

FRONT STREET

FRONTING THE FACTS, WATCHING YOUR BACK

APRIL 2006

A MESSAGE FROM LOUIE ADAME, CCPOA RANK AND FILE VICE PRESIDENT, YOUTH DIVISION



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

That old saying about change seems to describe the new Corrections Department, as we prepare for yet another new face in the head office.

As many of you know by now, on February 26, 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger's Corrections Secretary Rod Hickman resigned from his post, smack in the middle of a series of Senate hearings on his lack of leadership and failure to reform the state's prison system. Undersecretary Jeannie Woodford was quickly picked to replace Hickman, but only in an acting position until she is confirmed by the Legislature.

Hickman's tenure was marked by lip service, with no actual reform program in operation, or on the horizon. His greatest accomplishments so far? Well, we have a new name (The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation), a new patch, new cars, new furniture, new titles, new letterhead, new road signs, new name cards, and new parking signs for managers. One good thing for some: all the yes people are smiling.

On the other hand, there are many Legislature-approved post positions vacant all over the state and staff training has disappeared.

In the new CDCR youth division (as CYA is now known), the use-of-force policies just changed again (four times now in two years) this past December, yet no one has been trained on the changes. Investigators and department managers are judge and jury. It doesn't matter if the courts find you innocent, management will appeal to keep you off work. They do their best to destroy the member and his or her family. Hickman didn't know what he signed in that court consent decree. Can you imagine selling your soul and respect for a cabinet appointment?

This was the worst administration in the history of California to operate the juvenile and adult corrections system. Staff assaults, vacant positions, and the destruction of the DDMS process (ward discipline) are the direct result of the administration's failure to discuss safety issues. Hickman employed experts with excellent book-reading skills, but without the line experience necessary for such positions—a move that put every staff member in a very dangerous work environment.

Needless to say, the administration still has big, big problems.



ASSAULTS & INCIDENTS

EL PASO DE ROBLES

January 5, 2006—A riot involving 47 wards occurred on Los Osos Cottage. Chemical agents were used to gain control, and all wards were secured and separated, provided with decontamination showers, clean clothing, and medically evaluated. No staff injuries.

O.H. CLOSE

January 4, 2006—A gang-related riot involving 12 wards occurred during a class change. CapStunZ505 was utilized to gain control. All wards were medically evaluated, showered, and secured in temporary detention. No staff injuries.

February 9, 2006—A ward who was disrupting class threw a pencil and two books at the teacher. An officer secured the ward as he ran from the class.

HEMAN G. STARK

January 11, 2006—A ward from K/L company gassed a youth correctional counselor by throwing a yellow liquid substance, striking him in the face and eyes, side of his neck, upper chest and right arm. This assault took place when the YCC was giving the ward his dinner tray. The officer was taken to the infirmary where he was seen by the nurse and then transported to an outside medical facility for further evaluation. No ward injuries reported.

January 28, 2006—A black ward (Crips), who had renounced his gang affiliations, was attacked by 20 wards with known gang affiliations. The ward received several superficial wounds to his face and hands, a puncture wound to his neck, upper arm, and an injury to his mouth and cheek. Following a review by medical staff, the ward

was transported to an outside facility for follow-up care. The 37mm was utilized to stop the fighting. An investigation turned up a number of prison-made weapons.

February 3, 2006—A youth correctional counselor was assaulted by a ward while staff was attempting to place the ward back in his room at the end of the program. The ward struck the officer at least three times with his fists. The YCC activated his personal alarm, yelled for assistance, and physically restrained the ward. Responding staff assisted the officer in restraining and handcuffing the ward until responding security staff arrived. The YCC was taken to the facility's clinic for medical treatment by a registered nurse, before being transported to an outside facility for further evaluation. The registered nurse attended to the ward as well and noted no injuries. The ward was escorted to K/L Company and placed on temporary detention and non-communication status pending further investigation.

