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EARL PICKERING 474689
HUDSON CORR. FACILITY
3001 N. JUNIPER ST.
HUDSON, COLO.
80642

TO...

BETWEEN THE BARS, BLOG #1

I AM A ALASKA PRISONER AT
A EXTREMELY CORRUPT AND ILLEGALLY
OPERATED PRIVATE FOR PROFIT CONT-
ACT PRISON IN HUDSON, COLORADO.
THIS FACILITY IS OWNED AND OPERA-
TED BY CORNELL COMPANIES, CORNELL
CORRECTIONS, THAT HAS A LONG HIST-
ORY OF CORRUPTION AND OTHER ILLEGAL
ACTIONS. DUE TO A CONTRACT CHANGE
IN DECEMBER OF 2009, I WAS AT A
CCA, CORRECTIONAL CORPERATION OF
AMERICA IN ELOY, ARIZONA FOR
JUST OVER A YEAR WHICH IS
ANOTHER CORRUPTLY OPERATED FACI-
LITY. EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS FACILITY
IS CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL, FROM
THE PURCHASING OF THE LAND, THE
CONSTRUCTION, UNTRAINED AND VERY
POORLY TRAINED EMPLOYEES, THE
INHUMANE TORTURE TREATMENT OF
PRISONERS, THE LESS THAN GARBAGE
SERVED AS FOOD AND THE MEDICAL

TREATMENT THAT PRISONERS ARE CHARGED FOR. THIS FACILITY WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 2009, AND IT DOES NOT MEET ANY OF THE STATE OR FEDERAL BUILDING CODES FOR PRISONS. IT IS IN VIOLATION OF (ACA, STANDARDS), AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION, WHICH ALL PRISONS, BE IT STATE OR FEDERAL MUST MEET. MANY OF THE CORNELL COMPANIES HEADS AND STAFF HAVE BEEN DISMISSED FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND, OR CORPERATE FIRMS FOR CORRUPTION AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. MANY EMPLOYEES WERE DISMISSED FROM ALASKA D.O.C. BY THE THEN GOVERNOR TONY KNOWELS, THE CORRUPTION RATE AT THIS HUDSON, COLORADO FACILITY BY FACILITY HEADS, RICK VEACH, TREVOR WILLIAMS, SCOTT VINEYARD, AND SEVERAL OTHERS IS BEYOND WORDS. A LARGE NUMBER OF ALASKA PRISONERS, AS WITH MYSELF ARE NOT TO BE A THIS PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISON IN THE STATE OF COLORADO DUE TO THE FACT I AND THEY ARE MAXIMUM SECURITY AND CUSTODY PRISONERS. THE

DOC ALASKA/ CORNELL CONTRACT, AND THE COLORADO STATUTES BOTH STATE NO MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONERS ARE TO BE HOUSED IN A PRIVATE CONTRACT PRISON IN THIS STATE. THE ONLY WAY TO END THIS CORRUPTION AND THE INHUMANE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, AT THESE NONE OTHER THAN TORTURE CAMPS BEING ALLOWED TO OPERATE IN THE UNITED STATES IS TO ABOLISH AND DESTROY ALL PRIVATE FOR PROFIT PRISONS. ANY REFERRALS MAY BE MAILED TO ME AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, DUE TO US NOT HAVING COMPUTER ACCESS. PLEASE READ THE NEWS REPORTS OVER THIS CORRUPT FACILITY AND THE PROMOTERS OF IT.

October 1, 2009

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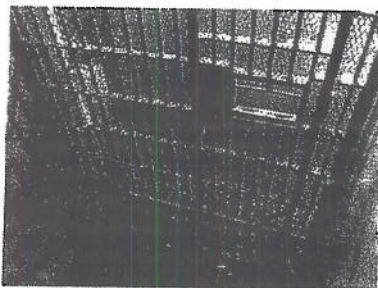
News

State prison contract changes hands

Rena Delbridge

Sep 27, 2009

ADD THIS



After 15 years of managing Alaska prisoners housed out-of-state, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) has lost its contract to Cornell Corrections.

Cornell's will charge the state about \$19,446,000 a year to house 900 prisoners, while CCA's plan would have cost \$18,724,000 — \$722,000 less a year.

Either way the state will realize savings over the \$20,669,000 it now pays through a contract with CCA.

