

September 2006

MTC opens new detention center for illegal inmates -- In what is likely a record for rapid response to a customer's need, APTCO member **Management and Training Corporation** opened the first section of a new detention center in Willacy County, TX in early August. The first inmates arrived within 40 days of the awarding of the contract and the start of construction. The facility, which will ultimately house 2000 detainees, utilizes a futuristic looking dome structure which resulted in the rapid construction and will reach full capacity within 90 days.

The new \$65 million facility is a fast-track project started in June. The dome-like structures are made of steel frames covered with a nylon based material. They feature cement floors, full plumbing, heating, air conditioning and electrical wiring and are expected to last 30 years or longer.

Utah Department of Corrections tours APCTO member facilities – As a result of the public-private correctional partnership workshop held by APCTO for Utah Director Scott Carver and his staff, a team of Utah officials is visiting a number of private correctional facilities. The group has already visited Emerald's facility in Haskell, TX and is scheduled to visit an MTC facility near Cleveland, OH later this month. Cornell Companies has also invited the team to visit one of their prisons.

The GEO Group announces 3-2 stock split -- GEO's Board of Directors declared a 3-for-2 stock split of GEO's common stock. The stock split will take effect on October 2, 2006 with respect to stockholders of record on September 15, 2006. Following the stock split, GEO's diluted shares outstanding will increase from 12.9 million to 19.5 million.

Corrections Corporation of America announces 3-2 stock split -- On August 3rd, CCA announced that shareholders of record on September 1, 2006 would experience the 3-2 split in the form of a 50 percent stock dividend on its common stock. The split will increase the number of shares of common stock outstanding from approximately 40.3 million to approximately 60.4 million, the company said.

Briefs Discuss Mental Health Needs of Youth Involved with Juvenile Justice (The following is taken from *JuvJustice*, published by OJJDP)

The [National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice](#) has published a [series](#) of research and program briefs on issues related to youth with mental health needs in contact with the juvenile justice system. The series includes:

- "[Blueprint for Change: Improving the System Response to Youth with Mental Health Needs Involved with the Juvenile Justice System](#)"

This brief provides an overview of the Center's report "[Blueprint for Change: A Comprehensive Model for the Identification and Treatment of Youth with Mental Health Needs in Contact with the Juvenile Justice System](#)." The report details the results of the largest mental health project to date funded by the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP).

- "[Juvenile Diversion: Programs for Justice-Involved Youth with Mental Health Disorders](#)"

This brief offers an overview of juvenile diversion for youth with mental health disorders, reviewing key findings from a Center survey of diversion programs and reviewing promising program models.

- "[Juvenile Mental Health Courts: An Emerging Strategy](#)"

This brief summarizes the results of a recent Center survey of juvenile mental health courts, and discusses some key issues surrounding the growing use of these courts.

- "[Youth with Mental Health Disorders in the Juvenile Justice System: Results from a Multi-State Prevalence Study](#)"

This brief discusses key findings from a multi-state study of the prevalence of mental health disorders among youth in the juvenile justice system, funded by OJJDP.

Sexual Violence Reported by Correctional Authorities, 2005 -- A report presenting data from the Survey on Sexual Violence, 2005, an administrative records collection of incidents of inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate sexual violence reported to correctional authorities, is available from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The report provides counts of sexual violence, by type, for adult prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities. The report provides an in-depth analysis of substantiated incidents, including where the incidents occur, time of day, number and characteristics of victims and perpetrators, nature of the injuries, impact on the victims and sanctions imposed on the perpetrators. The appendix tables include counts of sexual violence, by type, for all State systems, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and all sampled jail jurisdictions. The report also includes an update on BJS activities related to implementation of the data collections required under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-79).

Highlights include the following:

- Correctional authorities substantiated 885 incidents of sexual violence in 2005, 15% of completed investigations.
- 38% of allegations involved staff sexual misconduct; 35% inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual sexual acts; 17%, staff sexual harassment; and 10% inmate-on-inmate abusive sexual contact.
- Half of inmate-on-inmate sexual violence involved physical force or threat of force.

