

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
June 19, 2007 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board met in open session on June 19, 2007 in the Modoc Hall at California State University, Sacramento, 3000 State University Drive East, Sacramento, California. The meeting began at 9:37 a.m.

Board members present: Matthew Cate, Inspector General; James Tilton, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Debra Jones, Administrator, Adult Education Programs (Designee for Superintendent of Public Instruction); José Millan, Vice Chancellor, California Community Colleges (Designee for Chancellor, California Community Colleges); Renée Zito, Director, State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs; Stephen Mayberg, Director of Mental Health; Susan Turner, Professor, University of California, Irvine (appointee by President of the University of California); and, Loren Buddress, Chief Probation Officer (appointee by Senate Committee on Rules).

Office of the Inspector General staff members participating: Jennifer Shaffer (acting counsel) and Ann Bordenkircher (Board secretary).

Others participating: Marisela Montes, Chair, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Expert Panel on Recidivism Reduction; Joan Petersilia, Ph.D., Co-chair, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Expert Panel on Recidivism Reduction; and, Kathryn Jett, Director, Division of Addiction and Recovery Services, California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation.

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairman Cate called to order the first meeting of the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board and welcomed the board members who were present, as well as the members of the public.

Item 2. Introductions and establish quorum

Each of the Board members introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their credentials.

Item 3. Welcome by the Chair

Chairman Cate mentioned the challenges facing the prison system: overcrowding, the recidivism rate, Federal court oversight, and budget concerns. He expressed the desire of the Board to be agreeable, energetic, fair-minded, creative and unrelenting in seeing that rehabilitation actually occurs within the prison system.

Item 4. Review Agenda

Chairman Cate gave a brief overview of the agenda items to be covered at today's meeting.

Item 5. Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act

The Board members were advised of its obligation to read and follow the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

Item 6. Comments by the Chair

a. Assembly Bill 900 [Chapter 7, Statutes of 2007] Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007.

Chairman Cate informed the members that the Board is required to meet quarterly to regularly examine the various mental health, substance abuse, education and employment programs for inmates and parolees operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The Board reports biannually to the Governor and Legislature on January 15 and July 15. The reports must include findings on the effectiveness of treatment efforts, rehabilitation needs of offenders, gaps in rehabilitation services in the department, levels of offender participation and success in the programs. The Board will make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to modifications, additions and elimination of rehabilitation and treatment programs. In performing its duties, the Board will utilize the work product of the Expert Panel on Recidivism Reduction.

b. California Rehabilitation Oversight Board budget and staffing.

The Board was informed that the Legislature provided the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board with some funding in the current year to do its work equivalent to two positions plus \$125,000 to make these public meetings possible and to contract with experts.

c. Role of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Expert Panel on Recidivism Reduction.

In performing its duties, the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board is to use the work products developed for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as a result of the provisions of the 2006 Budget Act, including Provision 18 of Item 5225-001-0001. Based on that language, CDCR created an expert panel.

Item 7. Presentation Regarding the Recidivism Reduction Report

The Expert Panel on Recidivism is co-chaired by Marisela Montes, Chief Deputy Secretary for Adult Programs with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Joan Petersilia, a Professor of Criminology at the University of California, Irvine. Ms. Montes shared the Panel's areas of focus in rehabilitation.

First was the establishment and piloting of risk and needs assessments. Second, the Panel developed a road map for correctional programming, which is included in the Expert Panel report. Third, the Panel built an evaluation shop within the department and developed contracts with external evaluators so there is a risk evaluation tied to every program implemented in the department. Another area of focus was the implementation of recidivism reduction strategies. The final area of focus has been working with communities to identify communities that are interested in establishing a reentry facility.

Dr. Petersilia shared about the Panel; there are 17 members, four from the academic community and other members heavily weighted to people who have run and reformed major prison and parole systems across the country. The members are broken into two committees. One committee reviewed how CDCR is doing in rehabilitation, while the other committee was concerned with parole and prison reform. She stated that the Legislature wants more than just numbers – it wants some assessment of the quality as well.

The Expert Panel report is due by June 30, 2007.

Next to speak was Kathryn Jett, Director of Addictions and Recovery Service with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Ms. Jett is also the chair of the Governor's Strike Team on Rehabilitation. With the implementation of AB 900, the Strike Team has 13 benchmarks within Phase I that determines whether or not Phase II is implemented. The Strike Team is to do some of the foundational work for the department that undergirds implementation of the work that the Expert Panel has produced.

The goal is to help inmates gain an employable skill, overcome addiction, or deal with a co-occurring disorder or substance abuse so they can better function in the community. The Strike Team will be looking at rehabilitation, parole, performance measures, public education, and reentry facilities.

There was a question and answer session following the presentations.

The Board heard from the following members of the public concerning this agenda item: Sarah Chappel and David Warren.

Item 8. California Rehabilitation Oversight Board draft report

The Board reviewed the proposed first report of the Board and voted unanimously to accept the report as written. The report is to be filed with the Governor and Legislature by July 15, 2007.

Item 9. Future board meeting schedule

There was a brief discussion concerning future meeting dates. The Board agreed to meet next on September 25, 2007.

Item 10. Future agenda items

There was an open discussion between the Board members as to future agenda items.

Item 11. Public comment

The board opened the floor to additional public comment on current agenda items, but there were no further public comments.

Item 12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.



Board Secretary



Approved at 9/25/07 Board meeting

(These Minutes are posted on the web at www.oig.ca.gov. Copies of the meeting transcript may be purchased by contacting Esquire Deposition Services at 1-800-610-0505.)