

California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
September 2, 2009 Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session on September 2, 2009, at the California State University Alumni Center, 6024 State University Drive East, Sacramento, California 95819.

Board members: Present at the meeting was David Shaw, Inspector General (Chairman); Debra Jones, Administrator, Adult Education Programs, 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); Loren Buddress, Retired 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). Absent from the meeting was Matthew Cate, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and Gary Stanton, Sheriff, Solano County (Governor appointee).

Office of the Inspector General staff: Bruce Monfross, Staff Counsel; Laura Hill, C-ROB Executive Director; Ann Bordenkircher, C-ROB Secretary; and Jamie Sammut, C-ROB Analyst.

Panel Presenters: Elizabeth Siggins, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs (A), CDCR; and Steve Chapman, Assistant Secretary, Office of Research, CDCR.

Public Comments: Susan Lawrence, M.D., Executive Director, The Catalyst Foundation; Patrick Wilson, taxpayer.

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Item 2: Introductions and Establish Quorum

Chairman Shaw introduced the participating staff from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and thanked the C-ROB members for their attendance. The C-ROB members introduced themselves to the public.

Item 3. Review Agenda

The Chairman assured members of the public that they would have an opportunity to address the Board after each agenda item as well as at the conclusion of the meeting. Chairman Shaw informed the public that the Board would have a discussion and make a decision on its September 15, 2009 draft report.

Item 4. Review and Approve Minutes from the August 5, 2009 Board Meeting

The minutes from the August 5, 2009 Board meeting were unanimously approved on motion made by Member Zito and seconded by Member Jones.

Item 5. Board Review of the September 15, 2009 Draft Report

Chairman Shaw thanked Board members Bruce Bikle and Susan Turner, OIG staff Laura Hill and Jamie Sammut, and CDCR staff Elizabeth Siggins and Dr. Steve Chapman for their work on the draft report and then turned the floor over to Ms. Siggins.

Ms. Siggins proposed technical changes for the draft report and went on to clarify issues raised by Board members. A Board member expressed concern that inmates are coming to CDCR with many issues and that CDCR needs to individualize case plans and tie them to parole. He suggested that CDCR must be able to plan ahead by knowing that an inmate needs a certain program for a certain length of time. Ms. Siggins affirmed that this is a long-term CDCR goal. She stated that for the time being, CDCR will assess and place inmates as appropriate.

Another board member asked Ms. Siggins if CDCR had seen the studies regarding early release. In those studies, a select group of inmates was released with resulting recidivism rates either staying the same or even lowered in some instances. Ms. Siggins confirmed she had seen the studies and that an early release proposal was before the legislature. She assured that all early releases would consist of non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offending, and low-risk inmates.

A board member brought up the concept that the life skills track is not part of the California Logical Model, mentioning that once an inmate is classified as low-risk they essentially drop out of the California Logic Model. Ms. Siggins affirmed that while a life skills track will eventually exist, the rehabilitation track is the current priority. This led to a discussion about the impact the current fiscal situation could have on the C-ROB report and how long the conclusions will remain true because of future budget cuts.

Lastly, a board member expressed that he would like to see what the California Logic Model programs are going to do and what CDCR wants from them.

Public comment:

Susan Lawrence, M.D., Executive Director, Catalyst Foundation, commented that she is worried that CDCR is not focusing on changing its culture and without doing so, programs will not be effective. Dr. Lawrence would like for CDCR to consider how to use the input of the prisoners and their families in rehabilitative programs. She believes that removing the word "honor" from the Positive Programming Facility (formerly the Honor Yard) reinforces the need for culture change within CDCR.

Patrick Wilson, a taxpayer, stated concerns that he believed C-ROB was recommending a specific program in its report, while the Board tells the Positive Programming Facility advocates that it cannot recommend specific programs to CDCR.

After a short break, Laura Hill, Executive Director, addressed the Board with suggested changes to the draft report based on the morning's discussion between Board members and CDCR staff.

Item 6. Board Decision Regarding the September 15, 2009 Draft Biannual Report

There being no further discussion, Chairman Shaw called for a motion to approve the September 15, 2009 Biannual Report with proposed amendments. On motion so made, and seconded, the report was approved.

Item 7. Future Board Meeting Schedule

The C-ROB confirmed that it would meet next on December 16 and the first week of both February and March 2010. It was stated that the role of the C-ROB and frequency of future Board meetings may depend upon CDCR budgetary and program cuts.

Item 8. Future Agenda Items

Subjects mentioned for future meetings involved further rehabilitative updates from Ms. Siggins and Dr. Chapman, a budget update from CDCR and an update from the Federal Receiver. The Board would also like to discuss the role of C-ROB members at the next meeting.

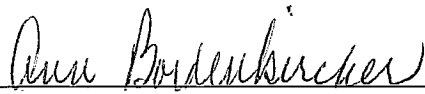
Item 9. Public Comment

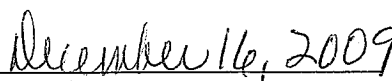
Susan Lawrence, M.D., Executive Director, Catalyst Foundation, offered her partnership as an advocate and supporter of the Honor Program, stating the program is a true rehabilitation program. Dr. Lawrence asked Secretary Cate to expedite the signing of the memo to remove unqualified inmates from the Honor Yard and thanked him again for his dedication to the program.

Patrick Wilson, taxpayer, stated concerns that changing the culture of CDCR is similar to trying to turn a mule into a thoroughbred, and that change cannot happen. He believes the principles on which the criminal justice system is based must be changed if there is any hope for reform.

Item 10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:05 p.m.


C-ROB Secretary


Dated

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