

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes  
July 11, 2012 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on July 11, 2012, at the California State University, Alumni Center, 6024 State University Drive South, Sacramento, California.

**Board Members:** Present at the meeting were **Robert Barton**, Inspector General (Chairman); **Matthew Cate**, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **Vicki Prater**, (Sitting in for 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); **Marty Krizay** (Sitting in for Wendy Still, Chief Adult Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco) (Senate Committee on Rules appointee), and **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Absent from the meeting was **Norm Kramer**, Deputy Director (A), State Hospital Operations (Designee for Cliff Allenby, Director (A), Department of Mental Health).

**Office of the Inspector General staff:** Reneé Hansen, C-ROB Executive Director; James C. Spurling, Counsel to the Board; Linda Whitney, Board Secretary; and, Jana Boccalon, Executive Assistant.

**Panel Presenters:**

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

CDCR Librarians: Robert Oldfield, Diane Johnson, Helene Kosher, Brenda Toschi, and Robert Jockinsen

CDCR Parole Director: Robert Ambroselli

**Public Comments:**

Cindy Greer  
Helene Kosher  
Susan Lawrence  
Arno Nappi  
Pamm Handel

Brenda Toschi  
Steve Bowen  
Marion House  
Doug Jockinsen  
Tom Pisarek

**Item 1. Call to order.**

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:37 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 after a few minor changes.

**Item 5. Executive Director updates.**

Ms. Hansen remarked that she had no updates at this time.

**Item 6. Presentation: Panel of CDCR Librarians, In-Prison Library Services.**

Mr. Oldfield and Ms. Johnson work at Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW), Chowchilla. They shared results of a survey conducted which noted inmate comments about the library and their primary uses of the library. Ms. Johnson expressed concern regarding their ability to keep the library open the required hours because of lack of funding and understaffing.

Ms. Kosher spoke regarding California State Prison Solano's (SOL) library services, including bibliotherapy, support groups, and book discussion groups. She also expressed her concerns over lack of budget funding and staffing necessary to maintain the libraries' hours.

Ms. Toschi, from the Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) spoke regarding inmate requests for technology training, music, and reading. She shared a library snapshot documenting CCWF services and concerns. She supports implementing a program where mothers can record themselves reading books to their children. She too is also very concerned over lack of funding for the libraries.

Mr. Jockinsen from the California Correction Institution (CCI) in Tehachapi, presented the board with a reminder that not all prisons are the same, so a "one size fits all" approach to libraries in the prisons does not work because many of the prisons are different sizes with different missions. CCI, for instance, has many yards spread over several acres which make it impossible for him, as the only librarian for the entire prison, to maintain adequate library hours.

**Item 7. Presentation: Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation: Budget & Logic Model Update and Program Implementation.**

Elizabeth Siggins, Director (A), Division of Rehabilitative Programs, CDCR, presented on the status of the rehabilitation programs. She gave a logic model update and presented on the fiscal year 12/13

rehabilitation programs budget. The blueprint contains plans to designate 12-13 institutions as re-entry hubs.

**Item 8. Presentation: Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation: Future of Corrections Blueprint, In-Prison Rehabilitation.**

Ms. Siggins presented an update on the Blueprint previously submitted to the Legislature in May of this year. Since being presented to the Legislature, adjustments have been made to the Blueprint in accordance with inmate needs and information collected.

The re-entry hubs would provide offenders, within their last four years before being released, the programs necessary to meet their assessed needs to prepare them for release. CDCR would assess the inmates' needs and enroll them in transitional programs aimed at meeting the needs of the inmates prior to their release, such as career technical education, substance abuse programs, employment transition, academic education, and cognitive behavioral programs.

CDCR continues to look at programs, and career technical education certifications to determine whether those certifications earned while incarcerated turn into employment opportunities once released.

**Item 9. Presentation: CDCR: Division of Adult Parole – The Five Year Roadmap.**

Mr. Ambroselli spoke regarding the five-year roadmap for community based parole programs and the parole program capacity. CDCR had a panel make recommendations and create a roadmap. The roadmap provides a process with which parole officers can improve the quality of service provided to parolees.

Mr. Ambroselli reported that the parole discharge process has been improved so that if a parolee completes all the protocols, they can be discharged based upon their efforts and results, rather than just a timeline.

Parole is currently using a comprehensive software to track all their programs and officers to show snapshots of trends in the department so they know where to focus future improvement efforts.

**Item 10. Future Board Meeting Schedule.**

The board reviewed the future meetings previously agreed upon and set new meeting dates. The next board meetings are scheduled for: September 12, 2012, November 14, 2012, and January 9, 2013. The next Report Writing Committee Meetings are scheduled for: August 6, 2012 and January 28, 2013. The board agreed to set the March 2013 meeting at the board meeting in September.

**Item 11. Future Agenda Items.**

Mr. Warren had prepared a document presentation requesting that the topic of religious services in the prisons be placed on the agenda of the next board meeting. The board decided that next meeting's agenda was already quite full, so they would discuss Mr. Warren's request at the next meeting to determine whether it was a topic appropriate for the January board meeting.

**Item 12. Public Comment.**

Arno Nappi said there were many great services provided by libraries 17 years ago that are not available in the libraries today. He mentioned that if there was an increase in salaries, then you could attract talented librarians to improve those services.

Cindy Greer spoke about how hard the CDCR librarians work despite the obstacles such as lack of budget and staff. She recommended a library committee be established.

Brenda Toschi stated that the librarians are asking for a library committee because the resources are old and need to be updated. She later stated that the inmates are requesting the return of the hobby crafts programs.

Steve Bowen reported that SEIU recently surveyed CDCR educators regarding the inmate assignment process and that the survey identified three problem areas including assigning inmates to the wrong grade level, assigning inmates that already have a GED, and difficulty removing disruptive inmates from class once they are assigned.

Tom Pisarek said that he felt the reentry hubs were a good idea and that the libraries also need an advocate at the central office to help improve conditions.

Helene Kosher asked if there was a possibility of restoring library budgets to purchase library materials.

Marion House spoke regarding her husband residing at the Honor Yard in California State Prison Los Angeles County in Lancaster. Reclassification has caused a drop in his points forcing him to be transferred. She said the Honor Yard Program is a simple way for CDCR to show they are serious about improving the California prison system.

Pamm Handel teaches in CDCR's Division of Juvenile Justice. She pointed out to the board that the last time job specifications were written for her classification was in the 1970's and suggests that it is time for an update.

Susan Lawrence advocates for the Honor Yard Program. She feels that the as the Blueprint stands now, the Honor Yard Program will be lost. She asked the board for commitment to preserve the program.

Doug Jockinsen said the libraries are a worthy project and that staff qualifications should match their compensation.

**Item 13. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

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C-ROB Secretary

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Dated

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