

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes  
July 10, 2013 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on July 10, 2013, at the California State University, Alumni Center, 6024 University Drive South, Sacramento, California.

**Board Members:** Present at the meeting were **Robert Barton**, Inspector General (Chairman); **Jeff Beard**, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **Wendy Still**, Chief Adult Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco (Senate Committee on Rules appointee); **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 Brice Harris, Chancellor, California Community Colleges); **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; **Ian Parkinson**, Sheriff, County of San Luis Obispo (Governor Appointee); **Jennie Kaufman Singer**, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); **Greg Williams**, Chief Operating Officer, California Department of State Hospitals (Sitting in for **Pam Ahlin**, Director of Hospital Strategic Planning and Implementation, State Hospitals (Designee for Cliff Allenby, Director (A), Department of State Hospitals); and **Kevin Wortell** (Sitting in for Toby Douglas, Director, Department of Health Care Services, formerly California Department and Alcohol and Drug Programs. Absent from the meeting was **Susan Turner**, Professor, University of California, Irvine (President of the University of California appointee).

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

**Presenters:**

**Female Offender Programs:**

Jay Virbel  
Rick Hill  
Robin Harrington  
Dr. Barbara Owen  
Virginia Dunstone  
Chuck Patillo  
Eric Reslock

**CDCR:**

John Wordlaw  
Tanya Rothchild  
Robert Storms

**Arts in Corrections:**

Craig Watson  
Wayne Cook  
Mary Beth Barber  
Alma Robinson  
Jack Bowers  
Larry Brewster  
James Carlson  
Raymond Vincent

**Public Comments:**

Steve Bowen  
Susan Lawrence  
MaryAnn Ellis-Jammal  
John Kern

**Item 1. Call to order.**

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:26 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 approve minutes from the March 28, 2013 board meeting.**

The minutes were unanimously approved without any edits.

**Item 5. Executive Director updates.**

Ms. Hansen presented the board with information regarding recent legislative changes affecting items under C-ROB jurisdiction. AB 494 pertains to the Blueprint and amends the Penal Code to reflect the changes. AB 494 mandates college programs where priority is given to participants by a number of factors. Ms. Hansen reported AB 1019 must consider if programs align accurately with the current job market. This legislation is geared toward insuring inmates achieve usable degrees.

Ms. Hansen stated there was a request that the board write a letter of support for AB 494 and AB 1019. Ms. Still made a motion to write the letters which was seconded by Ms. Singer. Ms. Hansen agreed to write the letter for Mr. Barton's signature.

Ms. Hansen further reported on her recent visit to Rio Cosumnes County Jail. She stated that Captain Fitch has innovative programs regarding AB 109. Under the sheriff's leadership a committee has been implemented to review the program needs and case plans for inmates at the jail. There are mandatory classes each inmate must attend and then, based on their needs assessment, inmates are assigned improvement classes followed by electives. Re-entry specialists have been hired to assist inmates applying for benefits.

Ms. Hansen reported that some board members were able to take a tour of the Folsom Women's Facility (FWF). The members toured CalPIA headquarters and FWF. Information was presented regarding CalPIA programs and how the inmates were working to repurpose the facility which had been abandoned for a couple years prior to be converted to the women's prison. Ms. Hansen stated the members received presentations about programs at FWF, including computer literacy; were able to speak with the teachers and learned how volunteers assist the VEP teachers.

**Item 6. Presentation – Female Offender Programs.**

Jay Virbel presented with Rick Hill and Robin Harrington of FWF regarding the current state of the facility. Mr. Hill stated that the FWF is a 403 bed facility that is currently at about half capacity awaiting the remainder of the inmates to transfer in the next few weeks. The inmates are levels 1-3 and will stay at the facility for five years or less. Currently all but 11 inmates are in programming. There was an initial concern about staffing FWF with Folsom State Prison (FOL) staff but all the staff at FWF like the environment and are there because they chose. Mr. Hill also stated that all FOL staff received gender responsive training prior to FWF opening which he attributes greatly to reducing the learning curve relating to treatment of female inmates.

