

# MEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

## FACILITY "A"

State of California

Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation

### MEETING MINUTES

Date : November 10, 2011

To : General Population

Subject : A.W. Meeting Overview

On 11.10.2011 the M.A.C. Unitary Body met with Associate Warden P. Vanni to discuss and/or resolve issues placed on the monthly agenda.

The issues are as follows:

1. **Handballs:** In response to tight budget conditions affecting CDCR's ability to purchase sports equipment and gear, the M.A.C. requested that the population be allowed to buy their own personal handballs. P. Vanni is willing to consider this request and plans to speak with the recreation coach to explore ways it could be done.
2. **30-Day Holds on Money Orders and Cashiers checks:** On June 28, 2011, a Sacramento-based memo circulated throughout CDCR dictating 30-day holds on money orders and checks. The initial "emergency" period for the hold was 60 days, after which a more long-term, legally binding policy would be enacted. To date, no further information has been forthcoming although the emergency period has lapsed. The M.A.C. asked for updated information about the status of the 30-day hold policy. P. Vanni said he will check into the matter and provide information as it arrives.
3. **IWF Funds:** The M.A.C. is trying to understand the allotment process for IWF funds in order to obtain more money for programs and inmate materials at the institution - for example, holiday sodas, library books, etc. P. Vanni recommended contacting Rene Clovis at the IWF to get information related to this question.
4. **R&R Issues:** The M.A.C. asked why R&R is withholding certain items that arrive with inmate packages when they are not officially exempted and are sent by approved vendors. Per memo from Captain Holmes, R&R staff will continue using their discretion to check the status of items unfamiliar to them.
5. **Holiday Eggnogg:** The M.A.C. request to have eggnogg for the holidays was approved. Eggnogg will probably be issues at around 200 per draw, per month, and limited to 2 per purchase.

This concludes minutes taken at the November 2011 A.W. meeting.

Singh # 213

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### MEETING MINUTES

Date : November 10, 2011

To : General Population

Subject : Mailroom Meeting Overview

On 11.10.2011 the M.A.C. Unitary Body & Subcommittee chairmen met with Mailroom Supervisory ~~Q. [unclear]~~ to discuss and/or resolve various issues placed on the monthly agenda.

The issues are as follows:

1. Accountability for Incoming and Outgoing Mail: In-response to numerous complaints about "disappearing" mail, the M.A.C. asked about possible ways to account for the contents of mail that would serve as an evidentiary basis for claims that it was missing. Sending "certified" mail, as discussed during the meeting, is perhaps the best (and only) means for accounting for mail in this fashion.
2. Mail Delays: To address claims about lengthy mail delays, the mailroom supervisor needs examples. ~~Q. [unclear]~~ said inmates should ask building staff to legibly sign and date envelopes that have lengthy, back-dated post marks, and then submit them to a M.A.C. rep so they can be given to him and evaluated for further action.
3. Problems Sending Indigent Legal Mail: Issues related to the specific issue addressed at the meeting will be looked into by ~~Q. [unclear]~~ specifically, the mailroom sending back legal mail saying inmates are not indigent when they are, or when the problem relates to inmates having partial, but not complete, funds to send the bulk of their legal mail.
4. Returned Mail: Returned mail stating insufficient postage only indicates how much more postage is necessary to send out the mail. The M.A.C. would also like to know how much this mail weighs. ~~Q. [unclear]~~ doesn't have a problem with this request.
5. 1st Class Mail: The M.A.C. wanted to know what criteria defines 1st Class mail, as an apparent discrepancy exists between CDCR policy and a recent court ruling. During the course of the meeting, CDCR policy was concluded to correspond with the parameters set forth in the court ruling. Title 15 explains 1st Class mail as it relates to inmate correspondence.
6. ISU Mail Reviews and Holds: The M.A.C. wanted to know how inmates can find out if ISU is holding or has reviewed inmate mail, particularly when such action may cause inmate funds - i.e. money orders and cashiers checks - to be unduly delayed. ~~Q. [unclear]~~ said ISU can hold inmate mail up to 7 days legally and that questions regarding ISU mail reviews needed to be directly addressed to ISU.