

KY DOC director found guilty of contempt -- Kentucky DOC Commissioner John Rees "willfully violated" a court order from last month when he refused to release inmate Daniel Ottman, Jefferson Circuit Court Judge Judith McDonald-Burkman said in a hearing. Rees said the department would appeal McDonald-Burkman's decision.

The Commissioner's refusal was based on the Department's view that the inmate in question was not eligible for release. "I personally feel I was correct," Rees told The (Louisville) Courier-Journal outside the courtroom.

This marks at least the second time Rees has disobeyed a judge's order in recent months to release a juvenile on shock probation. Rees said judges sometimes make mistakes.

In a subsequent hearing, the court assessed Rees a fine of \$500, but did not impose any jail time for the conviction.

Harris County TX to use private facility -- In an effort to reduce jail overcrowding, Harris County, TX (Houston) has decided to move as many as 400 inmates to a private facility in northeast Louisiana operated by APCTO member **Emerald Companies** as part of a plan to deal with a surge in prisoners.

The inmates selected for transfer have been convicted of state jail felonies, for which judges may sentence offenders to a county lockup instead of a state prison.

Cognitive Behavioral Training report issued -- [Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment: A Review and Discussion for Corrections Professionals](#) informs corrections and probation/parole professionals about the availability and benefits of cognitive-behavioral treatment services while considering the specific risks and needs of offender populations. It also helps mental health professionals evaluate or improve delivery of treatment to their clients.

Demand for beds rises in Mississippi -- Housing costs are expected to increase about \$20 million a year for the Mississippi Department of Corrections. Commissioner Chris Epps says the amount is needed to provide beds and buildings for an inmate population increasing by 1,000 prisoners annually.

Washington plans two centers for parole violators – The state director of corrections has announced plans for two treatment centers that could each handle between 200 and 500 ex-convicts jailed for violating terms of parole. The violations typically include failing to get drug and alcohol treatment and failing to check in regularly with a community corrections officer.

According to reports, the facilities would likely be built and operated by for-profit companies, and would offer drug treatment, schooling and mental health care. Most state work-release centers are currently operated by the private sector.

Washington officials have toured facilities run by New Jersey-based Community Education Centers. "I've got to tell you, I was tremendously impressed," he said.

The agency will send out feelers next month and will send the appropriations request to the governor and Legislature.

Oklahoma corrections training to be hosted by OU -- The University of Oklahoma has won a contract to host a training academy for employees of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

OU won the right to host the Training and Development Academy over five other schools including Oklahoma State which has held the academy the past 17 years.

Stalder on medical leave in Louisiana -- Corrections Secretary Richard Stalder, who will undergo back surgery in August, will be away from his office for four months to deal with health issues.

NY law impedes privatization – Governor Spitzer has signed into law a bill prohibiting the privatization of security posts in state jails. The measure, which was vetoed four times by former Governor Pataki, bars the State Department of Correctional Services from replacing Correctional Officers with private guards.

New corrections secretary in Wisconsin -- Governor Jim Doyle has appointed former Dane County Sheriff Rick Raemisch as the new secretary of the Department of Corrections.

Raemisch has been a key player at the DOC since 2003, when he joined the agency as administrator of community corrections, and since 2004 has served as the deputy secretary. He is also a former assistant district attorney for Dane County and a former assistant U.S. attorney.

Training Addresses Mental Health Service Delivery for Youth in Detention -- On August 21-23, 2007, in Houston, TX, the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's National Training and Technical Assistance Center](#) will conduct training on [Mental Health Service Delivery for Youth in Detention and Corrections](#).

Designed for detention and correction staff working with youth having mental health disorders, the workshop will address such topics as:

- common mental health disorders
- screening and assessment

- interacting with youth with mental health disorders
- treatment of mental health disorders.

The registration deadline is August 19, 2007. There is no registration fee. To access further information about this training opportunity and to register online, visit <http://www.nttac.org/index.cfm?event=calendarEvent&EventID=1539>.