Mr. Virbel, Dr. Barbara Owen, and Virginia Dunstone reported on other prison's female offender programs. Mr. Virbel stated that many of the other women's prisons are still overcrowded. Central California Women's Facility (CCWF) in particular has 3493 inmates which is roughly 174-178% capacity; however it doesn't feel overcrowded because of the dorm setting, large industrial area and large separate program yards. He stated that while it doesn't feel overcrowded, often there are not enough custodial staff to run extra programming. Mr. Virbel also reported that CCWF had 100 graduates this year and many programs from Valley State Prison for Women (VSPW) have been incorporated at CCWF.

Mr. Virbel also stated that California Institution for Women (CIW) has a program benefitting mothers and infants right after birth. CIW understands the importance of mother/infant bonding so they have a special housing area where mothers can bond with their newborn infants after arrangements have been made through the court system. Northern California has a similar program occurring less frequently as they offer mother/child visiting on the weekends. Nina Messina will be evaluating the programs, so there should be data in the near future.

Dr. Owen reported she spent the last ten years working on sexual safety issues regarding inmates. She believes training staff and being aligned with gender responsiveness is vital. Dr. Owen also stated that risk assessment is useless without case management and Penal Code section 3430 should guide a lot of how CDCR deals with female offenders.

Ms. Dunstone stated she works hands on with female offenders and has written the book "Why Do I Do What I Do?" She reported that there is an average of 3.2% recidivism for inmates in programming. Ms. Dunstone also stated that she is a member of the Women for Change life-scripting program which is currently only offered at CCWF.

Chuck Patillo and Eric Reslock presented CalPIA's impact on programming for female offenders. Mr. Patillo stated that the recidivism rate for inmates in a CalPIA program are on average 26-32% less than the general population. Unfortunately, when VSPW transitioned to a male prison, CalPIA lost approximately 177 female inmates who were working in the optical processing lab. Also, due to reduced funding, the CTE program at CIW that has been running since 2006 will be phased out this year. CalPIA will run carpentry at a reduced level at FWF. **Computer refurbishing is a new agreement recently**

#### **Item 7. Presentation: Arts in Corrections.**

Craig Watson, Director of the California Arts Council (CAC) stated that today arts in prison are a shamefully small occurrence compared with many years ago. Mr. Watson introduced other members of his staff: Wayne Cook, former artist facilitator at old and new Folsom; and Mary Beth Barber, Head of Special Initiatives. Mr. Watson stated that the California Lawyers for the Arts (CLA) and the William James Association work prison arts programs in nine state prisons. Also, the California Arts Council did a listening tour and would like to produce a cultural impact report. The council has a deep interest in restoring prison arts programs and creating more moving forward.

Alma Robinson reported that the CLA is collaborating with the William James Association supported by the CAC to develop a demonstration project using arts as a methodology for inmate rehabilitation. Grants from several different places support art classes at selected prisons. She reported Larry Brewster is researching the effect art has on the reduction of discipline issues while incarcerated. Ms. Robinson stated that studies show arts parolees experience better outcomes and lower recidivism rates. The positive results of arts in corrections are evident and consistent with the Blueprint realignment plan.

Jack Bowers, Chair of the Board of Directors of the William James Association stated there are five issues involved in rehabilitation which he believes fine arts specifically address: personal transformation, institutional transformation, community impact, cost effective programming, and the community based program model. He read a letter written by an inmate from his art class who had positive things to say about the program. Mr. Bowers stated that arts in corrections programs reduce the harshness of institutions and improve humanization. Also, it changes how communities view the incarcerated when they view murals designed by prisoners at their local airports, playgrounds and public areas.

Mr. Brewster reported his research shows that art programs reduce tension and disciplinary action. Relative to students, those involved in arts are more likely to stay in school if arts are incorporated. Mr. Brewster stated that inmates participating in the arts in corrections programs are more open-minded, adaptable, better communicators, better time managers and more detail oriented. A report of general findings will be done at the end of July or beginning of August. Also, research will be expanded to include data on recidivism.

