



The Greater Philadelphia Bulletin

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*** Special Edition ***

Educational Handout SCI Phoenix East & West Tour

This Special Edition of The Greater Philadelphia Bulletin was published with the intent to provide information to those with an interest in security within jails and state correctional facilities. If you did not attend the tour of SCI Phoenix, this educational handout was distributed to attendees and is furnished as part of the ASIS Greater Philadelphia Chapter Information Program.

History of Prisons in Greater Philadelphia

G. I. Forstater, PE, PSP

No discourse on prisons in Philadelphia would be appropriate without reviewing how prisons in America were created. We will briefly cover aspects of the Tower of London, the most unusual jail where gin was created, to Walnut Street Jail in Philadelphia. We'll discuss Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, Holmesburg Prison in Philadelphia, Delaware County Prison, and finally Graterford with its newest sister – SCI Phoenix East and West.

The Tower of London

The most infamous prison that still exists offering tours to over 100,000 visitors/year, and that may stand for even one more millennia – is none other than the Tower of London. Its history is impressive, its renovations downright remarkable, and its occupants, both royalty and inmate, are a list that reads like no other. From kings and queens, to international royalty that were both guests and prisoners.

The Tower of London was initially constructed in 1066 and expanded between 1285 and 1400. With remarkable renovations thereafter, it has outlasted almost any other

structure still in use in the world today. It is a standing representative of both great creativity and reprehensible sadism. Its rule as a prison lasted 852 years starting in 1100.

This remarkable prison does not operate the way you think of jails or prisons today. Often times, the King would imprison people due to political or seditious reasons, but also to accumulate wealth by extracting or using that imprisonment as a means to extort money, valuables, political leverage, social leverage, or simply to transfer wealth.

Referencing one individual who was locked up and died in the confines of the Tower was Sir Walter Raleigh. Sir Raleigh was a nobleman, but he fell out of favor with the King. The King was afraid that he was accumulating too much power and therefore, had him locked up under specious charges. When you were locked up you weren't given a bed, a blanket, inmate clothes, and three square meals. You were given a cold, dank, unheated room. Your relatives were expected to not only provide the furnishings and food,

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We Need Your Membership—Refer a Friend

We recently sent out two email blasts to our membership. We refer to membership in a broad sense. It is both active members who pay National and local Greater Philadelphia Chapter dues, as well as a significant list of email membership who receive our publications regularly.

And while we have doubled our membership with our first email blast requesting renewals at your earliest convenience, we are still well short of expectations of the Greater Philadelphia region and the security professionals who rely on a network of great individuals who have so much to

share within such a diverse group covering such a wide range of counties.

So, we urge you to not only join as a new member or renew as a past member, but also to refer a friend. Help them in their career and networking goals. Perhaps you never thought of introducing them to the way you gained an appreciation and respect for the industry upon which your relationships are now built. ASIS Greater Philadelphia membership is a great way to introduce, network, find careers, create goals, and test the waters for a brilliant future in the multi-disciplined fields of security.

Won't you join us at the next meeting, as well as subscribe to the Philadelphia Chapter's events through membership to set in stone your commitment to a professional association? And remember, most employers will reimburse for membership and attendance at meetings.

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History of Prisons *(continued from page 1)*

but also the bribes to the jailers who were your masters in keeping you confined.

Also unusual was the fact that you were permitted any number of visitors, unless you were being beaten or bribed. These visitors could bring anything from pies, to meat, to stale biscuits, but also many a large medieval rug was destined for the Tower to insulate from the cold.

Sir Walter Raleigh was so well loved by so many people that his list of guests at the Tower of London was larger than the time he had available.

Did you know there are over 100 distillers of gin in the U.S. – each with its own flavor? Sir Raleigh experimented with extracting flavors from numerous berries, herbs, and spices to make what appeared to be some of the world's most fantastic cocktails that were renowned throughout the empire and beyond. Interestingly, he was allowed to concoct his special potions, which were more often than not alcohol-related. His experiments with juniper are renowned and form the basis of flavorings today.