February 4, 2006—A ward was outside when his program time had expired, and he refused to allow staff to handcuff him. The ward stated to staff that they cheated him out of a portion of his program time, and if he was not allowed to resume programming, he was going to county jail. Security was notified and a correctional sergeant and lieutenant arrived, but the ward continued his protest. The lieutenant assembled a four-person team to remove the ward from the area and gave him another opportunity to comply, which he refused. As the team entered the room, the ward retreated to the corner, turned and started hitting a youth correctional officer, striking him in the jaw with his fist. The ward was quickly restrained, secured in handcuffs, and escorted to a holding room on

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FRONT STREET

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

With the resignation of Corrections Chief Hickman, who knows what path the Department will now be taking, or if they will ignore our suggestions and simply speed on down the same dead-end road. To best deal with the changes, or lack of changes, they will be throwing at us, CCPOA knows that first we must have good communication with our membership if we are going to right the wrongs within the troubled Corrections system. Therefore, we'd like to know of any complaints you have concerning the way the new Corrections Department is doing business. Specifically...

- Are you properly trained?
- Do you find the DDMS system not working or at all ineffective?
- Has your case load paperwork increased?
- Are your post orders up to date?
- Is your institution short of staff?
- Is there inverse seniority overtime?
- Is overtime a problem?
- Have wards sexually harassed you—and is the Department then ignoring the situation when you report it?
- Are you confused over the interpretation of the use of force policy?



NCYC TOWNHALL MEETING

The Department is not responding to your complaints because they believe they're unimportant. And CDCR just realized they are short on staff—despite the fact that CCPOA told them two years ago. They shut down the CPOST Commission, and created their own standards and training in one of their back rooms at 1515 S Street in Sacramento. And who knows what they are teaching the new cadets?! Everyone needs to know Hickman's departmental policies and training plans are seriously flawed. He may be gone, but we still have to contend with his substandard policies. Keep us informed of your concerns, and we will do our best to address the problems and keep the lines of communication open.

LOS ANGELES JUVENILE HALLS

Did you know the Los Angeles county juvenile halls and camps have been rocked by gang violence within their facilities for years? Over 200 officers staged a massive walkout at the camps and juvenile halls last year protesting understaffing, rising violence, and a lack of training. The Los Angeles county juvenile correctional system was cited by the U.S. Department of Justice more than four years ago for excessive use of pepper spray, hog-tying wards, and for failing to provide the treatment needs for the mental health wards. This means that all 58 California county juvenile halls may be failing in the requirements that our own Corrections youth division is being made to comply with by the courts. They accused the California Youth Authority of failing to provide mental health treatment to wards, housing them in cells for 22 hours a day. People forget that these are not kids goofing off in school and on the streets. These wards are the worst of the worst when it comes to juvenile criminal offenders. It seems the courts should dig deeper into the local juvenile facilities in all 58 counties. So why are the state legislators, the PLO, the Youth Law Center, and parents allowing this to happen?

YOUTH DIVISION MEETINGS

After more than two years of canceled CYA meetings by then-CYA Director Walter Allen, Chief Dep. Secretary Bernard Warner (the head of the juvenile division under the new Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation) finally called for a meeting with CCPOA on December 19, 2005. What he got was the rare privilege of meeting the entire CCPOA executive council. Warner is the only manager in the history of these CCPOA/administration meetings who has met with the entire CCPOA executive team. State President Mike Jimenez informed Warner that CCPOA has been kept out of reorganization plans since Hickman took over as Corrections chief. CDCR's Labor Relations has two members who are, in my opinion, less than trustworthy. CCPOA is looking to see just what Warner can accomplish with only 10 months left.



SPENDING CHRISTMAS NIGHT AT NCYC AND NEW YEARS AT VENTURA YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

CDCR Labor is now running the director's meetings, and informs us that meetings will be held every three months. Two chapter presidents and superintendents will attend the meetings, which began in March 2006. This is a big change, as CCPOA has had monthly director's meetings for the last 10 years with over seven past directors.