Effects of Kaiser's Meal-Time Experiment Could Show Up in Prisons (This item appeared on CorrectionsNews.com) -- Nineteen Kaiser Permanente hospitals in Northern California have initiated a little culinary experiment that could have consequences across the U.S. The hospitals are buying fresh produce from local farmers rather than relying on the far-flung industrial farms that supply most large health care facilities. While Kaiser's aim is to aid patient recovery by providing fresher, tastier food, the idea of buying from nearby small producers could spread to prison and jail commissaries as well. Doing so could create several beneficial effects: win greater local support for prisons because of their direct beneficial effect on the economy; help prisoner morale (and nutrition) by adding fresher food to menus; help states and municipalities cut down on the transportation and energy costs associated with long-distance transport of perishable items.

Maryland's Corrections Commissioner resigns, replacement named -- Division of Correction Commissioner Frank C. Sizer Jr. resigned in August, giving 2 weeks notice. Sizer, had been in his post for three years and in the department for 11.

John Rowley, 56, was named to lead the troubled agency after the abrupt retirement of Frank C. Sizer Jr., who faced growing criticism for prison violence. Mr. Rowley has been working with the Maryland Division of Correction for 14 months. He came to Maryland after a 25-year career with the Pennsylvania corrections department.

Private health provider ends contract with DOC -- PHS, a Tennessee-based company that handles health care needs for local and state-run jails and prisons around the country, announced that it would end its contract to provide services to nearly 14,000 prisoners in more than a dozen South Florida prisons.

Correct RX renews APCTO membership -- Recently, Ellen Yankellow, President and CEO of Correct RX and an APCTO Board member renewed her company's membership in APCTO. Ellen was one of the founding board members and has given much to the organization. Thanks Ellen!

Iowa Board of Corrections proposes additional female prison beds -- A surging population of female convicts, fueled by the war on drugs, prompted the Iowa Board of Corrections to ask lawmakers for \$30 million to construct prison space for an additional 300 female offenders.

Head of state prisons gets job permanently -- California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has made permanent his appointment of James Tilton to head the California Department of Corrections.

APCTO SPEAKS -- Your association monitors the print and electronic media, seeking opportunities to inject APCTO key messages into the public debate on private prisons. Each month, this section of the newsletter will report on the articles identified and APCTO's response.

The Tallahassee Democrat – Aug 1 –

The Gainesville Sun – Aug 2 –

The Orlando Sentinel – Aug 3 – All three papers contained articles based on an interview with Florida Secretary of Corrections Jim McDonough. Covered first by the Tallahassee Democrat, the story was picked up by the Associated Press and spread around Florida. The major concern with the article is a quote from the Secretary indicating that “private companies are good at financing and building prisons but that the Department of Corrections is better at running them”. APCTO responded by highlighting the results of various studies that demonstrated public-private correctional partnerships reduced prison construction and operating costs, provided a high quality of service and was very accountable to the contracting agency, the media and the general public for the quality of performance.

Duluth News Tribune (MN) – Aug 7 – Responding to an article describing the increasing numbers of older inmates in state prisons and discussing the increasing costs of such a population, APCTO responded by supporting the creation of specialized facilities to house elderly and severely ill offenders. The Association went on to describe the advantages that a public-private correctional partnership could provide when meeting this need.

The Austin American Statesman – Aug 7 – In a lengthy article, the paper discussed the need for additional bed space in Texas and suggested that two new prisons would be required. The article also discussed influential State Senator John Whitmire’s interest in alternatives to incarceration and so-called treatment beds. APCTO articulated the Association’s support for treatment and alternatives to incarceration and went on to point out all of the advantages of public-private correctional partnerships including provider’s ability to respond to the unique needs of jurisdictions.

Twin Cities Pioneer Press (MN) – Aug 8 – In an Associated Press article out of Milwaukee, this paper detailed the need for alternative care for aging and chronically ill offenders. APCTO articulated its support for this specialized care and indicated a number of advantages that would accrue to a jurisdiction implementing public-private correctional partnerships of this nature.

The Garden Isle (Kauai, HI) – August 16 – Lt. Governor James “Duke” Aiona’s call for public-private partnerships to provide traditional facilities to drug and alcohol offenders was discussed in this article. Included in the Lt. Governor’s message regarding the importance of treatment and rehabilitation was the idea that the state could provide land for such facilities to be developed by private providers. APCTO responded acknowledging the fact that high land cost in the Island State does limit private development and suggesting to the Lt. Governor that APCTO members would be willing to explore a program such as the one he described. APCTO received a note from the office of Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, praising the Association’s position and asking permission to post our views on the Lt. Governor’s web site.