Walnut Street Jail in Philadelphia

In 1773, Walnut Street Jail was a small structure that was meant for ruffians and vagrants. In fact, Robert Morris of colonial times was, after lending new America over \$30,000 and receiving almost nothing back, sent to prison as a vagrant, as he could not pay off his debts due to this ill-treatment by our forefathers. Being in prison, as you know, does not always reflect on the character or justification for the sentence. In Robert Morris's case, going from a rich man who wanted to help colonial America by loaning as much as possible saw his willingness to help backfire when he died as a pauper.

But being in jail made it no easier. Just as in the case of

the Tower of London, his friends had to bring him food, bribe the guards, and pay rent for his space. Yes, pay rent for his space while he was incarcerated. This was typical for the day. The payment was for the prison master who ran the jail. This was income for him, his wife, and the children who all took part in caring for the jail.

By 1795, it added a penitence section, based on solitary confinement. The new addition made the new name Walnut Street Prison.

Eastern State Penitentiary

In the early 1800s, an architect by the name of John Haviland created a design, based on Puritan religious beliefs, which enabled both penitence and incarceration.

Hence, the term penitentiary and the allied term that was so dramatically used for years, solitary confinement. This solitude and penitence were combined to stimulate an inmate's righteous behavior and expel all ideas of evil with the ultimate goal of integrating nature and nurture. This was an incredible social experiment that ended in failure but was truly a technology leap at the time. The first employed by Haviland was the use of what was used to create an architectural panopticon. This utilized a central control space in the center with glass on all sides. A circumferential secure corridor in front of the control center provided easy viewing down all the spokes which were the housing units. Similar to a bicycle wheel, these spokes included one, two, four, or eight linear housing units from which singular views could be made to establish security down the cellblock, since they were straight lines.

With no cameras, no communication, and no other means of monitoring, this gave a tremendous view of surveillance down the aisle. And because there was

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History of Prisons *(continued from page 2)*

literally no interactivity with the solitary inmates performing penitence all day, there was no communication, no hand gestures, no viewing. Thus, no one was to be in the halls except for the food service or guards. And they were called “guards.”

Since then, the “guards” have moved on to being sworn officers. Today, many are required or may volunteer for weapons training and inclusion of use in the officer’s profile for advance in grade.

Inmates in solitude were given a small area for growing their own vegetables and having a garden. This was strictly confined to their area, accessible by a very tiny door in the back of the cell.

Having been through numerous prisons in the United States for most of my professional life, the most outstanding things that you tend to remember are not the visuals, but the acoustical and olfactory -- the sounds and smells.

Imagine what it would have sounded like in Eastern State Penitentiary on Girard Avenue in Philadelphia at this time. It would have been serenely quiet, except for the shuffling of guards’ feet, and the semi-silence of perhaps 200 inmates. But so too, the smell would be shocking. Privies were utilized to collect inmate droppings and urine which were flushed twice weekly to a dump in a pit out back. Remember, this was the early 1800s when sanitation reflected one of the worst yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia’s history.

The prison was closed in 1971 after the 12 inmates escaped, including Willie Sutton. He dug a 97’ tunnel and later, it was discovered that another 30 were being dug.

Holmesburg Prison

Holmesburg Prison was opened as the next development of the panopticon in 1896 under the Philadelphia Prison System.

Because real estate was at a premium, and the new Philadelphia City Prison could not be in the proximate center of its government, it was decided to plan the prison in Greater Northeast Philadelphia. Courts were located in Center City, well over 25 minutes away on a good day.

Holmesburg again is based on a panopticon principle since video surveillance was nowhere near being invented, and both aural and visual inspection of inmates were required more than ever with the introduction of more modern weaponry accessible to the ordinary criminal.

Holmesburg, with its immense stone walls, just as Eastern State Penitentiary was created, became the “elephant in the room” by the 1970s, when incarceration meant brutality and injustice. The severe punishment afforded inmates in southern prisons was no less than the social, verbal, and other assaults in the northeast or west. By the time Holmesburg had seen better days, Graterford

State Correctional Institution was being built in 1929 in Skippack, Pennsylvania, as a State institution due to the lack of size afforded by old Eastern State Penitentiary. Even pre-dating Holmesburg was the Philadelphia House of Correction constructed in 1874 and rebuilt in 1927 -- another panopticon that so badly needs renovation, but is still in use today. Philadelphia’s House of Correction is also a panopticon. Its development, after Eastern State Penitentiary was the City’s ambitious turn into what it considered a technological breakthrough in inmates’ detention.

