

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
July 9, 2014 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on July 9, 2014, at the California State University Modoc Hall, Willow Suites, 3000 State University Drive, Sacramento, California.

Board Members present: **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); **Susan Turner**, Professor, University of California, Irvine (President of the University of California appointee); **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; **Patricia Terry**, Education Administrator, Adult Education Office, California Department of Education (Designee for Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction) and **Debra Jones**, Dean, Career Education Practices, Workforce and Economic Development, California Community Colleges (Designee for Brice Harris, Chancellor, California Community Colleges); **George Maynard**, Director (A), Hospital Strategic Planning and Implementation, State Hospitals (Designee for Cliff Allenby, Director (A), Department of State Hospitals); **Brenda Grealish**, Division Chief, Division of Mental Health Care Services, Department of Health Care Services).

Board Member absent: **Ian Parkinson**, Sheriff, County of San Luis Obispo (Governor Appointee); and **Jennie Singer**, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee).

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

Presenters:

CDCR:

Millicent Tidwell
Rodger Meier
Robert Storms
Jason Lopez
Jay Atkinson

AIC:

Craig Watson
Alma Robinson
Mary Beth Barber
Jim Carlson

CDCR Librarians:

Patrick Maloney
Velva Hansen
Robert Oldfield

SEIU:

John Kern
Roger White
Wade Bouton
Bruce Theel
Kim Olsen

Insight-Out:

Jacques Verduin
Jeni Lyon

Center for Council:

Jared Seide
Hugo Machuca

Public Comments:

Gail Brown
Stephanie Chavez
Vanessa Nelson

Item 1. Call to order.

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:42 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 12, 2014 board meeting.

The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

Item 5. Executive Director updates.

Ms. Polasik stated that recent legislation had made some changes affecting C-ROB. The board is now only required to meet a minimum of two times per year and publish an annual report. She also stated OIG resources are being utilized to conduct the annual C-ROB institution visits more efficiently. All visits will be performed within the 60 days prior to the report, so the information gathered will be current and more relevant to the reporting period.

Item 6. Presentations by CDCR.**Budget:**

Jason Lopez presented the board with an update regarding CDCR's budget. Mr. Lopez shared that the highlights from FY 2013-14 are that CDCR will likely have a \$5 million surplus that will revert back to the general fund. For FY 2014-15, of the \$41 million authorized, \$20 million is allocated for local reentry facilities and \$12 million for drug interdiction at non-reentry facilities.

Interim Report on SB 105 Implementation Status:

The presenter had a conflict, so this topic will be addressed at a future board meeting.

Progress of Obamacare/Affordable Healthcare Act:

Robert Storms presented the update regarding Affordable Care. Mr. Storms stated that currently UC San Diego has the contract for the benefit workers for the entire state. And they plan to increase staffing again in October 2014. Mr. Storms reported that since applications must go through Covered California and workers are not allowed to enter information for the inmates, some issues has arisen that will need resolution, since the system does not recognize that these applications are being submitted pre-release. Mr. Storms stated that a pilot program is being started in Sacramento County to have contract eligibility workers enter inmate information into the system and to obtain government funds to help reduce the cost to CDCR for the benefit workers.

Mr. Storms stated that they are now sending benefit applications directly to the counties involved within 60 days of release which typically generates a MediCal card after 10 days. This process is happening for approximately 40% of the releasing population (an increase from 18%). In addition, the department will be receiving data and will soon be able to report outcomes.

Milestone Completion Credits:

Jay Atkinson reported on milestone completion credits. Mr. Atkinson stated that they have built a database to track release and banking credits and that SOMS will include milestone credits. COCF credits are applied differently so this creates some coding issues in SOMS. He cautioned the board that the data being presented is over an eight month period where some classes were not in session and that the information will be more accurate once a 12 month period is reviewed. He stated he will be happy to update the board at a future meeting.

Item 7. Presentation by CDCR.**In-Custody Sex Offender Treatment Pilot:**

Rodger Meier reported that a stakeholder group has been formed to address this program. The discussion with Department of State Hospitals did not work out so they are looking at other options. Mr. Meier stated that the department is looking to develop program curriculum and are reviewing the University of Cincinnati curriculum for the program. They are assessing program numbers to determine programming possibilities. There currently is not a validated program curriculum for women sex offenders.

Post-Release Sex Offender Treatment Program:

This item had to be postponed and will be discussed at a future board meeting.

Item 8. California Arts Council: Arts-in-Corrections Pilot Project.

