

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
June 15, 2016 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on June 15, 2016, at the California State University, Harper Alumni Center, 7490 College Town Drive, Sacramento, California 95819.

Board Members present: **Robert Barton**, Inspector General (Chairman); **Scott Kernan**, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; **Javier Romero**, Dean, California Community Colleges (AM Session) and **Debra Jones**, Director, Workforce and Adult Education, Workforce and Economic Development Division (Designee for Brice Harris, Chancellor, California Community Colleges) (PM Session); **Chris Nelson**, Administrator, Adult Education Office, Career and College Transition Division, (Designee for Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction); **Brenda Grealish**, Division Chief, Mental Health Services, (Designee for Jennifer Kent, California Department of Health Care Services); and **Jennie Singer**, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); **Darren Thompson**, Sheriff, County of San Benito (Governor Appointee); and **Susan Turner**, Professor, University of California, Irvine (President of the University of California appointee).

Board Members absent: **Pam Ahlin**, Director, California Department of State Hospitals

Office of the Inspector General staff: Jana Boccalon, Executive Director (A); James C. Spurling, Counsel to the Board; Linda Whitney, Board Secretary, and Kira Cohen, Law Student Intern.

Presenters:

CDCR:

Brantley Choate
Cynthia Florez DeLyon
Lisa Heintz
Kevin Hoffman

Nathaniel Williams

Victor Malin

Insight Garden:

Beth Watkus

Arts in Corrections:

Mary Beth Barber
Craig Watson

Public Comments:

John Carlson
Vanessa Nelson-Sloane
Jared Rudolf
Suzanne Knapp
Laurie Brooks
Brian Folley

ARC:

Sam Lewis
Adrian Vasquez

Item 1. Call to order.

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Item 2. Introduction and establish quorum.

Chairman Barton introduced the Office of the Inspector General staff participating in the meeting and asked the Board Members to introduce themselves. It was noted that a quorum was established.

Item 3. Review agenda.

There were no comments concerning the agenda.

Item 4. Review and approve minutes from the September 2, 2015 board meeting.

The minutes were approved with no changes. Secretary Kernan moved to approve the minutes and Jennie Singer seconded the motion. B. Grealish, J. Singer, S. Turner, C. Nelson, S. Kernan, and W. Arroyo and J. Romero voted in favor of the approval. D. Thompson abstained from voting.

Item 5. Executive Director updates.

Ms. Boccalon stated that we have not received any new correspondence since the last meeting.

Item 6. Presentation: Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

FY 2015-16- Budget Status Update

This presentation was postponed to a later meeting.

FY 2016-17 Rehabilitation Funds Plan

Kevin Hoffman presented regarding the in-prison program expansion and work the department has been doing to fix personnel shortages. Ms. Florez-DeLyon reported that they are expanding long-term offender programming as well.

Dr. Choate stated that OCE is looking into expanding additional classrooms for CTE and creating mini computer labs as some certificates are only offered online.

2015 CDCR Outcome Evaluation Report Highlights

This presentation was postponed to a later meeting.

GED/E-Reader Update

Dr. Choate reported the GED is not the only test and CDCR now uses multiple high school equivalency exams. The GED (on computers) is used for most inmates and the HISET (paper and pen) for high security inmates. Dr. Choate also reported that the Inmate Programming TV (IPTV) is running in 13 prisons and they are currently working to expand to all the prisons.

Dr. Choate stated that 3800 of 7500 E-Readers have been rolled out. By September of this year, all should be in use. They are currently being used for correspondence classes, but they will also be used in the face-to-face classes in September.

Transitions Curriculum Update

Dr. Choate reported that the curriculum has been developed and the principals have been trained. They will start at the reentry hubs in August and be in the remaining prisons by December.

Pre-Parole Benefits Update

Lisa Heintz reported on the pre-parole benefits. She stated that recommendations made by the C-ROB Board have been implemented and they now have an MOU with DHCS to share information. In addition, Ms. Heintz stated that the department is using a new process to track veterans. They are working with the Veteran's Administration to provide veteran reentry services and address veteran concerns.

Lifer Parole Update

Ms. Florez-DeLyon reported on the department's plans to expand for lifers. They have received funding for 180 days of volunteer housing with possible extension of 180 days. They have convened a Lifer Advisory Group to address long-term offender parole needs, progress, barriers and to also receive recommendations such as in-prison computer and resume classes. There are also facilitated mentor groups at parole offices.

Item 7. Presentation: Insight Garden.

Beth Watkus reported on Insight Garden. She showed a video detailing their work. Insight Garden received innovative grant funding and is expanding into four additional facilities and nationally. Insight Garden builds teams, community and leadership through garden projects. The program has four semesters (arcs) of learning that span one year and they work with Partners in Justice. Harvests from vegetable/fruit gardens are donated to local charities.

Ms. Watkus stated that of the 118 inmates who participated in the program, less than 10% of those paroled recidivated. Planting Justice hires released inmates from the program and of those paroled, none have recidivated.

Item 8. Presentation: Arts in Corrections Update.

Mary Beth Barber and Craig Watson presented an update on the Arts in Corrections (AIC) program. All forms of art are represented with the exception of media arts. The two year pilot was given \$1M for the first year and \$1.5M for the second. They are working to become a national model and work with very enthusiastic vendors. AIC received additional funding of \$6M to bring the program to all CA prisons.

Item 9. Presentation: Anti-Recidivism Coalition, Lifer Advisory Group.

Sam Lewis, Adrian Vasquez, Nathaniel Williams, and Victor Malin presented on the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC). The program has volunteer mentorship and a housing initiative collaborating with community colleges. A pilot program just started to provide participants with tech school certification and immediate job placement upon completion. ARC participants have a recidivism rate of less than 5%.

Item 10. Future board meeting schedule.

Ms. Bocalon reviewed the upcoming meeting dates: the next Board meeting is September 7 and the Report Writing Subcommittee Meeting is August 3. It was discussed that some report writing subcommittee members have conflicts and the date will be rescheduled to sometime after August 10, 2016. The 2017 schedule will be discussed at the September Board meeting. Mr. Barton suggested that for 2017 that we meet in February instead of March.

Item 11. Future agenda items.

Mr. Barton asked if any board members had agenda items they would like to propose at this time. The following were presented as possible agenda items: PEW/Outcomes Report, DAPO reentry programming, and Life Skills Classes both in-prison and after release.

Item 12. Public Comment.

John Carlson thanked the board for listening to AIC. He stated that CSP-SAC artists are giving 40 hours/week to the program and that it has been successful, even during times of low funding.

Nelson Sloane stated that the Life Support Alliance is happy to see the sudden increase in interest for lifer programming.

Jared Rudolf with the Prisoner Reentry Network requested a letter of support to waive the \$25 fee for inmates to order a copy of their birth certificate.

Suzanne Knapp, a CMC teacher, stated she was encouraged by what she heard at today's meeting.

Laurie Brooks of the William James Association thanked Secretary Kernan for his support of AIC.

Brian Folley read an email he sent CAC about AIC when he was in prison and that creativity helped him change and see possibility, and make him worthy of parole.

Item 13. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.



C-ROB Secretary

9/9/16

Dated

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