Believe it or not, some elements of Holmesburg Prison are still in use today, while the ‘house’ is fully used.

A walk through Graterford Prison shows walls eerily similar to Eastern State Penitentiary, the former facility upon which Graterford’s linear cells were based. The building structure that used massive stone work, tons of mortar, and thickness of walls that make it seemingly impervious to escape. But, in fact, there have been escapes from Graterford. My own employee’s mother found an escapee at a creek near the east branch of the Perkiomen.

Graterford lost its luster over 20 years ago. I remember walking through the facility in the late 1990s wondering how we can keep prisoners, some virtually a lifetime, in such conditions.

Philadelphia’s Prisons

Philadelphia has a multitude of prisons for the County. The judicial system allows jails, not prisons, to operate as detention spaces for approximately 90 days. Facilities throughout the United States can hold detainees, those accused of a crime --whether arraigned before a judge or not -- for between two weeks and about 90 days if bond is not recognized or bail is not available.

So, this makes Philadelphia’s prisons, numerous ones on State Road in the Greater Northeast, the preferred accommodations for those who are detainees awaiting arraignment, those detainees who are post-arraignment, awaiting trial, and those who are sentenced offenders with about 90 days left on their sentence -- according to reasonableness. However, many detainees may spend up to a year, and those who are classified and found to be adjudicated to the justice system (i.e., classified as inmates), may also be there for well up to a year. It all depends on the availability of bed space.

And just like Delaware County who had to build their own County jail --the only one in the State run by a private corporation -- so too will Philadelphia have to construct new bed spaces due to the age and deplorable conditions of some of their prison facilities, and the ever-expanding occupancy.

This is why the new Phoenix East and West is so necessary. The culmination of the age of Graterford, the

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The proposed new SCI-Phoenix East and West

Courtesy Walsh/Heery

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age of the deteriorating Philadelphia facilities, and the more likely an offender will be sentenced for a greater period of 90 days, make the \$350+ million facilities that much more timely.

Many a mountain was moved to get this built. It is no small task for taxpayers, legislators, and the public to assume collective debt of \$350 million plus the costs of the bonds and the bonds paid out over the period of time. One has to remember that a \$350 million facility based on over \$200 million of bonds may end up costing over \$400 million.

Phoenix Rising

The reason it is called Phoenix is solely because it was bid several times and finally awarded. Not to mention the number of lawsuits by general builders, unions, and other elements within the State. After redesign and readjusting the formality of how contractors, subcontractors, and

bidding requirements would be managed, the project was finally awarded approximately three years ago and is ready to open this fall.

It represents the state-of-the-art of State-run prison facilities. The cells are made of high pressure epoxy precast/high tech concrete, a building technology that keeps sharp edges, hanging points, and structure resilient to keep harm as low as possible, Phoenix represents a state-of-the-art in both inmate management and the human condition in detention.

It is hard to imagine some of the conditions of many state correctional facilities around the country and what inmates have to bear. From inmate constructed facilities in Virginia during the 1920s, without air-conditioning or any significant remediation of hot air or isolation from the cold, I saw hundreds of inmates, as of five years ago, in these confines on the James River. Likewise in Maryland, the dank, stinky, noisy, lead-painted cells built from ships' steel were prisoners' homes since the Civil War until

closed in 2010.

So, to experience an ultra-modern, well-secured, clean, highly humanized facility is something extraordinary in the system today and not typical.

And will it be used? It will overwhelmingly be a welcome change to that which exists at Graterford.

