

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes  
January 7, 2007 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board met in open session on January 7, 2008 in the Alumni Center at California State University, Sacramento, 6024 State University Drive South, Sacramento, California. The meeting began at 9:45 a.m.

**Board members present:** Matthew Cate, Inspector General; James Tilton, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); 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; 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). Absent from the meeting was Debra Jones, Administrator, Adult Education Programs (Designee for Superintendent of Public Instruction).

**Office of the Inspector General staff members participating:** Barbara Sheldon (counsel), Elizabeth Siggins (C-ROB Executive Director) and Ann Bordenkircher (Board secretary).

**Other participants:** Carole Hood, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs (CDCR); Steven Chapman, Assistant Secretary, Office of Research (CDCR); Kathryn Jett, Undersecretary of Programs (CDCR).

**Item 1. Call to Order**

Chairman Cate called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

**Item 2. Introductions and establish quorum**

A quorum was established with ten board members present.

**Item 3. Review Agenda**

The Chairman stated that the purpose for today's meeting is to have a Board discussion and vote on the January 15, 2008 draft report.

**Item 4. Approval of Prior Minutes**

After a motion was made and seconded regarding acceptance of the December 3, 2007 minutes, the Board approved the minutes on unanimous vote.

**Item 5. Panel Discussions**

**Carole Hood**, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs (CDCR), was the first to comment on behalf of the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation. Ms. Hood acknowledged that there are documents the Department is unable to provide at this time, mostly budgetary documents, and some budget change proposals that may be out in the near future. The final Strike Team report is anticipated shortly which

deals with four key areas to implement rehabilitative programming. Ms. Hood emphasized the difficulty in integrating so many moveable parts from so many different sources that will be added to a detailed work plan anticipated to be available sometime in January. Ms. Hood stated that much time is being devoted to developing the work plan that will show all of the activities for which the Department is responsible, the Department's priorities, and time frames.

Ms. Hood also discussed the assessment of reentry conducted at reception centers and for reentry planning, which were actually started in 2006. The assessments are done towards the end of an inmate's commitment. Since the passage of AB 900, twelve reception centers have the ability to conduct assessments on inmates as the inmate enters the system. The inmate will be monitored to determine progress. It is thought that the COMPAS tool will allow the Department to move towards the California Logic Model process, allowing for better case management from entry to parole. COMPAS gives the ability to do case planning within the tool, but the Department is developing information technology to allow additional information exchange between systems.

**Secretary Tilton** addressed the Board regarding AB 900, stating that although the bill was enacted in May, the resources that had to be put forth in order to deliver on those schedules did not come about until August or September. The Department is also going through the same process as all the other state agencies given the budget crisis to come up with 10 percent budget cuts, when it is already under funded insofar as staffing and programs. Secretary Tilton confirmed the difficulty in being unable to release certain information to C-ROB prior to the Governor's January 10 budget release.

Secretary Tilton advised that the Department is developing policies and a structured guideline for parole agents. The Department is collecting data and assessing community resources to bring about reform in this area. In the past, parole agents have not had funding to provide adequate parolee programs.

The Secretary reminded the Board that several counties are interested in participating in reentry facilities. The Department held several workshops around the state to talk to communities about reentry and concepts. Some participants in those workshops included representatives from the League of Cities, alcohol and drug programs, mental health, public safety, elected officials, provider groups, and Boards of Supervisors.

Secretary Tilton stated that the Department is evaluating how to make COMPAS useful as a daily tool that can be used in data processing by decision-makers in the institution.

**Kathryn Jett**, Undersecretary of Programs (CDCR), spoke to the Board about the SB 1453<sup>1</sup> program designed to be an incentive to inmates to participate in 150 days of residential treatment within the community. Currently, the program is administered by the Division of Addictions and Recovery Services (DARS). DARS provides periodic reports on those who enter and complete the program. There is some inmate resistance to volunteer for the program because it was not imposed at the time of sentencing. Other issues arise concerning penalties when the participant leaves treatment prior to 150 days. There is some confusion among inmates who mistakenly believe if they complete 150 days of

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<sup>1</sup> The original January 7, 2008 transcript reflects SB 618, however, the intended reference is SB 1453 (Spier) "Participation in inprison drug treatment program: mandatory aftercare." Chapter 875, Statutes of 2006

program, they are off parole. There are approximately 300-400 participating in the program, with a higher number of completers than non-completers. The *Sacramento Bee* recently published an article on the first graduate from the program.