James Carlson stated that arts can deeply affect individuals. The program should not only be at the end of an inmate's sentence and also not just in the public sector – arts should be in schools as well. If it works for prisoners, it will work for students. Mr. Carlson read some positive remarks from inmates who participated in the arts programs. He also stated that many times when inmates are transferred they have their musical instruments taken away when they arrive at the new institution. There is a need for better communication among the institutions regarding the arts programs. Mr. Carlson reported that California State Prison at Sacramento had a successful arts program because inmates stepped up as mentors and because they have long term offenders. The program receives a 13 year run on a 10 year investment. Robert Vincent is a success story of an inmate who spent 15 years in prison, participated in the arts program, learned how to make guitars and used this skill to earn a living wage to support his family after he was released.

Raymond Vincent is the oldest son of Robert Vincent. He spoke regarding his experience learning guitar making from his father. Mr. Vincent stated that his father, once released, taught him and his brother wood-working and guitar-building. He now helps his father build guitars for artists such as Santana, while his brother makes his living building custom cabinets.

Carol Hinds stated her son was incarcerated when he was 18 years old. She has a very positive parent's perspective regarding the arts in corrections program. Her son began incarceration greeted by gangs but once he participated in the arts programs he moved to songwriting and literature. Ms. Hinds stated she has not only seen positive outcomes from her son's involvement in the arts programs, but she has seen the same for other arts inmates as well.

Kathleen Allison stated the positive impact of arts in corrections is everywhere. CDCR's role is to be a collaborative partner. She is currently working a pilot program to bring arts in corrections back to the institutions.

#### **Public Comment on Items 6 & 7.**

Steve Bowen is a VEP Instructor at Mule Creek State Prison. He commended PIA on their programs.

Susan Lawrence stated she is impressed with the Folsom Women's Facility program. The inmates are treated with respect which she feels is vital and should be duplicated at the men's facilities also.

She also mentioned that the needs of long term offenders need to be taken into account when it comes to programming.

**Item 8. Presentation: Workforce Investment Board.**

Ken Quesada and Tim Rainey from the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) presented that they have the opportunity through statutes to encourage creation of local Workforce Investment Boards. The WIB is zeroing in on industry sectors. The focus is on helping the parolees obtain quality employment that will provide a living wage which will enable them to support a family. They are working toward filling jobs in industries that have a specific need to be filled.

Mr. Quesada reported that the WIB was able to work with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in the past on a prison to re-employment plan. The WIB had given money to CDCR years ago to fund the California New Start Program. He stated that the turnover at CDCR has created obstacles to program consistency and continuation. The WIB would like to see effective development of a feedback circle so they can focus on improving and growing their programs. Currently, the WIB is looking for funding and grants to implement additional collaborative programs since the originally funding set aside for these programs expired in 2012.

**Item 9. Presentation: Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.**

John Wordlaw presented on CDCR's budget. The overall budget is 9.1 billion dollars for CDCR. He stated they just ended the 2012-2013 fiscal year with approximately 28-30 million dollars of surplus rehabilitation money. 20.2 million of the surplus reverted back to the general fund. The reverted funds are primarily due to decreases in personnel, increased parole population and lack of parolee participation in community programs.

Mr. Wordlaw reported Blueprint will have an increase in money this coming fiscal year because it will be active for the entire year and not a partial like we did this past fiscal year. **He also reported that Stockton's programming will include education however, substance abuse is not**

He stated that approximately 39 million dollars has been set aside for community based programming, 182 million dollars for education, 86.5 million dollars for substance abuse treatment, and 17.4 million dollars for administration. Funds are interchangeable among the programs; however legislation must be notified if any money is moved. The Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) is separate from rehabilitation dollars. Of the 65.3 million in the IWF, 51.3 million has been identified for expenditure. It is the responsibility of the program directors to earmark IWF money available for expenditure, but that is not yet earmarked.

Tanya Rothchild stated this would be her last time presenting at C-ROB. Millicent Tidwell will be taking over her position. Ms. Rothchild reported logic model updates by stating they are completing assessments in the reception centers. CDCR is getting push back from inmates not wanting to do COMPAS but since it's now a legislative regulation they must. As of June 30, 74 percent of eligible offenders had assessment. CDCR is currently addressing substance abuse strategies for low risk offenders after the two year plan is already in place. There is concern that female offenders score low but have a higher need.

