and New Business – Lena Havron/Kara Sperle

An overview of the IWF accounts was passed out. We have quite a bit of overall fund balance. MSP and MWP are looking at a couple of things. The next project might be on the global re-entry funds. The IWF funds are generated from canteen profits and phone revenues. A portion of every phone call and canteen purchase goes back to the IWF fund. The canteen does not make a profit – A portion is kept for inventory and what is profit goes back into the IWF funds.

Pat Smith said policy is where we need to start at for a global funding for IWF. This could assist with transportation and housing. This is money that is above and beyond what IWF is normally used for. Some of this money could be used for release assistance. We have parole officers at the facilities and they work on the release plans. We can get the inmates out, but we usually cannot help them past the first day of release.

IWF requests

CCC – no IWF requests

DCCF – no IWF requests

MWP – no IWF request

MCE – Gayle Lambert has one. We do drivers license and ID cards for all inmates leaving the facilities. This is a statute. The ID card is paid for by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Legislation passed a statute changing what is required for proof of identity. You must have a birth certificate now. The inmates will have to purchase a birth certificate to get their ID cards. Gayle spoke with DW Swanson about which birth certificates they will have to pay

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for. IWF will pay for the ones who are indigent. MCE is requesting up to \$3100. This is a cost estimate to cover this expenditure until the end of the fiscal year. MSP said their IWF would cover the cost of this with their IWF funds. This has not been brought to the inmates yet.

The DOJ covers the cost of the ID cards; the inmates have to provide the birth certificates. This is on an as needed case. If the offender has a Montana Drivers License, they will not need a birth certificate. This is for the offenders who need a birth certificate to get the ID card.

Lena Havron asked how the expense would be processed.

Gayle Lambert said IWF would cover half the cost for everyone unless they are indigent – up to five dollars. If they are indigent, IWF would pay the whole thing. This is just for this fiscal year. The inmate must be indigent by policy. They must meet the indigent status policy to get the whole thing paid.

Warden Frink moved to approve this request. DW Paul seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

MSP – DW Swanson has an IWF request for MSP that has been through the IWF Committee. The request is to upgrade the CACTUS System. Cascade is the only facility not currently getting canteen. They need a scanner and software to implement the canteen and upgrade to the CACTUS System. The total is \$6043 total from MSP IWF funds. This will benefit everyone. The benefit is that all canteen will come from one vendor and will have consistency with prices and property items.

Warden Green moved to approve this request. Warden Frink seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

GFRP – Cascade is not here. They were working on getting a bid for wiring the facility for TV. The Director met with the new sheriff in Cascade County. They are the only facility that does not offer a GED Program. He would like to see if Lena Havron or Wayne Bye could approach them (Cascade) for funding through their IWF for the GED Program. It might be possible to go through the College of Great Falls. DCCF does this through the local college and it works very well.

Patrick Smith – One thing that will come up is the DCCF legal computer. It is having issues and is very old. He thinks it is seven or eight year old. We may want to look at replacing this computer and other older legal computers. Colleen Ambrose handles the contract that provides the research program. It does not cover the computer itself. The problem is IT will not service the computers after they are placed in the facilities. This is because the computers are not networked, so they (IT) are not required to service them. The computers are bought by state funds and we are required to maintain them. This is a problem at all the facilities.

The Director asked if there is room in the IWF funds to contract an IT person.

Lean Havron said perhaps we should sit down with our IT people and see if we can find a solution.

The Director said that at Pine Hills, they had talked about training an education staff member to take care of this. DW Swanson wants to set up a meeting with John Daugherty to troubleshoot this issue. Lena Havron will send out an email to the contract monitors and see how old the computers are they are using for inmate legal.

Public Comment Period

Ruben McKinney

Handed out flyer

He is with Montana Connections (privately run program). About half of what was handed out was nullified because you guys changed your mind on the subscriptions. Mainly Montana Connections is working for positive

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change. My only thing there is I wish when you buy a subscription you should be able to share it. On your discontinued items, you have boots and things like that. The inmate pays for the boots and a couple weeks later, they are not allowed. You put the burden on people who cannot pay. You cut their work week – a lot of inmates would rather work than lay around. You need to be a little more flexible. The UA test – maybe your staff member should get tested. In Great Falls there was a staff member bringing in drugs. I think the UA test is a good idea. If you have a Federal job, you get UA tested all the time. The length of time between parole and exit. We track them. The last one paroled in February. The Parole Board granted parole and it took 60 days for him to get released. This is not acceptable. One inmate had over two years clear conduct and got a minor infraction and lost his parole. You have rule changes as the shift changes.

