

California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
November 7, 2007 Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board met in open session on November 7, 2007 in the CSAC Convention Center located at 1020 11th Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Board members present: Matthew Cate, Inspector General; James Tilton, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); 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; Cindy Radavsky (Designee for Stephen Mayberg, Director of Mental Health); Bruce Bikle, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (appointee by Chancellor of California State University), Susan Turner, Professor, University of California, Irvine (appointee by President of the University of California); Michael Carona, Sheriff, Orange County (appointee by Governor); Loren Buddress, Chief Probation Officer (appointee by Senate Committee on Rules); and, William Arroyo, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (appointee by Speaker of the Assembly).

Office of the Inspector General staff participating: Barbara Sheldon (Counsel), Elizabeth Siggins (Policy Director), and Ann Bordenkircher (Board secretary).

Others participating: Kathryn Jett, Undersecretary of Programs, CDCR; Marisela Montes, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs, CDCR; Stephen Chapman, Assistant Secretary, Office of Research, CDCR; Rick Winistorfer, Parole Administrator, CDCR, Cynthia Florez-DeLyon, Parole Administrator, Division of Reentry and Recidivism Reduction, CDCR; and, Jon DePue, COMPAS Project Manager, Division of Education, Vocation and Offender Programs, CDCR.

Item 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 by Matthew Cate, Chair.

Item 2. Introductions and establish quorum

Chairman Cate noted that a quorum was present at the meeting.

Item 3. Review Agenda

As further introduction to the meeting, Chairman Cate stated there would be a panel discussion concerning CDCR's progress regarding rehabilitation initiatives prior to the Board's review of a proposed report outline. The Chairman affirmed the importance to this planning stage to assure that CDCR is on the right track in meeting the 13 mandates of AB 900 regarding expansion, easing overcrowding, and providing rehabilitation to all of the inmates and parolees under CDCR's authority.

Item 4. Approval of Prior Minutes

The Board approved the September 25, 2007 minutes.

Item 5. Panel Discussions

Kathy Jett began by stating that prior presentations before the Board focused on information specific to A.B. 900 and the Expert Panel Report. She stated that while A.B. 900 focuses attention on 13 specific benchmarks, the Board's focus is on rehabilitative efforts more generally. Ms. Jett noted that the challenge for CDCR and the Board will be to tie the two discussions together. The Department is working on several internal documents (basically Gantt styled-charts) that help the Secretary monitor a number of goals to be met under A.B. 900. These documents map out the planning process and are considered ongoing works in progress. Secretary Tilton added that due to the state's budget process the Department is currently assessing its capacity as an organization to implement A.B. 900 as well as identifying modifications that may be needed. These modifications may require approval from the Department of Finance. As final budget decisions are made, the charts will be further updated.

Ms. Jett concluded this portion by stating that the Rehabilitation Strike Team is poised to deliver the Department a final report in December. One recommendation will be on what are the best assessment instrument(s) to consider implementing in the various program areas. Other recommendations will cover six core program areas, a behavior management plan, a pilot or "proof" project, the education and employment plans that are required in A.B. 900, and staff certification issues.

Marisela Montes gave a brief overview of prior presentations to the Board. She stated that today's presentation would be a progress report on where CDCR is with respect to identifying and programming according to risk and needs. Finding 3 in the Expert Panel Report found that CDCR does not assign offenders to programs based on an objective risk and needs instrument. Today's panel addressed that Finding.

Jon Depue (COMPAS Project Manager, Division of Education, Vocation and Offender Programs, CDCR) gave an update on where the Department is on implementing risk and needs assessments in the institutions. He talked about various phases; Phase I being the first four reception centers – overlaying a new process with existing systems, then conducting COMPAS assessments (141 questions) and entering that data into the electronic database. Phase II is the remaining eight reception centers, while Phase III will be getting it rolled out to the general population. In Phase III, the inmate actually will be assigned to a program. Phase IV is within parole.

Steve Chapman (Assistant Secretary, Office of Research, CDCR) explained the need to have a sound and validated risk needs assessment as offenders enter the Department. The basic principle is to determine an offender's risk to re-offend, sort out who is at high risk, and then determine individual criminogenic needs (the factors that put an offender at risk to reoffend). After the assessment, one should match case management or behavior management and specific treatment with the needs identified by the assessment. Dr. Chapman explained that CDCR is currently "tweaking" the COMPAS assessment so that it can do all of this. Dr. Chapman also talked about the Department's plan to validate this tool and emphasized that the risk and needs assessment are the principle driver of a good evidence based rehabilitative system.

There was a question/answer session at this point concerning the potential impact on labor as a result of adding new responsibilities to someone's list of duties. CDCR explained that within the institutions, the COMPAS assessment is being administered by teachers.

