

California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
March 7, 2012 Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on March 7, 2012, at the California State University, Modoc Hall, Willow Suites 1-3, 3020 State University Drive East, Sacramento, California.

Board Members: Present at the meeting were Robert Barton, Inspector General (Chairman); Matthew Cate, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); Patricia Terry, Education Administrator, Adult Education Office, California Department of Education, (Designee for Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction); Debra Jones, Dean, Career Education Practices, Workforce and Economic Development, California Community Colleges (Designee for Jack Scott, Chancellor, California Community Colleges); Michael Cunningham, Director (A), 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, County of Solano (Governor Appointee); Wendy Still, Chief Adult Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco (Senate Committee on Rules appointee). Absent from the meeting was William Arroyo, M.D., Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and Norm Kramer, Deputy Director (A), State Hospital Operations (Designee for Cliff Allenby, Director (A), Department of Mental Health).

Office of the Inspector General staff: René Hansen, C-ROB Executive Director; James C. Spurling, Counsel to the Board; Ann Bordenkircher, Board Secretary; and, Jana Bocalon, Executive Assistant.

Panel Presenters:

CDCR: Elizabeth Siggins, Director (A), Division of Rehabilitative Programs

CAADAC: Kristina Padilla, MA, MFTI, LAADC, ICAADC, OMCP Program Director

Public Comments:

John Kern
Hellan Roth Dowden
Susan Lawrence

Item 1. Call to order.

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Item 2. Introduction and establish quorum.

Chairman Barton introduced Office of the Inspector General staff participating in the meeting and asked board members to introduce themselves. A quorum was established.

Item 3. Review agenda.

There were no comments concerning the Agenda.

Item 4. Review and approval of the January 11, 2012 minutes.

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Item 5. Executive Director updates.

Ms. Hansen thanked Matt Young, who assisted in the preparation of the March 15 biannual report. She also introduced Misty Polasik, OIG's publication unit manager, who will assist with reports in the future.

Item 6. Board discussion of the March 15, 2012 draft report.

Elizabeth Siggins, Director (A), Division of Rehabilitative Programs, CDCR, reviewed the report and indicated that the department did not have any specific edits. Ms. Hansen covered suggested edits received from various board members.

Ms. Siggins answered questions related to the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act inmate population changes, academic program assignments, and SOMS (the future strategic offender management system). Ms. Siggins also addressed issues with inmates who need substance abuse programming, but are also in vocational programs. She stated that vocational programs are still full-day assignments and inmates cannot be in two locations at the same time. Ms. Siggins took several questions from board members regarding after care programs. Ms. Siggins said the department had met with chief probation officers and reached out to the California State Association of Counties in an effort to utilize community after care programs for as many offenders as possible. Ms. Siggins addressed after care completion rates and also discussed in-prison academic enrollment and utilization rates. She expects the department will be able to get these rates up as the inmate post-realignment population becomes more stable.

Item 7. Board decision regarding the March 15, 2012 draft report.

After much discussion and hearing comments offered by Elizabeth Siggins, Director (A), Division of Rehabilitative Programs, the March 15, 2012, report was approved. A suggestion was made that future charts be in black and white to make the report more readable and accessible.

Item 8. Presentation: Offender Mentor Certification Program at California State Prison, Solano.

Kristina Padilla, Director of the Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP) for the California Association of Alcoholism and Drug Counselors (CAADAC), presented on the OMCP, which is a program that recruits, screens, and selects inmates who are serving a long-term or life term sentence - to train and certify them to become mentors that will ultimately assist CDCR in prison substance abuse programs at various institutions.

Ms. Padilla explained that CDCR first launched a pilot program at Solano State Prison in 2009, and due to the success of the pilot it was mirrored at Valley State Prison for Women in 2010. Ms. Padilla explained the OMCP candidate selection criteria; the mentor must have a thorough understanding and commitment to OMCP, a minimum of five years to life with possibility of parole, and be disciplinary free for the last three years. Additionally, the mentor must be willing to relocate to another institution. The candidate must submit an application, resume, a 500-word essay, and any letters of recommendation from CDCR staff or training certificates. CAADAC then reviews their central file and the candidate undergoes an evaluation by the CDCR mental health staff.

Once selected, the mentor must complete a substance abuse program (SAP), which is a 150-day rehabilitation program. They will also have 315 classroom instructional hours regarding AOD counseling, psychopharmacology, physiology, and ethics, and 255 practicum hours supervised by a clinician. Upon completion, CAADAC prepares them to take an international written examination, so become certified.

Ms. Padilla took questions from the board relating to transferability of education credit hours received and career paths for the mentors once they are paroled or released. CAADAC is looking into expanding to approximately 8-20 institutions.

In closing, Ms. Padilla stated that OMCP is an innovative program that is on the cutting edge of criminal justice rehabilitation and is changing lives in communities and families.

Item 9. Future board meeting schedule.

Ms. Hansen confirmed the next board meeting for July 11. Additional dates selected for board meetings are September 12, and November 14.

Item 10. Future agenda items.

It was suggested that that the board might benefit from presentations regarding program completion milestones, vocational education delivery and volunteer education literacy coordinators and library services. Board members would also like to address inmate assignment issues, the case management pilot program, after care SAP programs, and the CDCR budget. It was also suggested that the board discuss the population shift following realignment, review the new parole model, and address management training for CDCR employees on a culture shift toward the importance of inmate rehabilitative programs.

Item 11. Public comment.

John Kern, SEUI 1000 member, remarked that he preferred the black and white formatting on the March 15, draft report. He also stated that all of the data published in the report is wonderful. He and his members are working against all odds to help people improve themselves and show them the path to break out of the system. Mr. Kern also felt there was a great deal of hope that Chief Still feels there is a cultural change that needs to happen. He feels that inmates are the untapped resource for change within CDCR. He also agreed with Ms. Siggins that inmate peer tutoring and mentoring programs have to be closely monitored, to ensure that inmates are networking positively.

Hellan Roth Dowden, SEUI 1000 member, asked a question regarding page 14 of the March 15, draft report. She noted that the word “milestones” was deleted and she wanted to know how many inmates would be eligible for milestone credits following Realignment. Ms. Hansen explained that the report stated that inmates who are part of the IP program delivery would qualify for a milestone credit. She stated that milestone credits are not specific to the IP program, so she removed it from page 14. Mr. Cate addressed Ms. Dowden’s question regarding the post-Realignment population; he stated that since there will be fewer inmates eligible for milestone credits, the Department has to consider what to do for an incentive in the post-Realignment world. Ms. Siggins explained that the Department expects there to be a change in the percent of population that is credit earning eligible. She stated that there would need to be a change in legislation if there was an interest in expanding the eligible population. Additionally, the Department would like to have other incentive options available for inmates. Mr. Cate stated that the Department and the administration would need to look at if there is something more they can do, and suggested that he and Ms. Siggins work on that as a side project.

Susan Lawrence is the founder and CEO of the Catalyst Foundation and she expressed her support for the Honor Program in the California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC). She feels there have been significant improvements in the implementation of the Honor Program. Ms. Lawrence stated that Warden Sullivan submitted a waiver for the Title 15 requirement that full time CDCR staff serve as sponsors for the inmate leisure time activity groups. She asked the department to please expedite the waiver request, so that LAC can take advantage of the free rehabilitative programming. She also expressed appreciation for the CAADAC presentation, because she feels it shows that the department truly does want a culture change and sees prisoners as stakeholders, and as valuable participants in the rehabilitative process.

Item 12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

C-ROB Secretary

Dated

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