Kurt Bitner and I both hope you will enjoy the tour in September and get a true eyes-on approach to what happens in a detainment facility, as opposed to what you see on TV. And do not forget that many of these inmates are here for a purpose upon which they themselves brought. You must be mindful that many of these felons, while classified in more material ways such as larceny, theft, or mayhem, are also well known as felons of physical violence, and must be monitored, constrained, and cajoled into keeping the level of security high and altercations as low as possible. This is truly the mark of good security – both operationally sound, and physically secure. ❖

How Justice is Served

G. I. Forstater, PE, PSP

We are all familiar with courts. But we tend to think all courts are the same when they are not. There are many kinds of courts.

For instance, if you have to make a claim for social security, you go to an administrative court judge outside the normal court jurisdiction. Many times, in-house hearings provide a due process similar to courts and are recognized by contracted parties. If you are an orphan, you go to orphan or family court for those who lack representation, have representation and is a family or domestic matter, or are relegated to state adjudication under an administered law that represents justice to children, spouses, and those who are infirmed – those who are in need of covered services, sometimes known as consumers without the ability to provide for legal services themselves.

There is the court of common pleas, where a plaintiff can take someone to court, their being the defendant. These are usually for financial matters, matters of property, agreements, contracts, and “non-physical” adjudication.

There are also arbitration panels, or arbiters, whose job it is to render a decision outside the jurisdiction of what we would think of as normal for the courts. Arbitration is where all parties meet under a set of guidelines usually administered and consecrated by the National Board of Arbitration. Parties normally have agreed to arbitration as opposed to a court of law within their contract.

While there are many types of hearings and courts in government, there is the criminal court. This is where a complaint is registered based on a criminal count that is identified within the criminal code of the state in which jurisdiction takes place. There may also be local laws enforced. If the “complaint” reflects a listed law within the criminal code that requires arrest, the defendant is usually taken to a police station or (central) booking facility.

The City of Philadelphia operates a central booking/intake in “The Round House”, but booking can also take place in distant stations of which there are more than one dozen.

If jail is demonstrated through law and the required arrest, the accused is transferred either by police car or perhaps even Sheriff’s Office to the “County Jail,” although more often than not, it is local police who transfer the accused. Once in jail, the defendant arrives at Intake. Identification such as social security number, markings such as tattoos or physical attributes are recorded, as well as formal photograph and assignment of detainee number.

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Behavioral Health Crisis and Incarceration in Philadelphia

G. I. Forstater, PE, PSP

Little did I know that some 35 years ago while living practically next door to Friends Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia, PA – the oldest psychiatric institution in the U.S. and a leader in mental health treatments – that I’d become professionally engaged in behavioral health facility security. That was back in 1981 when behavioral health was treated and administered completely unlike the treatment and practices of today. Today, Friends Hospital is but a skeleton of what it used to be and only serves as outpatient psychiatric and psychological counseling behavioral facility. Much like most of the country, there are few in-patient treatment facilities for behavioral offenders and mentally ill individuals in the Philadelphia area.

The largest provider of mental health services and intake were state psychiatric hospitals which were being shut down due to economic, political reasons, and public outcry of harsh and cruel methods of treatment – sans development of new policies, treatments and research. It was common and sometimes considered medically necessary to administer egregious chemical and straightjacket restraints, lobotomies, and indiscriminate electro-convulsive therapy (ECT) as a means of treatment and management of mental health disorders. Many state institutions including the prominent St. Elizabeths Psychiatric Hospital in Washington, D.C. performed the first lobotomies. Today we would consider these ‘treatments’ torture, inhumane cruelty and punishment, as well as medically unsound. Finally, not all patients confined to these mental institutions were properly and correctly diagnosed as mentally ill.

Without any transition models or supportive services and a lack of community treatment programs, facilities simply closed leaving many patients homeless, impoverished, untreated, and incapable of coping with independent living. This occurs even today with the few state mental health facilities remaining being closed with an emphasis on care being provided by the community, out-patient programs and facilities, families and mental health providers without regard for the adequacy, appropriateness and scarcity of facilities, services, and treatment available. With the tragic turmoil that occurs due to these facility closings, it often meant behavioral offenders and mental illness became an adjudicated problem to be administered by the criminal justice system.

