

California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
July 8, 2008, Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board met in open session on July 8, 2008, at the CSAC Convention Center, 1020 11th Street, 2nd Floor, Sacramento, California.

Board members: Present at the meeting was David Shaw, Inspector General (Chairman); Matthew Cate, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); Karen Norton, Education Programs Consultant, Adult Education Office, California Department of Education (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, Department of Mental Health; Susan Turner, Professor, University of California, Irvine (President of the University of California appointee); Bruce Bikle, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); Gary Stanton, Sheriff, Solano County (Governor appointee); Loren Buddress, Chief Probation Officer (Senate Committee on Rules appointee); and William Arroyo, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (Speaker of the Assembly appointee).

Office of the Inspector General staff participating: Barbara Sheldon, Chief Counsel; Laura Hill, C-ROB Executive Director; Jennifer Shaffer, acting C-ROB Executive Director; and Ann Bordenkircher, Board Secretary.

CDCR staff participating: Carole Hood, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs, CDCR.

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Item 2. Introductions and Establish Quorum

Chairman Shaw introduced his staff, the board members introduced themselves, and a quorum was noted for the record. The Chairman introduced Laura Hill, the new C-ROB Executive Director, and thanked Jennifer Shaffer for temporarily serving in that capacity.

Item 3. Review Agenda

The Chairman stated that the purpose of the board meeting was to discuss the July 15, 2008 draft report, ask questions of the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (CDCR) represented by Carole Hood, and take public comment concerning the draft report before the board voted on the draft report.

Item 4. Review and Approval of Prior Minutes

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the June 3, 2008 board meeting were accepted as drafted.

Item 5. Board Review of the July 15, 2008 Draft Report / Questions for CDCR

Chairman Shaw began this portion of the board meeting by thanking Dr. Bikle, Dr. Turner, Jennifer Shaffer, and Jaime Sammut for their work in assembling all the data and drafting the report. Chairman Shaw then opened the discussion to board members and Carole Hood, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs, CDCR, for an opening statement.

Ms. Hood reported that CDCR was pleased with how the report offered a balanced reflection of the rehabilitation work to date. She thanked the board on behalf of all of the CDCR staff who work on implementation of the rehabilitation program behind the scenes. Ms. Hood noted that CDCR has accomplished significant planning. However, the next six months will require focused attention on implementation so that by the March 2009 report, she expects to have significant implementation steps completed.

Ms. Hood updated the board with regard to the COMPAS risk and needs assessment. With over 10,000 inmates entering the institutions each month, there is a need to expand assessments. CDCR has automated the classification tools that are used in making assignments of inmates to prisons and to programs as well as the institution staff summary report and the return to prison form. This automation is a key milestone in being able to link the assessment process and the classification process within the COMPAS tool. CDCR has developed modules referred to as "core" components, which permits the COMPAS intake assessment to be gender specific. The reentry COMPAS has been refined and is also gender specific. Tests and training have been conducted on the automated systems, which are ready for rollout at DVI, Tracy. Ms. Hood stated that the department is awaiting approval on a feasibility study for the expansion of the COMPAS tool to all institutions. CDCR is in the process of negotiating with the labor unions to determine the job classification for staff who will conduct the assessments.

Ms. Hood commented on C-ROB's draft report discussion of the six major offender programming areas. Ms. Hood wanted the board to be aware that CDCR is still in the selection process regarding sex offending programs. Mr. Hood confirmed that questions remain on the delivery of programs such as sufficient resources, space, and range of available programming. Ms. Hood stated that space inventory has been conducted at each institution. Ms. Hood confirmed that there are many demands on current space. Secretary Cate added that he is meeting with the Receiver frequently to discuss, among other things, space coordination issues.

CDCR is developing a process called "performance based allocation" which allocates all rehabilitation funding to each institution. This will permit resource comparisons between prior and current year to future needs of each institution.

Secretary Cate closed this portion of the meeting by stating that the department will need significant funding in the 2009-2010 budget as it expands and rolls out various programs statewide. By way of update, Secretary Cate said that the Attorney General's office has not issued a clean bond opinion that will allow the department to begin construction under AB 900. The administration has proffered language which would amend AB 900 to allow the Attorney General to issue the opinion.

Item 6. Board Decision on the C-ROB July 15, 2008 Biannual Report

There was a discussion among board members and staff about edits to the draft report for purposes of clarification such as the interrelation between C-ROB and the AB 900 benchmarks; the three-member

panel who monitors those benchmarks; a better reflection of what CDCR is doing with secondary assessments; and, the number of new positions for CDCR's Office of Research.

The board members discussed that while CDCR currently has funding to plan and begin phased implementation of the Master Work Plan, the full implementation in subsequent budget years will require substantial investment and many years of committed leadership. The board members directed staff to include language in the report's transmittal letter that emphasizes the need for executive and legislative leadership to secure the funding required to improve public safety by reforming the state's correctional system into a sustainable and effective rehabilitation-based system.

Upon motion made and seconded, the board approved the draft report with the above proposed amendments.

Item 7. Future Board Meeting Schedule

The board agreed to meet next on September 4, 2008, and again on November 3, 2008, with the locations to be determined later.

Item 8. Future Agenda Items

The board discussed potential future agenda items:

- Barry Krisberg with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency and Adam Gelb with the Pew Charitable Trust, both of whom could discuss prison overcrowding issues and parole performances.
- Liz Fabiano and Frank Porporino, who could discuss cognitive skills training.
- Clark Kelso, Federal Receiver, to bring the board up to date on the Receiver's plan, including space requirements for inmate medical needs.
- A presentation from CDCR on in-prison and reentry program models.

Item 9. Public comment

Susan Lawrence, M.D., The Catalyst Foundation, said that the organization has been providing rehabilitative programs at California State Prison, Los Angeles County, since 2004. Dr. Lawrence stated that C-ROB's report does not address the issue of needing a prison environment in which there is inmate safety, security, and comfort for those participating in rehabilitative programs, which cannot occur in the current chaotic environment. Dr. Lawrence further stated that extended lockdowns create problems as well. The Honor Program, founded in 2000, promotes incentivized positive behaviors and holds individuals accountable for their behavior. Inmates apply to the program, must have a clean record for three to five years, and make a voluntary commitment to abstain from drugs, violence, gangs, and racism. Dr. Lawrence commented that in the first year of this program, there was an 88% reduction in violence and provided taxpayer savings. She also said that CDCR has not supported the Honor Program even though the current warden, associate warden, and the captain have issued a memo of support.

David Warren, Lobbyist, Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety, provided a multi-page letter to the board requesting C-ROB to be more forthright in its reporting on what CDCR can and cannot accomplish. He stated the report should be more dissenting rather than one that goes forward with rose-colored glasses. Mr. Warren said the C-ROB report does not significantly criticize CDCR as to its

proposals or ability to implement, nor does it inform the legislature that it must fund the construction and the programs.

Item 10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00.

Aimee Bordunbucker
Board Secretary

Sept. 25, 2008
Dated

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