

California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes November 10, 2010 Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:00 a.m. on November 10, 2010, at the California State University, Sacramento, Alumni Center, 6024 State University Drive South, Sacramento, California.

Board members: Present at the meeting was David Shaw, Inspector General (Chairman); Matt Cate, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); Debra Jones, Administrator, Adult Education Programs (Designee for Jack O'Connell, Superintendent of Public Instruction); José Millan, Vice Chancellor, California Community Colleges (Designee for Jack Scott, Chancellor, California Community Colleges); Renée Zito, Director, State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs; Susan Turner, Professor, University of California, Irvine (President of the University of California appointee); Bruce Bikle, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); Gary Stanton, Sheriff, Solano County (Governor appointee); Wendy S. Still, Chief Adult Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco (Senate Committee on Rules appointee); and William Arroyo, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (Speaker of the Assembly appointee). Absent from the meeting was Stephen Mayberg, Director, Department of Mental Health.

Office of the Inspector General staff: Barbara Sheldon, Chief Counsel; Laura Hill, C-ROB Executive Officer; Ann Bordenkircher, C-ROB Secretary, and Celeste Olson, Executive Assistant.

CDCR Presenters: Elizabeth Siggins, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs; Michele Minor, Chief, Program Planning and Accountability; Cynthia Florez-DeLyon, Director, Division of Adult Rehabilitative Programs; Ginger Steele-Pirie, Nursing Consultant, Mental Health; Robert Storms, Case Records Administrator, Division of Adult Parole Operations; and Sally Atlas, Chief, Data and Performance Management.

Public Comments: John Kern, SEIU/Institutional Teacher; Cindy Greer, Institutional Teacher; Dr. Susan Lawrence, Catalyst Foundation; Steve Bowen, Institutional Teacher; Bill Lane, Administrator, Sacramento Community Based Coalition; and Lyra Monroe, President, Restorative Justice Resources.

Item 1. Call to Order.

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Item 2. Introductions and Establish Quorum.

The Chairman made introductory remarks indicating Office of the Inspector General (OIG) staff participating in the meeting and asked board members to introduce themselves to the audience. Chairman Shaw introduced OIG Chief Deputy Inspector General Don Currier, who recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq as brigadier general in the California National Guard.

Item 3. Review Agenda.

Chairman Shaw indicated the meeting would consist of updates by Laura Hill, C-ROB Executive Officer, presentations by CDCR staff, and public comments.

Chairman Shaw stated the primary purpose of the board meeting was to have a discussion and board decision on the September 15, 2010 draft C-ROB report.

Item 4. Review and Approval of the September 8, 2010 minutes.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the minutes of the September 8, 2010 C-ROB meeting were approved with one correction to be made.

Item 5. Executive Officer updates.

Executive Officer Hill commented that the Report Writing Committee met via teleconference on September 15, 2010, discussing future agenda items and upcoming institutional site visits, which are anticipated in December and January. Ms. Hill was pleased that the Department's recidivism report was released and stated that she had received copies of the fidelity reviews for CALM and Thinking for A Change from Solano. Ms. Hill mentioned that San Quentin is utilizing Patten University at San Quentin with four kinds of English classes, communications, comparative religion, government, history, introduction to neuroscience, math, algebra, geometry, pre-calculus and two Spanish classes. There are 300 students this semester with a hundred volunteers. Secretary Cate commented that classes at San Quentin have been expanded to weekends.

Item 6. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Updates.

Elizabeth Siggins, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs, was pleased to share that there were no budget reductions specific to Adult Programs in the final 10/11 state budget that recently passed; however, she said there were a number of changes to CDCR's budget in other areas — an \$820 million reduction to medical costs, which are borne by the Receiver's Office, a couple hundred million dollars in population reduction, and some changes to the Division of Juvenile Justice budget.

Ms. Siggins replied to member questions concerning a hiring freeze by stating that the Governor's executive order¹ is still in effect. Secretary Cate indicated that CDCR is requesting some exemptions through the Governor's office but is currently waiting for a response.

¹ On September 1, 2010, by way of a memorandum issued by Cabinet Secretary Scott Reid, agency secretaries and department directors were told to stop hiring and were directed to cut down on overtime. No actual executive order was distributed.

Item 7. California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Presentations.

Mental Health Reentry Services

Robert Storms, Case Records Administrator, Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) and Virginia Steele-Pirie, Nurse Consultant with CDCR, co-presented pertaining to the release and reentry of mentally ill offenders and services in the community to those offenders.

