

January 2007

APCTO members to meet with OFDT in Washington – Representatives of APCTO member companies will meet in mid-January with Scott Sturmer and Claudia Hill of the OFDT. Agenda items include new medical audit procedures.

Members meeting set for January 21st in Tampa – APCTO will convene its semi-annual meeting from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Sunday, January 21st at the Marriott Hotel in Tampa, in connection with the winter meeting of the American Correctional Association. Agenda items include election of officers, approval of the 2007 work plan and budget and a panel discussion on the implications of MRSA in a corrections environment. The senior policy advisor of the not-for-profit, Stop Prison Rape, will also address the group regarding the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Delaware Commissioner of Corrections to retire -- Commissioner Stan Taylor has announced that he will retire on February 1st after 11 years as head of the corrections department. Governor Minner will appoint his successor, who then must be confirmed by the DE Senate.

New APCTO officers nominated – The Association nominating committee has proposed a slate of officers for 2007. The election will take place at the January meeting in Tampa. The nominees are:

- a. President – Wayne Calabrese
- b. Vice President – Jean Brock
- c. Secretary – Ellen Yankellow
- d. Treasurer – Scott Marquardt
- e. At-Large (large company) – James Hyman
- f. At Large (small company) – Steve Afeman

Georgia's prison population rises above capacity – The Georgia Department of Corrections has told the State's Corrections Board that the state system now holds more than 53,000 offenders, seven percent over its capacity.

The Geo Group Inc opens new private facility – APCTO member, **The GEO Group, Inc**, announced last month the completion and opening of the 1,000-bed Central Arizona Correctional Facility located in Florence, Arizona. The Facility will house medium security sexual offenders for the State of Arizona.

Federal Judge gives CA six months to solve overcrowding problem -- A federal judge has given California officials six months to ease crowding in the state's prison system. He indicated that potential remedies include capping the inmate population and releasing some prisoners early.

The state is trying to find solutions for a prison system that houses 173,000 inmates, 70 percent more than its capacity.

Governor Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in October. He is now seeking to transfer 2,260 inmates to other states as a partial solution. California sent 80 inmates to a private prison in Tennessee in early November and plans more transfers to private prisons in Arizona, Indiana, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

Even if the transfers survive pending court challenges, officials predict California's prisons will run out of room by spring 2008. A new court hearing is scheduled for June 4th.

Colorado names new corrections secretary – Governor-elect Bill Ritter has named former Denver police chief and mayoral candidate Ari Zavaras to head the State's Department of Corrections. He returns to the job he held under the Roemer administration from 1993 to 1998.

International media continues interest in private prisons – During December, APCTO received and responded to reporters from the United Kingdom and Brazil who contacted the Association for information on prison privatization.

The *Economist* and *Examiner*' both are doing in-depth articles and were seeking information on our industry. ACPTO was able to articulate its key messages of high quality service, increased accountability and lower cost along with supporting details from our web site.

Colorado ships inmates to Oklahoma – Demonstrating the critical nature of the overcrowding situation impacting Colorado's prison system, officials have sent 240 inmates to a private prison in Oklahoma. This move comes at a time that California is also looking for out-of-state beds and other states face their own population concerns.

DC director of corrections to stay on the job -- Mayor-elect Adrian M. Fenty has announced that corrections director Devon Brown, will remain in the new administration. Brown was appointed by outgoing Mayor Anthony Williams.

US Department of Justice files suit over OK juvenile program --The US Department of Justice has filed a complaint against the state of Oklahoma, challenging the conditions at the state operated Sand Springs juvenile detention center. Federal prosecutors believe the state hasn't corrected serious violations found in a two-year investigation at the L F Rader Center. Violations included inappropriate sexual relationships, violence and abuse of psychotropic medications.

Nevada prison buildings go smoke free – Following the trend in prison facilities around the country, Nevada banned smoking inside its prison facilities, effective January 1st. Smoking bans are becoming common in prisons throughout the United States. At

least 38 of the 50 state correctional departments are smoke-free or have partial bans on smoking. The Federal Bureau of Prisons outlawed smoking in all of its prisons in 2004.

The bans came after a 1993 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that supported inmates who charged that being held in smoke-filled facilities constitutes cruel and unusual punishment.

Idaho Department of Corrections changes –Governor-elect Butch Otter of Idaho asked director of corrections, Vaughn Killeen, to resign. Killeen, who was appointed in July, left office at the end of December. The Governor has named Brent Reinke, former director of the Department of Juvenile Corrections to replace Killeen... Larry Callicut, who most recently served as superintendent of Idaho's Juvenile Corrections Center in Mapa, will replace Reinke.

California prison healthcare staffing is changing -- California's prison medical system will separate medical and custody functions as other states do and national prison health accrediting organizations recommend.

The change will eliminate California's use of medical technical assistants (MTA), whom the Federal receiver managing the system describes as "a form of nurse/police officer that is not used in any other prison system in the United States."

According to the receiver, MTAs are primarily licensed vocational nurses, entry-level health workers intended to work under the direction of a registered nurse or doctor. They have some prison guard training, but not the 16 weeks of academy training required for other guards. They earn the same pay and retirement benefits, however, as prison guards.

This hybrid position, the receiver says, has "created an environment of unnecessary tension" and "unworkable and overly complex lines of authority." The chain of command is confusing -- do MTAs follow the nursing chain of command or the custody chain of command? Nurses complain that the dual role is a setup for trouble, such as MTAs failing to give "noncompliant" prisoners medicine or delaying or discarding their requests for medical care.

In the future, this change will dictate that a new position for licensed vocational nurses, who will report to the nursing chain of command, be created to replace the MTAs.

Florida juvenile justice official resigns -- Juvenile Justice Secretary Anthony Schembri resigned at year's end. Governor-elect Charlie Crist accepted the resignation but has made no announcement regarding a successor.

Delaware signs agreement on prisons -- Delaware Correction Commissioner Stan Taylor and Attorney General Carl Danberg have signed an 87-point agreement with the federal government that orders the state to completely renovate its prison health care system.

The state promised to fix problems and "meet generally accepted professional standards,"

but the state did not admit to violating any inmate's civil rights or breaking any other federal law.

Executive Director contact information – Those interested in additional information about APCTO can review the Association's web site at www.apcto.org or contact the executive director at doucette@apcto.org.

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