DEPARTMENT MOVIE, TAKE ONE

For the past two years, the Department has been talking of changes, creating groups, hiring experts, improving treatment for inmates and wards. After all this time, the Department has produced volumes of paperwork at Senate hearings to display their progress. Let me say the Department is still at the gate; they think they are writing movie scripts. Managers are in one day, out the next, like a revolving door. CDCR has so many butt-kissers working in management positions, we might as well have a movie production called *Last Stop Ironwood*.



NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEET WITH E.C. MEMBERS AT CCPOA HEADQUARTERS IN WEST SACRAMENTO

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment by wards is rampant at most youth division institutions, and staff assaults are a daily occurrence. The sad part is the Department is doing nothing to prevent it. CCPOA needs to hear from anyone who has been informed in writing that nothing can be done for a maxed-out ward who openly masturbates in front of officers and/or grabs an officer's body, physically assaults an officer, or is let off with a slap on the hand and an essay. Talk about a code of silence! CDCR has failed all of us by not providing a safe work environment, as law requires. Every one at CDCR should be under investigation for being less than truthful. As usual, the administration doesn't consider it a code of silence when it involves them. Instead, it's seen as a *misunderstanding*. Hell, they even wrote a new disciplinary policy for staff—and excluded themselves!

QUICK HITS

Are the education classes still being called out by security prior to trade line? Our state Legislature and the public need to know how many classes are actually in or closed early.

Webster's NewWorld Dictionary, Third Edition, defines the word *insignificant* as: little or no meaning; having little or no importance; trivial; low in position, character. Unfortunately, this appears to be the Department's new way of thinking. Though they claim they are trying to improve conditions, they refuse to include in their meetings the actual workers who walk the line. It's obvious through their actions that they view us as the *insignificant*.





TOURS

CCPOA's executive council continues to meet with Unit Six members whenever possible. In the last several months, they've made appearances at SYCRCC, Ventura, HGSYCF, SCWF, CIM, O.H. Close, DeWitt Nelson, Chaderjian, and parole meetings. It is evident to us that every staff member is doing a great job given the limited tools and resources the Department provides.

We visited all the living units and met with a number of staff who expressed their concerns about staff safety, ward accountability, casework, and training, just to name a few items. Can you believe no one has had any in depth training on how to rehabilitate a ward or inmate? We have youth correctional counselors (YCC's) who have not been offered substantive or proven counseling techniques by the Department in over two years! It is your executive council's intent to visit as many institutions as possible to share information in the future.

CODE OF SILENCE

I have been reviewing most of our local executive officers' meeting minutes for the last several years. Preston Youth Correctional Facility seems to be thanking everyone for anything and everything. I understand appreciating staff, but give me a break. Pretty soon you'll be thanking the trees for giving shade. Every manager who gives his report, if he is worth his salt, should be talking about the real problems on their problems. The extra work that maintenance does just to get the heat on the lodges needs to be addressed. Discuss the lockdowns, the extra work staff does every day when a living unit is gassed or is on modified program for a riot, or the overtime problems. Tell the truth in your reports.

THUMBS UP!

The Thumbs Up! project concluded at Patton with their wonderful cancer event for children. The Patton Chapter did a fabulous job. In January, our Thumbs Up! team visited the Cal Expo Health and Safety Fair in Sacramento, where we fingerprinted over 1,500 kids. Many thanks to all our volunteers—from Chad, DeWitt, O.H. Close, Paso Robles, and our retirees—who made it a very successful event. Your efforts help keep California's kids safe.



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K/L Company. The officer was transported to the clinic, examined by a nurse, and later transported to an outside medical facility for further treatment.

February 5, 2006—A youth correctional officer was gassed by a ward as he was attempting to get the ward to close his food tray slot. The ward, who threw a liquid substance at the officer, striking the officer in the chest, arm and face, was placed on temporary detention on non-communication status pending further investigation. A nurse attended to the officer who was later transported to an outside facility for treatment.

