



C-ROB



California Rehabilitation Oversight Board

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State's prisons committed to inmate and parolee rehabilitation but concerns remain, report says

SACRAMENTO—In its first full report, the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board commends the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for committing to an effective treatment model to rehabilitate offenders. However, C-ROB's report raises several red flags that must be addressed for reforms to succeed.

In today's public report to the Governor and Legislature, C-ROB details the department's progress regarding rehabilitative programming provided to California's inmates and parolees.

C-ROB is an 11-member board created within the Office of the Inspector General and chaired by the Inspector General. Other board members include state and local law enforcement, education, treatment, and rehabilitation professionals.

Established by the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007, or Assembly Bill 900, the board meets regularly to examine CDCR's rehabilitative programming efforts. C-ROB is mandated to report its findings to the Governor and Legislature twice a year.

Today's report praises the department's commitment to recommendations put forth by an expert panel in June 2007. "The department made a wise decision to implement the rehabilitative treatment model that was recommended by a panel of experts last year," said Inspector General Matthew L. Cate.

The report also commended the department for moving forward with assessments of newly arrived and paroling inmates, albeit without a case management system, and for its plans to develop pilot treatment projects. "I'm pleased that CDCR has taken some positive first steps, but

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the Department will find that the board has high expectations for progress in 2008,” said Inspector General Cate.

But C-ROB’s report also raises some concerns. In particular, the board expressed concerns that the department provided limited information for the report, and details about pilot treatment projects can only be speculated. In addition, the report cites the department’s lack of a comprehensive plan to organize distinct reform efforts into a viable statewide program.

Overall, the lack of information provided to C-ROB hindered the report’s findings. The report notes that C-ROB expects the department to move forward with its reform efforts during the next six months—and to collect adequate information to share with the board.

“We recognize that correctional change takes time,” said Inspector General Cate. “But C-ROB is also aware that there have been many attempts over the years to improve California’s correctional system. Unfortunately, most of those efforts did not survive the passage of time. In this instance, however, the state cannot afford to fail. C-ROB is determined to monitor and support the department’s efforts until California has successfully implemented a sustainable and effective rehabilitative treatment model.”

The January 2008 biannual report may be viewed and downloaded from C-ROB’s Web site at <http://www.oig.ca.gov/crob>.

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