

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
November 14, 2012 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on November 14, 2012, at the California State University, Modoc Hall, Willow Suites 2-3, 3000 State University Drive East, Sacramento, California.

Board Members: Present at the meeting were **Robert Barton**, Inspector General (Chairman); **Martin Hoshino**, Interim Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **Michael Cunningham**, Director (A), Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs; **Jennie Kaufman Singer**, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); **Patricia Terry**, Education Administrator, Adult Education Office, California Department of Education (Designee for Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction); **Debra Jones**, Dean, Career Education Practices, Workforce and Economic Development, California Community Colleges (Designee for Jack Scott, Chancellor, California Community Colleges); **Wendy Still**, Chief Adult Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco (Senate Committee on Rules appointee); **Mark Beckley**, Director of Administration, State Hospitals (Designee for Cliff Allenby, Director (A), Department of Mental Health); and **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Absent from the meeting were **Susan Turner**, Professor, University of California, Irvine (President of the University of California appointee); and **Gary Stanton**, Sheriff, County of Solano (Governor Appointee).

Office of the Inspector General staff: Reneé Hansen, C-ROB Executive Director; James C. Spurling, Counsel to the Board; Linda Whitney, Board Secretary; Karen Baker, C-ROB Analyst, and Jana Boccalon, Executive Assistant.

Presenters:

CDCR: Tanya Rothchild, Director (A), Division of Rehabilitative Programs and Jennifer Valdez, Acting Superintendent, Correctional Education

Career Technical Education (CTE):
Lisa Moore and Darren Holman
John Kern, Clay Dines, Bill Connor, Tony Narvis, Lyle Brown

Pre-Release Benefit Application Process:
Patricia Lujan, Barbara Mata, Rodney Grey

2012 Outcome Evaluation Report Updates:
Brenda Grealish

Public Comments:

Bill
Connor
Teresa Neely

Robert Devore
Pamm Handle
MaryAnn Ellis-Jammal
Dr. Susan Lawrence
Jim Carlson
Marion House

Item 1. Call to order.

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

Item 2. Introduction and establish quorum.

Chairman Barton introduced Office of the Inspector General staff participating in the meeting and asked Board Members to introduce themselves. A quorum was established. Mr. Barton made mention of the new faces on the board, some temporary and some permanent, and thanked previous Board members Matthew Cate, who has moved on to a new position, and Bruce Bickle and Gary Stanton, who have retired.

Item 3. Review agenda.

There were no comments concerning the Agenda.

Item 4. Review and approval of the September 12, 2012 minutes.

The minutes were unanimously approved without any edits.

Item 5. Executive Director updates.

Ms. Hansen remarked that her report on the institutions will be moved to the January 9, 2013 meeting. She will report on their challenges, successes, and plans for the future.

Item 6. Presentation/Panel Discussion: Career Technical Education (CTE).

Tanya Rothchild, Jennifer Valdez, Lisa Moore and Darren Holman from CDCR presented on Career Technical Education programs at the institutions. Mr. Holman presented on the CTELC Committee and their involvement with meeting approximately once a month to make recommendations on a variety of issues regarding programs. They are only required to meet quarterly but they have been meeting more often to keep their focus on continuous improvement. Mr. Holman also shared that a CTELC membership usually lasts two years.

Lisa Moore presented that the CTELC is putting their focus on standardizing testing processes and curriculum which they will do in all trades. They are also working to mesh the programs provided with the Employment Development Department jobs available in the job market.

John Kern presented a panel of vocational teachers: Clay Dynes (Welding at Avenal State Prison), Bill Connor (Welding at Mule Creek State Prison), Tony Narvis (Carpentry at Ironwood State Prison), and Lyle Brown (Carpentry at Folsom State Prison). Mr. Kern stated that he is happy to see

that despite the budget cuts, since rehabilitation programs are a priority the vocational training programs are being reinstated.

The panel reported that they felt the TAC were absolutely critical in order to keep teachers apprised of current trade requirements and trends in order to adapt and update their teaching curriculum so they are providing inmates with relevant skills.

Mr. Narvis stated that he has been a member of the CTELC for two years and that the committee regularly discusses problems with hiring, procurement, and supplies. The panel all agreed that procurement is a cumbersome and time consuming process that often has to be repeated because their bids are only valid for 30 days and often the procurement process exceeds 30 days to be completed. Ms. Rothchild reported that CDCR is currently looking into more expeditious ways of handling procurement. Ms. Rothchild also confirmed that unspent education money reverts back to the general fund and that there is currently no freeze on spending.

The panel was asked what accommodations are made for non-English speaking students. Various teachers stated that the curriculum and resources are English but they have bilingual inmates helping each other in classes, there are tutors who speak other languages, and some have bilingual staff available. Mr. Dynes stated that he has had problems in the past trying to effectively teach students who do not speak English, but most often the other inmates translate for those who need help.

Mr. Dynes spoke in general regarding the vocational training programs. He stated the vital need for TAC's to provide current trade information for teachers; that he hears back about the success of previous students because they often write and send copies of their paystubs; that employers often contact him regarding a reference for inmates, but he is only allowed to comment on their skills and is not allowed to comment on their personality.

Mr. Brown reported that he has often been asked to research or verify copies of inmates' high school GEDs because the administration cannot locate a copy in the inmates' records. This requirement is asked of the teacher whether or not the high school GED is a prerequisite for being in the class or not. Ms. Rothchild reported that it appears that there is some confusion at the individual institutions as to whose responsibility it is to maintain the GED records. Ms. Valdez reported that the solution will be taken care of when all the institutions are using SOMS (launch date of January 2014) because it will have all the records stored and the data will be current because the information will be in real-time.