(Behavioral Health Crisis and Incarceration continued on page 6)

How Justice is Served *(continued from page 5)*

If it is a “fast court,” the individual is simply held at the police station, a holding facility, the “Eagles Stadium,” or the Sheriff’s Office. It is usually *en masse*. That is, there can be 10, 15, or even 50 in one giant cell. I’ll leave the visuals to TV shows, but it is entirely true.

In many cases, the defendant cannot meet the most minimum bail which, in many cases, is only five hundred dollars. But in many cases, even scrounging up a hundred dollars can be met only most of the time, not all the time. Thus, the arrestee becomes an official detainee, in for the long haul. Medical, dental, and personal histories are evaluated to evaluate the individual’s risks – physical, mental, and potential for suicide or self-harm.

The detainee is issued new loose fitting garments, sneakers or slippers with no laces, a towel, and personal hygiene supplies – sometimes!

So, what is the long haul? It can be one day, 30 days, or whenever. It is up to you – the inmate – and the system. Usually within 24-48 hours, an arraignment is made by either video arraignment from the police station to the court, or dispatching the arrestee to a quick turnaround court. If the detainee cannot make bail, they are sent to jail on a somewhat cyclical basis with the courts until such time that either bail is made, they are permitted to leave due to an unsubstantiated case, remanded until a time upon which the court will hear the case for furtherance or intentionally not discharged of charges by the district attorney who, in many instances, holds great sway over judges. Fingerprints will have already been taken – DNA testing is not universal.

So finally, in the life of an inmate, if proved guilty, often an appeals court will hear the case once again to see if all judicial rules were followed and laws applied. If the appellate court upholds the conviction, the inmate is confined for the full sentence at which time a decision is made in compliance with state code, whether the sentence deserves the remanding of the sentenced offender to state corrections.

If so, the Philadelphia vicinity resident would, in 50% of the cases, be transferred by Philadelphia Sheriff’s Office to Graterford or, in the near future, to SCI Phoenix East or West, or the women’s unit.

At this point, another more intensive intake is administered – physical, medical, and personal. In addition, state classification systems require security appropriate for the individual’s case and history – providing for the welfare of the inmate, other prisoners, staff, visitors, counselors, and health professionals. ❖

Behavioral Health Crisis and Incarceration

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Interdiction

Behavioral health interdiction is the new wave of justice. Justice interdiction for a small quantity of marijuana or other paraphernalia (drug court), sports brawls, etc., are being adjudicated through alternate means to avoid detaining, incarcerating, trying, and paroling – while keeping a clean record. The same is now true for behavioral health. Crisis intervention centers, crisis psychiatric emergency programs (CPEP), and managed emergency health safety nets are finally becoming a mainstay of community response to difficult family and friends’ mental challenges.

Most of us know or have come into contact with someone who has significant behavioral health issues. Because it is complicated and difficult to get quick emergency medical and psychiatric treatment for those with schizophrenia, bipolar mania, or severe suicidal depression, their aggression is treated as a offense committed.

Every time an arrest or detainment is made without identifying a potential mental illness, the alleged offender’s incarceration strains the criminal justice facility. The mental health disorder sometimes goes either undiagnosed or under-diagnosed and untreated by correctional professionals during detainment.

A safety net needs to be available to the mentally ill who may or may not have committed an offense so the criminal justice system is not the first and only responder. Criminal justice professionals and mental health professionals need to work together to devise support, diagnosis, counseling and treatment programs to this population. The mentally ill incarcerated inmate is typically locked up longer, is more expensive to house than other detainees, and cycles in the justice system repeatedly – diverting the much needed funds from behavioral health and services. Behavioral or problem solving courts are now being established in parts of the U.S. such as San Fransico, CA, as an alternative to the justice system according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

The good news is that the Pennsylvania legislature has passed the requirement in July 2015 that all law enforcement including municipal judges be provided training in behavioral health. The “gold standard” is what’s called Crisis Intervention Team training as reported by ABC27 News. It relies on partnerships with mental health groups, and typically requires about 40 hours of training to avoid situations of biased and poorly adjudicated arrest enforcement

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New ASIS Certification Requirements— Get All the CPE's You Deserve!