Marian Pappan

Handed out flyer

Marian is with Montana Dads Incarcerated, Inc (privately run program). They provide resources for housing and employment when the inmates get released.

Director Ferriter asked Marian if the Parole Officers know her.

Marian said yes, she works with a few of our officers.

Nancy Schwend

I respect the Director and the inmates do also. He is accessible. I also commend Mike Mahoney. Ruben has a lot of things that cause her concern. You have a lot of rules. Unless there is oversight, they mean nothing. The system is broken and will always be broken. It is because the magnitude of the system. Montana has developed many alternatives than being incarcerated. The system is discriminatory about the commissary and the telephone. Those should not be money making issues. You put it on the backs on inmate families that have no money. I don't know what the system is at Shelby. That system has changed and had made a big difference in keeping in touch with family. For ten years, I have been part of the system. The one thing that concerns me the most is the decisions that are made as an inmate goes through the stages. There is retaliation. It is serious and at all levels. You will not hear it from the prisoners because it makes it worse. We as Americans are given the right to face our accusers. Not so in Parole review. They are not allowed to know why information has gone into their file. I understand some of those things with victims need to be protected. There are other things in the file that are bogus and they are in my sons file. They will be in it until the day he dies.

Pat Smith advised Ms. Schwend that we have no control over the Board of Pardons whatsoever and asked her to keep concerns related to issues in the secure care system.

Nancy Schwend - Right now my son is at Shelby. There are issues there that are offensive. We all know there are drugs in prison. The last time I was at Shelby, about midway through the visit, I reached into my pocket and had my cell phone. There is no security. I can tell you anything I wanted to take in there, I could take in. This causes me concern. This should not be happening. It terms of write-ups, over here is the store, over here is where I get inked, and over here is where I get special things. All of those things are allowed to continue. My son was forced to go to the store because they have cut down on the amount of toilet paper. He has ulcerated colitis. Being able to go to the bathroom is a serious issue. The other thing that is offensive is the guards are unprofessional. Their uniforms are gray and dirty and it is offensive to be in the visiting room. You don't find that in Deer Lodge. I understand at CCC, you people don't have the authority to do what they do in Deer Lodge, so they are disrespected. At Shelby there is a real concern for your security because it is non-existent. I would ask that you really take a look at that and control the contraband coming in. It is not unusual to go to Shelby and the vending machines are empty. I don't know who services the machines. They are empty, unhealthy and eat your money. We go up there to have family time. Being able to have something to eat and drink is not asking too much. That and the security of the facility be looked and something done about it.

Joy Wellington

I live in Red Lodge. I have only visited two facilities. I have never felt more respected and appreciated than I have at the Women's Prison. MSP is getting a little better. There are so many things that could be made better. It has a long way to go. Part of the thing that is a big concerns is visitors overall. Visitors are extremely disgruntled, which

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means they are in violation of some rule. They get sent back to town to a thrift store. If it is Sunday, you are out of luck. Who knows how far they have gone. For example, what I am wearing would probably not be allowed in because my pants are too tight. I saw a woman who was 80 years old with a cane that was turned away because you could see her bra strap through her shirt. Yes, contraband is brought in by visitors. You need to look at other areas. With the telemate system, they do offer voice mail to leave a message. There is no way to get a message to an inmate if you cannot make it. They say all it takes is to turn on the system to make it accessible. At MSP, the phones get turned off with no warning. One more comment about the dress code. It is not consistent. It is depressing. It is demeaning. If you have a problem with a person, they target you. There is a lot of staff that makes you feel uncomfortable. The vending machines – all you get is sugar. The vending machines offer very little for nutrition. We have water at MSP, but by the third or fourth day, there is no water. You have to pay seventy five cents for a tea bag with water, then ten cents for a little creamer. You only have one machine that provides food and by Saturday and Sunday, it is empty.

Patrick Smith did receive some written comments. These comments will be posted.

There were no other public comments. The public comment period is closed. If anyone from the board wishes to respond, they can.

Director Ferriter said we have worked hard to update the visitor information on our website. The website does clarify what is accepted in terms of attire.

The next meeting will be on December 6, 2011 in Helena at DOC Central Office.

The last portion of the meeting was held in closed session pursuant to Montana Law. The Chairman decided to hold the last part of the meeting in executive session due to interests of individual privacy, or individual or public safety or security of public facilities, including jails, correctional facilities, private correctional facilities, and prisons, if disclosure of the information may jeopardize the safety of facility personnel, the public, or inmates of a facility.