The 770 inmates serving time at CCA's Red Rock Correctional Center in Arizona will be moved late this year to Cornell's Hudson Correctional Facility in Colorado, a 1,250-bed center now under construction. The move — via special U.S. Marshals Service planes — is expected to cost Alaska more than \$200,000, Alaska Department of Corrections spokesman Richard Schmitz said.

The Department of Corrections denied a protest of the award filed by CCA attorneys, who said they won't launch further appeal.

In the protest, CCA attorneys Charles Cole — a former Alaska Attorney General — and Stephen Williams argued that Cornell Corrections of Alaska lacks the basic experience the state requires, and that a preference system for Alaska-based bidders was misused.

Cornell's bid was more costly than CCA's for the three-year term, but a proposal evaluation panel awarded Cornell's plan more points because of the company's status as an Alaska entity.

Points matter as a committee rates the proposals in several categories. According to CCA's protest, the company gained more points than Cornell in five other evaluation categories.

In denying the protest, the state said Cornell Alaska qualifies for two perks as an in-state company — a bidder's preference and an offeror's preference — and that Cornell meets experience standards.

CCA's attorneys argue that Cornell's Alaska enterprise manages halfway house centers and lacks experience housing federal prisoners. In its bid, Cornell turned to its parent company, based in Houston, as the qualified service provider. CCA's attorneys took issue with the state awarding Alaska preferences to a business that would turn the contract over to its Texas parent company to manage.

Alaska has contracted with CCA since 1994 to house sentenced prisoners out of state. Currently 770 Alaska inmates are serving time away, but there have been as many as 1200 at a given time. Most have at least year-long sentences.

Meantime, the \$240 million, 1,536-bed Goose Creek Correctional Center is scheduled to open in 2012 at Point MacKenzie. The medium-security men's facility, which is expected to alleviate Alaska's prison space shortage, is being funded through bonds issued by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The state will pay off the bonds by leasing the facility from the borough, and will take ownership once the bill is settled.

Cornell has tried for years to solidify support for a private prison in Alaska, and became wrapped up in a far-reaching probe into political corruption. The company's former lobbyist, Bill Bobrick, pleaded guilty on charges he tried to bribe Rep. Tom Anderson — who is now serving time in federal prison himself — to

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and traveling regularly to lobby for the cause of his 182-resident community with the legislature Leonard Jones, recently retired as a range 21 state DOC employee, promoted by Prewitt, became the harbor master where Prewitt's and Weimar's boats were tied up.

It took three years before the legislature and Knowles administration were able to kill the Whittier proposal. Rep. Eric Croft said, on the House floor, that someone could be expected to go to jail, for pushing the proposal.

Rep. Bruce Weyrauch asked Bill Allen for undetermined legal "work."

In a committee hearing, Senator John Cowdery claimed that he drove from Anchorage to his boat in Whittier three times in one day, and it was a 45-minute one way trip.

Governor Murkowski's Chief of Staff, Jim Clark was also involved in negotiations with Cornell. They refused to comply with an Open Records Act request for a meeting agenda and attendance.

In 2005, Rep. Vic Kohring's employer, Marc Marlow, tried to get a Certificate of Need in order to convert the derelict McKay building into a juvenile prison. That proposal also died, despite Bill Bobrick's efforts to get the CON. By then, Frank Prewitt was working undercover for the feds. In Prewitt's book he admits his gonads were squeezed by the FBI. Rep. Tom Anderson was caught on video, working with Bobrick, in a sting over the promotion of the McKay building project. Kohring and Anderson had reported that they had received \$38,100 and \$5,000 over the table from Marlow.

Anderson was squeezed by the FBI and began wearing a wire. In August 2006, Bill Allen and his VP, Rick Smith, were squeezed by the FBI and began to cooperate with the prosecution. The next day, the offices of Reps. Anderson, Kohring, Kott, Cowdery, Masek, and Senator Donny Olson were searched for evidence of the "Corrupt B@stards Club." It was later found that only Olson had turned down the many bribes offered by the prison team proponents.

In Anderson's trial, prosecution witness Prewitt testified that he laundered Alaska campaign contributions from Cornell Vice President Marv Weibe, who lived in Ventura County, California.

AK DOC Deputy Director of Institutions, Allen Cooper, retired and quickly went to work as a warden for CCA. He had made three trips to Florence in the six months before his retirement.

