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Title: Corrections Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 9, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

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Minutes of Corrections Committee Meeting
March 9, 1976

Present: Harry Smith, Bureau of Corrections
Francis Filipi, Bureau of Corrections
Robert Sobolovitch, Director of Youth Services, Department of Welfare
Richard Hill, Librarian, Institute at Camp Hill
Jerry Hetrick, MCC, Philadelphia
Nick Cupo, MCC, Philadelphia
Deborah Boyle, Governor's Council, Pittsburgh Representative, Convener

I. MINUTES. Minutes of the January 6 meeting were reviewed and not amended.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Juvenile Detention Centers

1. Bob Sobolovitch reported that there has been no offer of foster homes as yet.
2. A question was brought up concerning treatment of juveniles in private institutions and county jails. The committee requested a list of the private and institutions other than state-run ones in which juveniles are being detained. Bob said getting the list would be no problem.

B. Literature and Education

1. Francis and Harry clarified the fact that there really is not a statewide approved list of periodicals that are never censored. However, such a list will be formulated in the future. The committee therefore agreed that we will formulate a suggested list of gay publications that could be reasonably expected to meet Bureau limitations for security, etc.
2. No one was present who was to be working on the prison libraries with Margaret Cheeseman.
3. Educational Projects with Prison Staff were tabled indefinitely (but not permanently).

C. Training Keys

1. While Harry pointed out that there are really no Guards Manuals for prison staff Training Keys are used in training professional staff. Such Keys are issue oriented writings, for practical application by staff. There are Keys on problems such as suicide.
2. Training Keys could be written and distributed about "Sexuality in Prison," "Homosexuality," etc. Debbie, Jerry, and Nick will work on drafting a Key which could be discussed and criticized at the next meeting.

D. Theater, Arts, etc.

1. Entertainment or educational groups can be presented in prisons. Arrangements can be made through George Newberry (717) 787-7492. Films and discussions are also possible.

E. Drugs

1. Harry said that no forced medication is being used to the Bureau's knowledge. Nick will continue to examine the question.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Specific Cases

1. Rockview: Antonio Fernandez

Francis reported that he should use all internal appeals. Francis will check on the case. Debbie will write to Fernandez for the committee.

2. Lewis McBride Case

Nick Cupo brought McBride's situation to the Committee's attention. He apparently had been beaten by guards at Graterford and his institutional history is full of possibly serious violations of his rights.

Francis will gather as much information as he can on McBride's situation. Nick will be in communication with him and his family.

B. Formal Complaint System

Harry brought to the attention of the committee the fact that the Bureau of Corrections now has a formal internal complaint system for inmates of state correctional institutions. Gay inmates can use this system to demand justice and their rights and should be supported in using it.

IV. NEXT MEETING DATE & AGENDA

A. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 7, at 5:30 PM. It will be in the Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor, of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission Building, 100 N. Cameron Street in Harrisburg. Cars can be parked in the lot immediately beside the Building.

B. Agenda

1. Minutes & Reports
2. Goals & Priorities
3. Budget Request
4. Open Meetings or Hearings

Meeting change requests and agenda additions should be sent to:

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