Ms. Rothchild also reported that CDCR has expanded its outreach to staff regarding programs and are now making videos to better explain COMPAS to inmates and staff. The video "Right Offender, Right Program, Right Time" plays regularly on inmate TV.

Last year funding prevented the use of substitute teachers for long term absences. CTE struggled with hiring the last four teachers and were met with many challenges. In addition, CDCR has many trades programs similar to CalPIA; however, CalPIA has better links in the community to facilitate jobs for released inmates. CDCR is trying and planning to further discussions regarding partnering to provide parolees with employment opportunities.

Ms. Rothchild mentioned that the **SAT** for FWF did not receive any bids, so it will go out for rebid soon. The consensus was that the amount was too small. Oracle IT will be implemented in the next few months. CDCR is working directly with parole to form a cohesive re-entry partnership.

Colleen Curtin reported that many offenders stop participating in the substance abuse program because there is no consequence for quitting. Also, currently the general type of parolee is very different than previous years. The type of offender has changed as well. Both have higher needs now.

Ms. Rothchild reviewed the Academic, CTE and Substance Abuse Program enrollment and attendance numbers. She stated CDCR continues to have issues but they are taking steps to address them. Librarians and libraries continue to have staffing issues so 24 library assistants and 17 librarians were hired last year. CTE has been re-evaluated, three classes have been added and trades are back in the programming. Procurement is still a large problem, so efforts have been made to work with administration to better track orders and significant progress has been made to increase efficiency. New advisory groups have been formed for librarians and coaches. Also, there is a TV specialist at every institution.

Preparations are being made for GED testing. Carts are being purchased to move around the software and equipment that will deliver the GED tests to inmates. A conference was held to discuss the issues CDCR was having with dual assignment blocks. The problem has been identified: it was with the DDPS program. In January they will no longer have to make manual adjustments because the program will allow for dual assignments.

Robert Storms reported on Parole. He stated Parole is working to improve the outcome database management. They are working on the Affordable Care Act and in January 2014 they believe 100 percent of parolees will be eligible for benefits. They are diverting internal funding to work on benefit workers inside the institutions. There is an extremely low benefits denial rate because the current benefits staff is extremely well-trained. However, for the few who do get denied, we must improve resources available to aid parolees with the appeal process. Also, the Medical benefits number in the data is low because unless an inmate has an immediate need for Medical, that application is not completed as part of the benefits application process. Lastly, the population projected to release in 2013-2014 is approximately 36,000 inmates, not including any Three-Judge Panel impacts.

#### **Item 8. Future board meeting schedule.**

Ms. Hansen confirmed the next board meeting for September 11, 2013. The board tentatively set meetings for October 16th and November 13th. The dates will be confirmed at the next board meeting.

#### **Item 9. Future agenda items.**

Director Hansen suggested that it has been a while since the board had a presentation from the Leadership Council. The board asked CDCR to present a running list of funding priorities and budget plan to implement these priorities to avoid having a rehabilitation surplus revert back to the

general fund. The board would like to hear updates on the California ID Program and case management plans. It was discussed that the board would like to see some data and a presentation regarding how ESL and disabilities are incorporated into the education program. For a future meeting in the spring, the board asked to receive an update regarding FWF's progress and programming, as well as an update from Jay Virbel regarding female offender programming. Also, the board has received multiple communications regarding the variability of teacher's salaries and would like to have a presentation at a future board meeting.

**Item 10. Public comment.**

Mary Ann Ellis-Jammal of the Inmate Family Council stated that the council donated art projects in collaboration with CDCR. After six months they were able to put art in the visiting rooms. She also stated the IWF is not CDCR's money and is completely inmate generated, so stakeholders determine where the money should be spent.

John Kern of SEIU states that he thought this was a great C-ROB meeting. He wished Tanya Rothchild well and thanked her for leading a responsive team. Mr. Kern further expressed his gratitude for Dr. Arroyo's earlier statement that the numbers relating to programming at FWF look great because they are dealing with the "cream of the crop" inmates and we should be focusing on those with higher need as well. He also thanked the board for agreeing to write the letter in support of recent legislature.

**Item 11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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C-ROB Secretary

Dated

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