Bill Bobrick, Reps. Bev Masek, Pete Kott, Vic Kohring, Tom Anderson, Senator John Cowdery, VECO's Bill Allen and Rick Smith, and of course, Bill Weimar, have all been indicted, convicted, though Kott and Kohring have been released pending further proceedings. Bobrick and Weimar have finished doing their federal prison time. Rep. Weyrauch's trial was interrupted by a motion that is on its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Allen and Smith are due to be sentenced next month. Senators Jerry Ward and Ben Stevens have yet to be indicted.

Sean Parnell's Director of Corrections, Joe Schmidt, has been involved in the Cornell proposal and his Deputy Director, much like Cooper before him, is now making pilgrimages to Arizona and Colorado, the location of the unbuilt Cornell prison that is to get the Alaska prisoners for more money than it would have cost to keep them at CCA in Arizona. It is said that Joe's father, former Mat-Su warden Art Schmidt, is involved with Cornell.

How long will it take before Schmidt and/or his Deputy Director will have one of those mahogany desks at Cornell?

Time will tell.

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Posted By: Aapa @ 09.28.2009 12:53 AM

How could I have forgotten?

Cornell gave Tom DeLay \$10,000 to be laundered to use in state legislative races in Texas, as if we able to control the legislature, he could redistrict without a census (it's done regularly every decade) and cause 5-6 Democrats to lose their seats in a gerrymander.

DeLay, with the illegal contributions, was corrupt. His trial is still pending.

He also received \$100,000 from CCA, ostensibly for his "children's charity." The prime child who benefited from the funds was DeLay's daughter, who directed the foundation for a hefty salary.

The prison in Hudson was supposedly built for women prisoners, which didn't exist in all of the western U.S. in sufficient numbers to fill it. But townspeople, not the brightest bunch, believed anything Cornell told them, and they figured they didn't have to be afraid of women escaping. Cornell also reassured them, when the issue of an adjacent natural gas compression stations was raised, as they require evacuation of over a square mile, impossible if it held medium security prisoners, that it could only be built if the American Correctional Association accredited it. That was still another lie. The ACA wouldn't consider accrediting a prison for the first two years of its operation. Finally, when it was brought up that another Colorado facility, this one in Canon City, required two-man police investigative teams to respond 192 times in the previous year, Cornell reps said that it was because of walkaways. Actually, that was still another lie. In fact, new employees were being told that reporting assaults upon them by juveniles was "not the Cornell way." They were then reminded that they were "at will" employees who could be fired without cause.

It was brought up that what the corporation had presented as an ideal prison in Oklahoma, when Cornell was trying to sell Lamar, Colorado on letting them build, actually was riot, escape and murder ridden.

Of course CCA has had more than its share of escapes. Alaskans will remember that six of its inmates went over the fence at CCA's Florence, Arizona prison, one being captured about 1,000 miles away.

COMPASS: *Other points of view*

Union is to blame for prison dispute

By ALAN BAILEY

I am retiring after 30 years of public service with the Department of Corrections. I would like Alaskans to know the story behind the efforts of the corrections officers union to have Commissioner Joe Schmidt fired.

Throughout my career I have witnessed the daily sacrifice our officers make each day to ensure continued public safety. They work 12-hour shifts, seven days a week among the most dangerous criminals in the state of Alaska.

In any organization there are staffers who are not worthy to retain their job. The fewest number of ten generate the greatest publicity and the loudest complaints of being treated unfairly.

Disciplinary actions are often a response to egregious behavior that jeopardizes the safety of others and must remain confidential to ensure the rights of all concerned. State officials do not have the luxury of discussing outcomes of personnel actions publicly. The inability to respond allows opposing views to create explanations that may not tell the whole story. There is always more to the story. Sometimes officers have retained their jobs due to technical errors, similar to that found in a court of law.

Commissioner Schmidt has attempted to hold people responsible for their behavior. I have watched his career from the beginning, as well as his father before him. He has spent his career caring about others and any attempt to paint



him otherwise is a blatant lie.

It is the clear intent of the union to "co-manage" the Department of Corrections. It wanted to dictate the agenda and do so in an adversarial manner. Commissioner Schmidt rightfully refused to conduct business in such a manner.

It is the clear intent of the union to "co-manage" the Department of Corrections. It wanted to dictate the agenda and do so in an adversarial manner.

The union has chosen a smear campaign and has blitzed correctional staff with such propaganda that it would be difficult to know the truth. If strife and discourse is the best representation the union has to offer, that is unfortunate for Alaska's correctional officers who deserve the best.