Public Comment on Agenda Item #6:

Bill Connor commented that when he worked in the private sector his primary task was to get the job done, on time and under budget. The company he worked for hired employees who could get the job done. They were concerned with your skills and ability – not their past. The CTE programs are geared toward providing the inmates with the skills and safety training necessary for working that job after release. There used to be a referral partnership between CDCR and the ironworkers union that helped match inmates with available jobs after release. That partnership has died off and it would be beneficial to the inmates and the CTE program if that partnership were revived.

Teresa Neely is a vocation instructor at Mule Creek State Prison. She teaches essential office skills and interview skills. Her class is important to the inmates because she knows that many companies require applicants to fill out an employment application online. Her class prepares the inmates by teaching them essential computer skills.

Robert Devore is an electrical vocational instructor at Mule Creek State Prison. His facility provides three programs training high-end skills. He stated that procurement is a major hindrance to teaching because the cumbersome process makes it difficult to get supplies for classes. He also shared that he knows that AT&T and Verizon have previously interviewed inmates at California Men's Colony in an effort to place the inmates in a job upon release.

Pamm Handle is a special education teacher at Department of Juvenile Justice. She commented that she has a unique perspective on CDCR's programs because she has been able to go into the vocational trades classroom and observe classes. She stated that vocational trades are crucial to the CDCR program and that TAC's are very important. Also, equally important is recordkeeping, which DJJ has mastered and would be willing to share their success with other institutions.

Item 7. Presentation: CDCR Pre-Release Benefit Application Process.

Patricia Lujan with the Parole Health Management Unit introduced Barbara Mata, Rodney Grey and Rick Winistrofer as members of the unit. She reported that they contract out for services for the Transitional Case Management Program (TCMP). She stated that there is at least one liaison at each institution tasked with carrying out programs duties. Some people are assigned to more than one facility, so some of their contact will be done by email or phone, but there is a presence at each and every institution.

Ms. Lujan reported that inmates apply for social security, veterans' affairs, and medical benefits. The application process is voluntary except if an inmate is determined by a doctor to be incompetent. CDCR has agreements with each of the benefit departments to help facilitate the eligibility determination process for inmates.

TCMP places contracted social workers at each facility to help inmates transition into the community once paroled. A medical placement team evaluates inmates to determine what treatment (if any) is needed upon release. This goal is to provide this care immediately upon release. This contracted staff also provides community care for inmates who have HIV/AIDS or a mental health need. The goal is to provide continuity of care for parolees.

Item 8. Presentation: CDCR 2012 Outcome Evaluation Report: Recidivism Rates.

Brenda Grealish reported on the 2012 Outcomes Evaluation Report Updates. The report focused on recidivism rates which for the purposes of the report are defined as those returning to state prisons. The data shows that of the recidivators, 75% are most likely to return to state prison within one year of their initial release if they are going to return. Ms. Grealish also reported that the data might be skewed as they do not currently receive any information from the jail systems. She also mentioned that the report matches Department of Juvenile Justice information which shows that of the juveniles who continue into an adult institution the recidivism rate is approximately 82%. She stated that reception centers have the highest recidivism rates of all the institutions primarily because they house the parole violators.

In summary the report showed that one-third of parolees don't return within 1-3 years; one-half return for parole violations; over one-half of the parolees are returned on "technical" violations; and 19% return to CDCR after being convicted of a new crime.

Item 9. Future Board Meeting schedule.

The Executive Director stated that with Dr. Bickle’s retirement, there was a vacancy on the Report Writing Committee. Dr. Singer volunteered to fill the vacancy. The board reviewed the future meetings previously agreed upon and set new meeting dates. The next board meetings are scheduled for: January 9, 2013, March 13, 2013, July 10, 2013, and September 11, 2013. The next Report Writing Committee Meetings are scheduled for January 28, 2013 and July 29, 2013.

Item 10. Public Comment.

MaryAnn Ellis-Jammal commented that she is really encouraged by the support of rehabilitation programs in CDCR. The arts and music programs were a very important part of rehabilitation that were discontinued a while ago, but fortunately some local artists and even some inmates are sponsoring and/or facilitating these groups to keep the program going. She stated that THE ROAD is a CD put together by New Folsom and that it shares an inmate’s musical expressions on God. She stated that the Progressive Programming Facility in Lancaster is a great program and she hopes to see this program adopted in other areas.

Susan Lawrence expressed her sadness toward some of the changes and her pride in the achievements and efforts made by the Board. She looks forward to the continued support of the Progressive Programming Facility.

Jim Carlson shared that he has been with CDCR for 29 years and now does recreational therapy since the arts and music programs have been discontinued. He also stated THE ROAD was composed by an inmate and it is the inmate’s expressed through music of the life of Christ. Mr. Carlson shared that there are many other positive changes coming from programs in the community and that there is an upcoming radio show and event by Santa Cruz musicians.

Marion House shared that her son usually attend the C-ROB meetings with her but that today Tommy was at wrestling tryouts. She shared her gratitude for the support of the Progressive Programming Facility in Lancaster where her husband is incarcerated. She expressed her thanks to Secretary Cate for the yard moving forward and to please continue to support the Progressive Programming Facility and the rehabilitation programs.

Item 11. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

C-ROB Secretary

Dated

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