This section on ASIS certification requirements delves deeper into the continuing education units and points required to maintain your CPP, PSP, and PCI certifications. The rules have changed.

Soon, you'll be required to obtain 60 Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits instead of 45. By logging into ASIS, and going to "My ASIS," you'll be able to see your certifications, membership, points accumulated, and many other tabs that help organize your certification flow.

We reported last month that you are now required to self-report... and this is not a straight forward process. Many people will find that while they've taken the courses, attended the sessions, and participated in allied associations to gain points, they are required to provide proof to receive credit. You may be befuddled and confounded by navigating the credit entry windows with the myriad of questions and options that are acceptable. Then your credits must be approved by ASIS auditors. YES! Reviewed, approved, or denied by ASIS auditors.

That means that thousands of certificants will be required to have their re-certification points measured, audited, and approved by ASIS reviewers. This is an enormous

challenge for both the certificant and ASIS International. Therefore it behooves us as holders of board certification to ensure that the reviewers are given every bit of information that is required to assess the validity of your continuing education credit.

In his calculated leadership style, Joshua Carver, CPP, former past Chair, was emphatic about sending copies of the sign-in sheets to the members in attendance since it is imperative to attach the file of the PDF into your record electronically to get CPE credit.

Sound simple? It's not. First you have to go to "My ASIS" after logging in as stated above. Then you have to go to logging your continuing education units. These are done in several different respects, whether you're a board member, committee member through the "volunteer" access point, or you're simply a member of a closely respected allied association.

So, here's an important point. Just being a member of one of about 30 allied associations that are listed in the pop-up menu can give you up to 4 points extra. Just by your membership; that's fantastic!

But here's where it gets dicey. Putting in your correct information for a seminar that you attended is a little more difficult. You'll need the name,

the date, the instructor, the instructions, a short message on what was covered, and you'll even have to put in the start and end date because the system can take both a one-hour seminar and an extensive course of, say, three days. It is confusing.

Finally, you have to "choose" a file, that is the PDF that we spoke of regarding your attendance, select it and attach it to the record. How frustrating! No drag and drop, no swipe here, no simple way. Old school web all the way.

Want to get the most points each year? See if your allied association is listed. I noticed the International Association of Professional Security Consultants was not listed. My calculations indicated a cumulative total of 16 points for the year's association membership and seminar series attendance.

The IAPSC got right on it, and within 24 hours, the remedy was being implemented by ASIS as a simple oversight.

So it is now important that before the end of the year you go in and list, identify, and provide backups for all those elements for which you can receive certification credits. You can always call ASIS direct or try a board member or committee member for their help.

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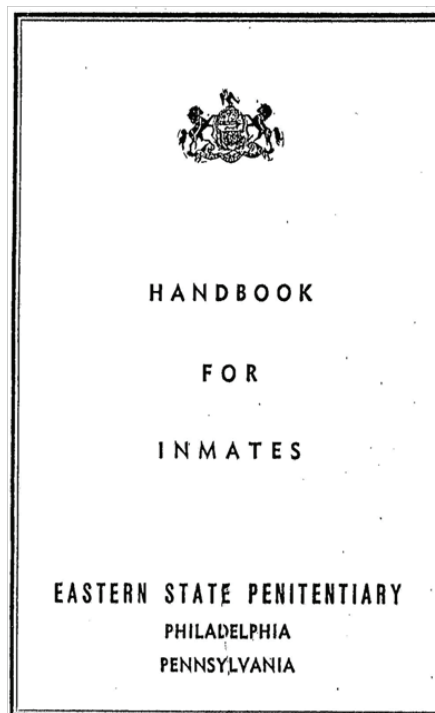
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These excerpts are from the 1960s ***Handbook for Inmates*** given to all new Eastern State Penitentiary inmates.

By inference in these paragraphs, assaults were dramatically lower in number than today—but practices and reporting were also exceptionally low.



Help maintain a high standard of cleanliness and sanitation throughout the institution.

Cell furnishings must be arranged according to block regulations.