Commissioner Schmidt will continue to do the best job possible. A new prison will begin construction to alleviate overcrowding. Reinstating programs to provide basic skills to prisoners will make a difference in some who are released from custody. Staff will remain accountable and responsible while ensuring proven safe correctional practices are continued.

No question, there are problems to solve. The union has announced that it will not meet with Commissioner Schmidt. I will hope for a more mature solution for the sake of the officers they represent.

Alan Bailey is superintendent of the state correctional center in Ketchikan.

Alaska prisoners to move from Arizona to Colorado

Alaska's 800 inmates doing time in a private prison in Arizona will be moving to another private prison in Colorado by the end of the year.

There they will stay for three years until Alaska finishes building its own lockup in Mat-Su to finally accommodate the state's long-standing overflow.

The Alaska Department of Corrections is switching its \$20 million-a-year private prison contract from the company that has held it for 15 years, the Corrections Corp. of America, to Cornell Companies, a Texas-based company the department already uses to run halfway houses in Alaska.

The prisoners will leave the Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy, Ariz., for the Hudson Correctional Facility in Hudson, Colo., about 30 miles northeast of Denver, sometime before Christmas, said Alaska Corrections Commissioner Joe Schmidt.

The state will save about \$6 a day per prisoner from the switch, the commissioner said, for a total of approximately \$1.75 million a year. The state now pays \$65 per day per prisoner at Red Rock; it will be paying \$59 per day per prisoner at Hudson.

Schmidt said the Hudson prison won over other bids because of price but also because its programs will mimic programs planned for the new Goose Creek prison being built in Mat-Su, which is expected to be ready to house all of Alaska's out-of-state prisoners by 2012.

The inmates will be transported by air but for security purposes Schmidt wouldn't say exactly when. It will happen in stages, with each \$35,000 flight carrying 120 prisoners, he said.

The prison contract went out to bid in the spring and the finalists included Corrections Corp. and Cornell as well as the states of Virginia and Minnesota. Schmidt thought that with the economy in a slump, it was a good time to negotiate for a new price.

The state already has a contract with Cornell for six halfway houses, including ones in Bethel, Nome and Anchorage. But Cornell in recent years has also been on the public radar for an inadvertent role in the federal corruption charges against Alaska politicians. A federal informant used Cornell's name in a bribery scheme without the company's knowledge, the Justice Department has said.

Charles Seigel, spokesman for Cornell, said the 1,250-bed Hudson prison is still under construction but scheduled to be completed in the next few months. He called it "modern" and "well designed." He said current company plans are to house only Alaska prisoners there but the facility is designed in such a way that it can easily separate prison populations.

Both Cornell and CCA are big players and national rivals in the multi-billion-dollar private-prison industry.

Alaska Corrections deputy director of institutions Bryan Brandenburg said prisoners will get more services than currently offered at the Arizona penitentiary. That's why Cornell got the contract, he said. The services will include substance abuse programs, anger-management classes, GED classes, parenting

classes, and vocational and technical training. It will also have a re-entry unit that will help prisoners with the transition back to society.

But some are skeptical.

"They say all this stuff all the time because they want the public to feel like their dollars are doing something," said Brenda Watkinson, whose husband is serving a life sentence at the Arizona facility. "They started programs like that at Red Rock and dropped them to save money."

Watkinson said her husband and other prisoners are quietly optimistic the new prison will be better. Maybe at the new prison the food won't be so intolerable, the rules will be more consistent, the guards won't be so rotten to the inmates, or there will be more activities, she said.

Watkinson, a day care worker, knows she and her husband aren't going to get sympathy from the public. She married Richard Watkinson eight years ago while he was at Spring Creek, beginning his life sentence for the 1995 murder of his parents when he was 16. But still, she broke into tears at the thought of having to move again to be near him.

About half a dozen families that currently live around the Arizona prison will have to relocate, she said. And in this economy, Watkinson doesn't know how she's going to sell her house, or find a new job, or make new friends. "I've moved so many times to be with him," she said. "It really takes a toll on families."

The prisoners were going to be moved from Arizona either way, the commissioner said. That's because Corrections Corp. of America did not re-bid the Red Rock facility; instead, it offered a bid for another of its prisons in Minnesota.

\$1.75 MILLION SAVED: Current Arizona facility is \$6 a day more for each of its 800 Alaska inmates.

By MEGAN HOLLAND
mholland@adn.com

(08/10/09 13:58:36)

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