



## **New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS BLAST PROPOSAL TO CONSOLIDATE INMATES AND STAFF AT STATE PRISONS**

#### ***DOCS Consolidation Plan Coupled with Prison Closures would Further Stretch System that is Overcrowded and Understaffed***

**March 16, 2010 (Albany, NY)** – Donn Rowe, President of the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association (NYSCOPBA), spoke out today against the recently announced plan by the Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) to consolidate inmates and officers at 17 state prisons.

Mr. Rowe harshly criticized the DOCS plan, which comes on the heels of their proposal to close four state prisons. He said the DOCS consolidation plan would further stretch a prison system that is already overcrowded and understaffed.

“Commissioner Fischer is choosing to cram more inmates into less space, and in doing so he is putting inmates and officers in a dangerous situation,” Rowe said. “This consolidation plan is more like an overcrowding plan.”

Mr. Rowe also took issue with DOCS continued refusal to accurately count double bunked cells when claiming there are “empty beds” in the facilities they are consolidating.

“DOCS continued use of data that ignores the dangerous double bunking of inmates is misleading and manipulative,” Rowe continued. “It is essential that the public know the real facts behind these troubling trends at DOCS which include a prison system operating at 102% capacity and maximum security facilities operating at more than 122% capacity.”

There are more than 8,000 double bunked inmates in New York, with two inmates housed in a space designed for one. By failing to count double bunked cells, DOCS misrepresents the actual number of available empty beds.

The DOCS consolidation plan would impact the following facilities: Adirondack, Albion, Altona, Bare Hill, Butler Minimum, Cape Vincent, Franklin, Gouverneur, Groveland, Livingston, Mohawk, Mt. McGregor, Oneida, Riverview, Washington, Watertown and Wyoming.

The DOCS Executive Budget proposal already calls for the closure of the medium security Ogdensburg Correctional Facility; the minimum security Moriah Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility; the minimum security Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility; and the minimum security component of the Butler Correctional Facility.

NYSCOPBA leadership has repeatedly raised concerns with DOCS about overcrowding and problems with safety for inmates and officers posed by inmates living in double bunked cells designed to hold one inmate.

NYSCOPBA represents more than 23,000 New York State Employees in the Security Services sector. As correctional officers, NYSCOPBA members do some of the toughest work there is, so that all of us stay safe.

# # #



BRIAN FISCHER  
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES  
THE HARRIMAN STATE CAMPUS - BUILDING 2  
1220 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
ALBANY, N.Y. 12226-2050

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Superintendents  
FROM: Brian Fischer, Commissioner  
SUBJ: Consolidations  
DATE: March 11, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Fischer", written over the printed name in the "FROM" field.

The Division of the Budget has just given the Department authorization for three (3) new correction officer classes. At best, that will provide us with about 180 additional officers. At the same time, our officer attrition rate is about 80 per month.

Given our current level of staff vacancies, and continuing drop in the number of offenders, it is appropriate that we move on further consolidations of dormitories across the board and to look at two programmatic changes.

Seventeen (17) facilities have staff vacancies and an inmate population level that allows for consolidating dormitories. By consolidating some dormitories each facility can reassign correction officers to fill other posts in the facility. No facility officer will be moved out of the facility and all will remain in any squad and tour they may have bid on. By filling vacancies, the agency can reduce overtime at the facilities involved. These consolidations are considered temporary and not part of the Executive Budget for FY 10/11 at this time.

In addition, two facilities, Clinton and Collins, will see programmatic changes that impact on staffing but do not require any officer to be reassigned to another facility.

With the opening of the new medical hospital at Clinton, space currently being used in the old medical building for a few offenders can be moved elsewhere. That space can then be renovated in order to provide the facility with an enhanced ICP unit for offenders with mental health treatment needs.

Lastly, the underutilized Protective Custody Unit at Collins is not cost effective. It exists in a gymnasium that may be made available to inmates who currently do not have access to an indoor gym. Again, officers assigned to Collins will not relocate elsewhere.

The facilities that will be involved in this temporary consolidation are:

Adirondack  
Albion  
Altona  
Bare Hill  
Butler Minimum  
Cape Vincent  
Franklin  
Gouverneur  
Groveland  
Livingston  
Mohawk  
Mt. McGregor  
Oneida  
Riverview  
Washington  
Watertown  
Wyoming

Superintendents need to discuss these matters with their local unions, and work out the timing of the changes with Deputy Commissioner Leclaire. Implementation should be accomplished with the least amount of disruption to staff and facility operations.

Facility	CO Vacancies	Net Co Vacancies after Consolidations	Facility Inmate Vacancies	Net vacancies after Consolidations	Previous Consolidations	Area consolidated	Beds Reduced	CO Items Lost
Adirondack	6	0.9	156	115	2 HU / 10.2 CO items	C1 Dorm / 41 beds / 41 inm	41	5.1
Albion	19	8.14	276	204	N/A	A Bldg / 72 beds / 72 inm	72	10.86
Altona	7	1.9	71	19	N/A	C Dorm 60 Beds / 52 inmates	52	5.1
Bare Hill	8	2.9	109	49	N/A	M2 Dorm / 57 inmates / 60 beds	60	5.1
Butler Minimum	14	8.9	222	174	1 HU / 1 Crew / 6.8 CO Items	C Dorm / 30 inmates - 48 beds	48	5.1
Cape Vincent	6	0.9	66	6	N/A	C2 / 52inmates 60 beds	60	5.1
Franklin	11	0.8	202	82	N/A	L1 50 inmates 60 beds L2 45 inmates 60 beds	120	10.2
Gouverneur	6	0.9	83	23	N/A	C2 Dorm 60 beds	60	5.1
Groveland	12	6.9	106	80	4 HU / 4 crews / 25.5 CO Items	H 1 H2 26 total beds	26	5.1
Livingston	5	-0.1	56	-4	N/A	A1 Dorm / 55 inmates 60 beds	60	5.1
Mohawk	8	2.9	221	166	4 HU / 18.7 CO items	22C / 55 beds	55	5.1
Mt. McGregor	16	10.639	107	64	3 HU / 6 crews / 27.834 CO items	C2 / 41 inmates / 43 beds	43	5.361
Oneida	19	8.8	227	135	1 HU / 11.9 CO items	20C 20E 92 beds	92	10.2
Riverview	7	1.9	81	21	N/A	F2 / 53 inmates / 60 beds	60	5.1
Washington	16	10.9	66	6	3 HU / 20.4 CO items	B2 / 55 inmates 60 beds	60	5.1
Watertown	13	4.5	121	75	2 HU / 10.2 CO items	A/ All Dorm 46 Beds	46	8.5
Wyoming	6	0.9	162	102	N/A	K2 Dorm / 60 inmates/ Beds	60	5.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>72.679</b>	<b>2332</b>	<b>1317</b>			<b>1015</b>	<b>106.321</b>
Collins	16	-9.5	207	130	2 HU / 11.9 CO Items	Bldg 53 Prot Cust 77 beds	77	25.5
Clinton J dorm	0	-15.3	135	79	N/A	Hosp / CD Ward 56 beds 35 inmates	56	15.3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-24.8</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>209</b>			<b>133</b>	<b>40.8</b>
<b>Total Consolidation</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>47.879</b>	<b>2674</b>	<b>1526</b>			<b>1148</b>	<b>147.121</b>