Ms. Steele-Pirie explained that CDCR enacted the Non-Revocable Parole (NRP) program upon the passage of Senate Bill x3 18.² She covered the requirements for the NRP program, which does not exclude mental illness as one of the criteria. Ms. Steele-Pirie explained she is notified by the prison when a mentally ill individual is ready for release and needs services. She then forwards information to appropriate county staff and remains in contact with them. She said that almost 200 inmates have received services statewide since NRP went into effect (inmates are not forced to receive services unless on a 5150.)

Mr. Storms informed the board that CDCR has entered into formal agreements with the Social Security Administration, State Department of Health Care Services, and the Veterans Affairs for the purpose of submitting applications for benefit entitlements pre-release. DAPO has contracted with social workers in each of the 33 adult prisons who assist potentially eligible inmates with the voluntary application process.

Ms. Steele-Pirie added that the department reached out to liaisons in all 58 state counties so they could work with the department on release planning and continuity of care for mentally ill inmates released through NRP. She said that clinicians decide the needs of the inmate and that information is then communicated to the county liaison.

Mr. Storms discussed access to care, which he described as very complicated and a daily challenge, but said the department is working on solutions. One example given was an inmate who needed a conservatorship upon release, but the county was reluctant to do so because it did not have a place to put the inmate and could not bear the costs. Mr. Storms next provided statistics on NRP mentally ill population, discussed day treatment programming, and the department's "Integrated Services for Mentally Ill Parolees" program. He said many stakeholders came together earlier this year to identify needs and service gaps within the parolee mental health delivery system. A task force is working on the development and implementation of an improved parolee mental health delivery system, focused on national trends, forensic science, and evidence-based practice.

Rehabilitative Programming Data

Sally Atlas, Chief, Data and Performance Management, presented on the department's key performance indicators (KPIs) and data management for academic and vocational education, in-prison,

² Senate Bill x3 18 (Chapter 28, Statutes of 2009-10 Third Extraordinary Session); Penal Code section 3000.03; effective January 25, 2010.

and community aftercare in substance abuse treatment programs, and inmate participant characteristics related to putting the right inmate into the right program at the right time.

Ms. Atlas discussed KPIs, selection of indicators at measurable rates that can be compared over time and across institutions, in the following measurements:

- assignment/enrollment (information is tracked to ensure that programs are filled with the maximum number of participants);
- attendance/utilization (information is tracked to ensure that participants' maximize their time in programming);
- completion/achievement (information allows CDCR to track the percent of inmates who are able to complete programming); and
- recidivism.³

Ms. Atlas said that KPIs are tracked in the following categories:

- academic education (models 1-5 and literacy);
- vocational education;
- substance abuse treatment (in-prison and community aftercare); and
- self-help and leisure time activities.

CDCR's Data and Performance Management unit provides data to other divisions within the department who then use the information as a management tool to be able to have substantive discussions to work through each mission. Data is also available for all 33 institutions.

Ms. Atlas responded to member questions on educational and vocational data, completion rates, capacity, and needs.

Logic Model Implementation Work Plan and Timelines

Michele Minor, Chief, Program Planning and Accountability, gave a PowerPoint presentation comparing the original model and timeframes of the California Logic Model created in 2007 to the current processes. Ms. Minor was prepared to cover areas of assessing high risk and needs, case planning, delivery of rehabilitative programming, measuring progress, preparation for reentry, community reintegration and follow-up; however, the presentation was condensed in the interest of time. In summary, the work plan is 71% implemented or completed, 22% in development, 5% are no longer applicable, and 3% are on hold.

The department indicated its willingness to report in more detail at a future date. The department was scheduled to present on Proof of Practice, but that presentation was deferred to a future board meeting.

Public Comment on Items 5 & 6.

Susan Lawrence, Director, Catalyst Foundation, stated she is pleased with the progress CDCR has achieved in rehabilitative programming in the face of the current fiscal crisis. Dr. Lawrence is gratified with the increase to volunteerism which provides support to inmate leisure-time activities and self-help groups. She commented that she would like to see DOM revisions discussed by way of a task force, so

³ Chart provided, PowerPoint presentation entitled "Data and Performance Management, November 10, 2010," p. 18

that full-time CDCR employees do not have to be sponsors for these groups. Dr. Lawrence believes if that were accomplished, more community-based volunteers would serve as sponsors.