It is strictly prohibited that you shall make or have in your cell or possession any knife, or other instrument or tool for use as a weapon. Razor blades are not permitted on your person. **YOU AND YOUR LIVING QUARTERS MAY BE SEARCHED AT ANY TIME BY AN OFFICER.** Inmates defacing or destroying state property will be required to pay for the damages. Inmates are not permitted to carry any article into their cells without permission.

You are not permitted to enter another inmate's cell, or enter any cell block or gallery other than the one to which you are assigned, without permission of the officer in charge.

You will be supplied with sufficient clothing and cell supplies by your Block Officer. Uniform style of state issued clothing shall be maintained and no other alterations are to be made without written permission of the Deputy Superintendent.

When the whistle blows for cell count, return to your block unless ordered to remain in place designated by your officer.

Do not loiter or congregate on Cell Blocks and Galleries, in the vicinity of the officer's desk, or in Cell Block necks and corridors.

Bathing and haircut procedures will be explained to you by your Block Officer. It is your responsibility to be clean-shaven at all times and to have your hair neatly trimmed. Neatly trimmed mus-

taches are permitted; however, the raising of a beard is prohibited.

Gambling or possession of dice or playing cards is strictly forbidden.

Defacing or destroying state property or destruction of state issued clothing may result in a misconduct being placed against you.

Any article not sold through the Canteen or issued to you or approved by the Deputy Superintendent is considered contraband and may be confiscated.

Between 6:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. cell beds must be made and kept in an orderly fashion.

No talking between cells or any unnecessary noise in the cell will be permitted after 10:00 P.M.

Upon reception you were issued an identification Card. You must carry this card with you **AT ALL TIMES**, and it must be shown to an officer when requested. If you lose your I. D. Card, you will be required to pay for the issuing of a new card.

BEHAVIOR CLINIC

The Behavior Clinic is designed to act as an adjustment council in the handling of disciplinary infractions of all types. Its members include representatives from both custody and treatment. The infraction is discussed with the inmate after a reading of the formal misconduct report. All information is then evaluated by the Clinic and a decision reached in accordance with the nature of the offense and the facts brought out during the hearing.

Behavioral Health Crisis and Incarceration

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Greater Philadelphia's Psychiatric Intake

If you saw the movie, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* with Jack Nicholson, you'll remember the lack of empathy, and "hospitalization" without any communication or benefits of treatment and medication. While this still exist today to a much lesser degree it does represent some of the psychiatric intakes in the Philadelphia area. But there are positive examples of behavioral health for emergency intake in the Philadelphia area – Bryn Mawr Hospital and Foundations, Doylestown, PA.

The Future of Behavioral Health in Philadelphia

It is difficult to move projects with little or no resources and money. Behavioral health has, unfortunately, been at the bottom of the mainstream of social improvement. Yet, its association with over-representation in our justice system is overwhelmingly important in our everyday lives. Reducing inmate populations with mental health disorders by providing mental health facilities to help those in need could reduce costs for the correctional system.

There is a return on investment for treating the mentally ill outside corrections and dealing with the challenges we face when helping during an emergency and

providing continuing care. I believe it is fundamentally cheaper to address the mentally ill in more suitable environments and to provide care for those relatives and friends in our close surrounds than to allow an aggravated circumstance to develop into a felony or misdemeanor requiring incarceration at between \$30,000 and \$50,000 per year per detainee or inmate, plus court and Sheriff's costs.

I doubt we would ever expect to pay \$30,000 for interventional behavioral health, but that's the cost for those incarcerated with mental illness with nonviolent infractions or when they are not appropriately represented by counsel due to the public defender not understanding the situation or representing the defendant's mental illness in its full capacity with access to alternative sentencing outside of the criminal justice system.

There is now broader recognition that the criminal justice system should not be treating mentally ill violent and nonviolent offenders without adequate psychiatric facilities and health care professionals within the correctional facilities and the communities. Let's hope that the momentum for wide-spread consensus and agreement continues so corrections and mental health agencies are role models as leaders and partners in more effective facilities and treatments at costs much more aligned and targeted to the appropriate agency and professional. ❖



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