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COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
THE HARRIMAN STATE CAMPUS – BUILDING 2
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Superintendents

FROM: Brian Fischer, Commissioner 

SUBJ: Consolidations

DATE: March 11, 2010

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 Leclair. Implementation should be accomplished with the least amount of disruption to staff and facility operations.