Some counties, such as Santa Barbara, have developed systems that work with soon-to-be released inmates to assist them with obtaining proof of citizenship, ID cards, driver's license, résumés, etc. – those areas that can create difficulty in becoming part of the community workforce.

**Dr. Steven Chapman** spoke concerning the recidivism rate of California parolees. He stated that the 2007 studies have not yet been completed. Discussion occurred between three-year rates, two-year rates, and one-year rates. When asked about how recidivism is to be defined, Dr. Chapman replied that when shifting definitions, one should stay with the same term for at least three years while introducing the next definition. A summit is scheduled in the Spring to discuss how the Department will define recidivism (perhaps three terms instead of one; arrests, conviction and returns to custody). This will be helpful because different states use different definitions. Progress continues in the Department's plan to establish a comprehensive system of program evaluation, linking recidivism (long-term outcomes), and items such as education planning and housing, but time is needed to allow inmates and parolees to go through the programs and then have time to be out before one can actually track the recidivism. Dr. Chapman advised the Board that CDCR's Office of Research is preparing a graph that will depict policies and procedures for program evaluation.

Dr. Chapman shared with the Board that the Office of Research is about to receive a preliminary report where they reviewed COMPAS in terms of its usefulness, user friendliness of the tool, and how parole agents are able to use and interpret it.

There was some discussion between Board members and the Department on the need for state and county entities to partner together to better serve parolees. Ms. Hood affirmed that the Department is evaluating programs provided in the community in order to provide a seamless transition to parolees going back into communities.

The Department also responded to Board questions concerning the vision at management level filtering down to all staff. The Department stated that the vision set between AB 900, the Expert Panel, and the Strike Team is being interpreted for staff at all levels. Training is being planned, expectations expressed, performance measures set in place.

After discussion, the Board adopted the C-ROB report, with the following revisions: the Board agreed to revise the draft report to incorporate Secretary Tilton's suggestions regarding the Department's work with counties on reentry and to include a statement that the Department provided the \$90 million spending plan. The Board also agreed to add a comment as suggested by the public regarding the need for sufficient programming resources.

#### **Item 6. Future board meeting schedule**

Currently, the Board has agreed to meet next on May 20, 2008, in Sacramento, the location of which is yet to be determined.

### Item 7. Future agenda items

Chairman Cate noted that the statutory reporting dates for C-ROB's report conflicts with information that can be disseminated to the Board, such as CDCR's discussions concerning the Governor's budget. The Board anticipates a Legislative proposal to change the C-ROB reporting dates to improve the timing of the reports.

### Item 8. Public comment

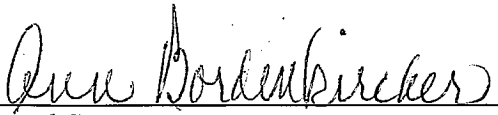
**David Warren**, Lobbyist, Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety, submitted written comments, but also verbally commented that he felt the C-ROB draft report fails to emphasize to the Governor and Legislature that sufficient dollars must be invested in order to cut the rate of recidivism. He also stated his opinion that the draft report fails to properly emphasize the lack of programming facilities that are being built, insufficient classrooms, chapels, and industry.

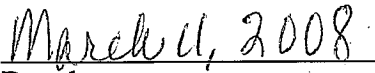
**Melinda Silva**, Parole Agent, addressed the Board concerning COMPAS. She stated that as it currently stands, it is not user-friendly to those in the field and she believes that many agents are using prior methods rather than the unwieldy system. Ms. Silva commented that it is difficult for agents to do their job because there is a lack of programming. It is difficult to provide services to parolees who have no ID and cannot get a job. Ms. Silva appreciated the Department's comments regarding the need to hear from the field in order for management to be able to ask the right questions.

**Cindy Fonseca**, Vocational Instructor, CDCR, shared concerns about the assessment tool, which is used by the institutional teachers at the reception centers; specifically, Ms. Fonseca is worried that if the tool is not put to practical use soon, the inmates will realize that it is pointless and will be less likely to answer honestly. Ms. Fonseca is pleased with the assessment tool overall, and believes it to be a good first step.

### Item 12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

  
Board Secretary

  
Dated

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