John Kern, SEIU/Institutional teacher, stated that while he appreciates hearing data, he fears that when too much data is released at one time, it is easy to be mesmerized by the numbers and quantity, causing one to forget the realities on the ground where teachers intersect with the inmates. Mr. Kern said that SEIU recently sponsored an academic model survey of classroom teachers who deliver the new models to which over a hundred people replied. The survey results will be available to the board once the survey comment period is over.

Steve Bowen, SEIU/Institutional teacher, Mule Creek State Prison, said that in reality, classrooms could probably absorb three to four hundred inmates, but the inmates are not being assigned. Mr. Bowen said they have contacted the principal but received no answer. Correctional counselors state there is no backlog. Mr. Bowen believes a substantial increase in the number of programming inmates could happen if TABE scores were reviewed at the annual review process. He stated that at his institution, ABE II students receive only three hours of classroom time, not nine hours as stated by Headquarters. Mr. Bowen said teachers have contacted the department's fidelity group, the WASC Accreditation Committee, and the Superintendent Correctional Education Program in an effort to correct these issues.

Cindy Greer, SEIU/Institutional teacher, Valley State Prison for Women, said that the Leadership Council of which she is a member, is working on a survey similar to the one sent out by SEIU and anticipates having responses tabulated by January. She believes resources to still be an issue. Examples given were curriculum that is not appropriate, broken copy machines, and open entry/exit which makes planning instruction very difficult.

Item 8. Future board meeting schedule.

Executive Officer Hill reported that the Report Writing Committee would meet next on December 10.

Item 9 Future agenda items.

Ms. Hill mentioned that the board would likely have updates on budget, a program implementation update, teacher surveys as mentioned during the public comment portion of this meeting, and perhaps something on the 1266 program design.

Item 10. Public comment.

Bill Lane, Administrator, Sacramento Community Based Coalition, stated the Coalition is a collaborative effort between CDCR and the Sacramento County Office of Education. The Coalition works closely with Division of Adult Parole Operations, who refers clients to the Coalition for services through its parole agents, including services needed by mentally ill offenders. The Coalition currently provides for about 267 clients with statistics showing only an 18 percent recidivism rate of those who successfully complete their programs. Mr. Lane said he would provide the board with a copy of the Coalition's 2-year report and concluded by inviting members to visit and see the Coalition's successes firsthand.

Susan Lawrence, Director, Catalyst Foundation, took this time to thank the board for its support of the Honor Program and was pleased to state that inmates are now being drawn from other prisons throughout the state.

John Kern, SEIU/Institutional teacher, responded to an earlier member question concerning the spike in vocational completion rates that came up during the CDCR data presentation. Mr. Kern says those spikes occurred due to a change in definition. He stated that at one time it took a lot to complete a program — now any small block of a curriculum achieved causes the numbers to explode. While learning goes on, any little bit of learning counts and causes data on a chart to look rosy, while the reality is quite different.

Steve Bowen, SEIU/Institutional teacher, Mule Creek State Prison, expressed concern for the inmates that have learning disabilities, those that hear voices, see things, and are paranoid. These inmates do well in the half day ABE I classes, but when they get to ABE II or ABE III, they get washed out because they have problems. ABE II and ABE III class time is shorter with many hours of homework. Mr. Bowen recommends that for better success with these inmates, that the department consider placing them into two half-day model 1 programs for 15 hours of classroom time and stay in that mode even when in ABE II or ABE III classes.

Cindy Greer, SEIU/Institutional teacher, Valley State Prison for Women, is in the process of becoming certified through ProLiteracy,⁴ in her role as a literacy coordinator. She was excited to have interviewed and hand-picked tutors and has a good cross-mixture of long-term inmates versus those who are there for short-term. Ms. Greer looks forward to the day when she can stand before the board with statistics on literacy implemented by the inmate tutors.

Lyra Monroe, President, Restorative Justice Resources, stated her concern for the decreased staffing levels in the last few years to the point of not having self-help or 12-steps groups, which affects the results of inmate activities. Ms. Monroe believes inmates are being released without preparation, assistance, or a plan before release. She said inmates should have an opportunity to participate in programs where they can strategize and find beneficial resources.

Item 11 Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

C-ROB Secretary

Dated

(These Minutes are posted on the web at www.oig.ca.gov.)

⁴ ProLiteracy champions the power of literacy to improve the lives of adults and their families, communities, and societies. ProLiteracy works with its members, partners, and the adult learners they serve, along with local, national, and international organizations. ProLiteracy helps build the capacity and quality of programs that are teaching adults to read, write, compute, use technology, and learn English as a new language.