Craig Watson discussed the pilot program. The pilot will run for 18 months until June 2016. The William James Association will provide training for arts providers. There are several coordinating organizations which will provide programming at the institutions. A couple examples of some organizations are: Dance Kaiseo & Silicon Valley Creates at SVSP, and Marin Shakespeare Co. at SQSP and CSP-Solano.

Mr. Watson also stated that the California budget doubled the California Arts Council's budget so they can expand pilots and programs at adult and juvenile facilities.

Item 9. Presentation: Panel of CDCR Librarians, In-Prison Library Services.

Patrick Maloney presented the Library Literacy Proposal to the board. The proposal suggests the library be used as a rehabilitative program rather than merely a support program. The proposal also suggests using the library as a reentry hub by adding materials to the law library and having a better collection of statewide resources to better help inmates upon their release. The proposal recommends the institutions use the libraries as more of a resource center than just a place for books.

Velva Hansen stated that for those inmates who have been incarcerated for a long period, digital literacy is huge change in society which needs to be addressed pre-release. She also stated that any inmates taking classes will need to know how to do digital research and upon parole, most jobs are found and applied for online. While the reentry directory is entirely online, inmates can only access it through printed copies. Ms. Hansen proposed that there is a tool to teach digital literacy that will allow inmates to access internet information on a computer without actually being on the internet.

Item 10. Presentation: SEIU Instructor Feedback.

John Kern reviewed the survey comments received. He stated that there was more participation this year than last and the survey showed that VEP students are self-motivated and apply themselves for success. Common concerns regarding VEP were a desire to reduce extra administrative duties currently assigned with VEP teachers. The survey showed that procurement is still an issue that hinders student's success. The survey also showed that there is widespread support to have more college opportunities in the institutions. Mr. Kern stated that SEIU met with CDCR to review the results and efforts to work together are going much better than last year.

Item 11. Presentation: Insight-Out Guiding Rage into Power.

Jacques Verduin presented on the GRIP program. Mr. Verduin said it is a comprehensive offender accountability program and that Insight-Out has been replicating the program in other countries and is now looking to implement the program in California prisons. Mr. Verduin went on to state that there are over 1000 graduates of their program and to date, none have recidivated. He also stated that there are currently 90 inmates in this year-long program with 317 on the waiting list.

Jeni Lyon shared that her father is currently serving his 20th year of a life sentence for killing her mother. Being a person struck by such tragedy in her family, she now works with the restorative justice movement in San Quentin to help others understand victim impact. She shares her story with inmates to help them enhance their ability to have empathy for victims. Ms. Lyon stated that this increased empathy effects recidivism in a positive way and helps return inmates to society safely.

Item 12. Presentation: Center for Council.

Jared Seide presented regarding the Center for Council. He stated council is a talking circle which creates an atmosphere of tolerance and respect. He showed a video of participants supporting reintegration into society. He explained that council allows listening and expressing of what inmates have done to allow them to make amends. It creates a safe place where an inmate can share emotions and feelings especially when prison is usually an unwelcome place for feelings.

Hugo Machuca is an ex-inmate who has been trained as a facilitator. He currently uses the Council principles with his staff at work and his family at home. Inmate perceptions of unfair treatment often contribute to recidivism and unlawful behavior once released. Council addresses this to help reduce recidivism. The talking circles are proven to be successful. Randy Grounds is a former warden who said he believes Council sows seeds of hope

Item 13. Future board meeting schedule.

The board discussed upcoming conflicts for the Report Writing Committee meeting and decided to leave the meeting to September 8, 2014. Ms. Polasik suggested that the 2015 meeting schedule would be discussed at the next board meeting.

Item 14. Future agenda items.

Ms. Polasik suggested that the board receive an update from the librarians at a future meeting in 2015. Wendy Still suggested that March might be a good time for an update.

Item 15. Public comment.

Gail Brown belongs to a non-profit that is very concerned about lifers in remote prisons. These prisons do not have volunteers for programs and so they really want people to be aware that families of inmates are untapped resources that can help with problems such as the lack of volunteers.

Stephanie Chavez, a librarian, stated that you learn digital literacy at grad school and she can't wait to implement it CDCR libraries.

Vanessa Nelson mentioned that the Inmate Welfare Fund audit was released 10 months late and that there are problems with it. She also stated that the audit mentions SB 542 implementation but the CDCR doesn't have a process to implement SB 542.

Item 16. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53p.m.

C-ROB Secretary

Dated

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

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