February 5, 2006—B Company—One ward was attacked by five Hispanic wards with weapons during a dayroom program. The incident started when the ward walked in front of the others. The five wards stood up and started attacking him. A youth correctional officer activated his personal alarm and verbally ordered the wards to stop their attack. He deployed chemical agents when the wards refused to comply. Responding security placed all the wards in flex cuffs, and secured the area. Staff recovered five prison-made weapons. Seventeen wards were in the dayroom when the incident occurred and all were treated for chemical exposure. The injured ward suffered 10 puncture wounds and several superficial scratches, and a bloody nose. The five attackers were placed on temporary detention pending an investigation.

February 6, 2006—A counselor was assaulted by a ward—at least three times with his fist—in the W/X holding room while staff was attempting to place the ward back in his room at the end of the program. The counselor activated his personal alarm, yelled for assistance, and physically restrained the ward. Responding staff assisted in securing the ward.

February 8, 2006—Multiple fights broke out involving 19 wards at the N Company dayroom. A broken razor wrapped with plastic and tape was found in the area. Chemical agents were used to gain control.

February 9, 2006—Eleven black (Crips) wards exited through a recreation yard gate that was being opened

and attacked five Hispanic wards and one white ward. A lieutenant was assaulted by four wards who forced their way past her, knocking her to the ground. Those four wards, plus seven more, attacked six PCP grounds crew wards.

Also on February 9.—Multiple fights erupted among 11 wards, including Hispanic, white, black and Pacific Islander wards. The MK-IV and MK-IX were deployed. Two staff members were injured in the incident.

PRESTON

January 5, 2006—A gang-related riot involving 27 wards occurred outside the dining hall prior to the wards getting their meals. Chemical agents were used to stop the incident. All wards were medically evaluated and the only ward injury was a black eye. No staff injuries were reported.

January 12, 2006—A riot involved at least six wards at the Manzanita Lodge. Evergreen Lodge continues on limited program due to gang-related fighting.

January 28, 2006—Hawthorne Lodge—One gang riot involved seven Northern Hispanics, three Southern Hispanics, two Crips, one Bloods, and one Bay. A separate riot involved 32 wards. Security responded with chemical agents.

Also on January 28—A ward inserted 2 and 1/2 inch wood screw into his penis, necessitating a trip to an outside medical facility for removal of the screw. Following treatment, the ward was returned to Preston and placed on suicide watch.

Also on January 28—A youth correctional counselor escorting a ward to his morning shower was assaulted when the ward struck the officer. The ward was apparently suffering some kind of trauma and a psychological consult was ordered. The staff member returned to duty after being examined by medical staff.

January 29, 2006—Evergreen Lodge—A ward was causing a disruption and was placed on temporary detention in Ironwood. While being handcuffed, he became agitated and began to kick a youth correctional officer, striking him twice in the thigh. ▶

ASSAULTS & INCIDENTS

January 29, 2006—Hawthorne Lodge—Two riots: One involved 16 wards and started when one ward disrespected another ward. No injuries reported. The second disturbance involved 32 wards in the dorm and required the use of the 37mm pepper ball. One ward received a bloody nose and cut on the shoulder. Both incidents are under investigation.

January 30, 2006—Hawthorne Lodge was placed on limited program due to continuing riots involving gangs. At Ironwood Lodge, a ward was resistive when being moved to Redwood Lodge for TD/suicide watch, due to concerns he may be a danger to himself. The ward threatened to injure staff if they tried to move him to Redwood. A Chemical Area Extraction was videotaped, as three two-second bursts of Z505 were effective in gaining the ward's compliance.

February 11, 2006—A riot involving 10 wards occurred at Manzanita Lodge.

February 13, 2006—There was a riot involving 16 wards at Greenbrier Lodge. All were treated for chemical exposure, which was used to stop the fighting.

February 23, 2006—An out-of-control ward on the baseball field head-butted a youth correctional counselor in the jaw when the ward was placed in handcuffs.

SYCRCC

January 26, 2006—A youth correctional officer was escorting a group of wards to sick call. One ward became resistive and hit and kicked the officer in the face and upper body. Responding staff restrained the ward, placed him in handcuffs and leg irons. Two staff were injured and taken to an outside medical facility for treatment of injuries ranging from abrasions and a shoulder strain to a dislocated finger. The ward was transported to Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility, pending further investigation of the incident.



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