There was a brief discussion about existing programs, lockdowns, mental health and substance abuse needs, education and vocational assessments, and the need for electronic records to follow an offender throughout the institutions and parole.

Rick Winistorfer (Parole Administrator, CDCR) gave an update with respect to conducting risk and needs assessments in the Parole Division. The Parole Division actually began its assessments processing in July-September of 2005. They were able to increase staff within the 33 institutions to conduct the COMPAS assessment with certain offenders within 240 days of release. The results are being used to begin reentry planning. This should help the field parole agent better understand and tailor the needs of parole supervision and services for offenders based upon their individual risk and needs as they reenter the community. There are 22 different scales, such as violence, recidivism, criminal involvement, substance abuse, financial problems, etc. Parole has identified community resources to assist with the offender need once released. The Board viewed a computer presentation of the COMPAS program.

There was a discussion following Mr. Winistorfer's presentation that included resources for treatment, legislative support, parole staffing, reentry facilities, resistant communities, and common classification systems between jails and the correctional system.

Cynthia Florez-DeLyon (Parole Administrator, Division of Reentry and Recidivism Reduction, CDCR) talked about reentry efforts. CDCR is setting the stage to do pre-parole planning – where Parole currently plans six months prior to release, CDCR is going to build the processes 12 months prior to release. She stated that a Request for Information (RFI) went out to all 58 counties, to chief administrative officers, sheriff's departments, district attorneys and boards of supervisors to get a sense of various communities' interest in working with the state and partnering on reentry facilities. CDCR indicated that the response to the RFI was good. More recently, workshops were held throughout the state for over 800 local government elected officials. At present, CDCR has 16 signed "Agreements to Cooperate" from counties interested in reentry facilities. Ten of these counties are interested in reentry facilities, pending the availability of jail bond funds. The next steps are to conduct county needs assessments for each interested county to determine community capacity for services. A tri-county reentry facility is anticipated to open in December 2008, as a result of S.B. 943.¹

Ms. Florez-DeLyon concluded her presentation by stating that CDCR is working on blueprint designs for reentry facilities, which vary from campus style, mid-rise and even high rise facilities that could assimilate into the community.

There was a general discussion session concerning inmate incentives, bargaining union participation, and legislative policies.

Four persons from the public addressed the Board:

Jon Kern (BU3, SEUI 1000, Correction Educator) stated it is absolutely critical to transform the prison culture to create a 24/7 rehabilitative environment. He said SEUI is willing to be at the table and be part of the conversation with CDCR staff.

Roger White (SEIU Local 1000, Research Analyst) stated that SEIU represents tens of thousands of workers in 33 facilities within California, such as cooks, teachers, vocational instructors, and clerical workers. Mr. White wanted to encourage the Board members to take advantage of the members who have worked in CDCR for decades and talk to them about some of their concerns. He stated that all these staff will be affected by the rehabilitation changes expected to take place.

¹ Chapter 228, Statutes of 2007 (Penal Code § 6275). Authorizes the use of the Northern California Women's Facility as a reentry facility to house inmates, parole violators, or parolees pending revocation of parole.

Bertha Chavez (SEUI). Ms. Chavez stated concerns about programs, the need for computers and other resources, overtime versus safety issues, and the need for central databases that follow inmates.

David Warren (Lobbyist, Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety). Mr. Warren expressed a desire to see utilization of community faith-based programs that have been found to be successful in preventing recidivism. He also stated a need to prevent people from getting into county jails in the first place.

Item 6: Board discussion on the potential content and format of the January 15, 2008 report

After its lunch break, the Board discussed using the draft outline of C-ROB biannual reports as an analytical framework. The Board reviewed the draft outline and Board members made suggestions with respect to the need to consider reentry and "booster" programs in each of the six major offender areas as well as the importance of identifying specific outcome measures.

Additional topics included the need for CDCR to address overcrowding and culture changes, IT infrastructure, the need for additional resources, the use of pilot programs to phase in changes, and how to measure and report on accountability, performance, and obstacles.

Item 7. Future board meeting schedule

After discussion, the Board agreed to meet next on December 3, 2007.

Item 8. Future agenda items

Future agenda items were discussed during various presentations at today's meeting.

Item 9. Public comment

The Board next heard public comment on any matter within its jurisdiction. The following person spoke:

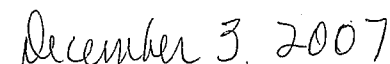

David Warren (Lobbyist, Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety). Mr. Warren spoke on two issues. (1) He stated he would like to see the C-ROB draft report published on the internet no later than December 24th so the Board could incorporate public comments before the January 15 report is given to the Governor and Legislature; (2) He requested consideration of non-Christian holidays when the Board schedules its meetings.

Item 10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.



Board Secretary


Dated 

(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.)