

California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes
January 9, 2013 Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on January 9, 2013, at the California State University, Alumni Center, 6024 University Drive South, Sacramento, California.

Board Members: Present at the meeting were **Robert Barton**, Inspector General (Chairman); **Martin Hoshino**, Interim Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **Millicent Gomes, Deputy Director**, Office of Criminal Justice Collaboration (Designee for Michael Cunningham, Director (A), Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs; **Susan Turner**, Professor, University of California, Irvine (President of the University of California 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); **Pam Ahlin**, Director of Hospital Strategic Planning and Implementation, 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; **Ian Parkinson**, Sheriff, County of San Luis Obispo (Governor Appointee). Absent from the meeting was **Jennie Kaufman Singer**, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University 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, Colleen Curtin, and John Wordlaw, Office of Fiscal Services

Public Comments:

David Warren
Vanessa Nelson
MaryAnn Ellis-Jammal
Gail Brown
Susan Lawrence
John Kern

Item 1. Call to order.

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:45 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. He thanked previous Board Members who had moved on or retired.

Item 3. Review agenda.

There were no comments concerning the Agenda.

Item 4. Review and approval of the November 14, 2012 minutes.

The minutes were unanimously approved without any edits.

Item 5. Executive Director updates.

Ms. Hansen presented the board with a recap of what she encountered during her visits to the 33 institutions. She talked briefly about the trends apparent throughout the state, the positive changes she noticed at the prisons visited closer to the end of the year, and the issues addressed.

Ms. Hansen reiterated the issue of convoluted purchasing that was discussed during the last board meeting. She mentioned that during her visits there were several programs she looked in on which were attempting to teach without having materials, such as carpentry classes that had no nails.

Ms. Hansen reported the second most prevalent concern in the institutions was related to staffing, vacancies and insufficient staffing ratios. She also observed a trend in inadequate support staff ratios. Vice principal staff was too low to complete necessary tasks. Some institutions received budgets for substitute teachers so improvement is evident in the curriculum and the teachers are very excited over the new curriculum coming. As a result of inmate population declines, organized sports can be re-implemented, so the coaching staff must be increased. This was something new Ms. Hansen had not seen previously in the institutions.

The model for VEP instructors is very loose to be able to address achieving GED and improved literacy. Some teachers struggle with the loose model while others thrive. Some VEP instructors utilize tutors, by supervising them as they instruct students while others don't use tutors at all. Some networking will have to be implemented to bring consistency with how well the instructors perceive and deal with the model.

EDCATS is an interim IT solution to track data on classroom gain. Ms. Hansen observed during January through June that the program was not very well liked by the educators, but for July through December there was a significant drop in complaints. Educators received EDCATS training mid-way through 2012 and are better able to use the program now.

Ms. Hansen expressed that as far as principals are concerned, many institutions need better support from the Associate Wardens and Wardens. For many principals they are unclear as to their responsibility and authority over their programs. However, for the institutions where principals already receive necessary support, their programs run smoother and they are achieving better results.

There is still a trend that instructors need and would like to see a significant increase in outreach, networking, and trade association conferences to help keep their curriculum current and relevant.

Ms. Hansen also reported it is apparent that newer institutions with better cable networking are able to receive and use more education channels.

At the end of the year, the issues with physical space were improved but still present. Some rooms aren't available because of building disrepair, while others are too small to hold as many students as necessary for the class.

There are no longer any formal arts programs in CDCR anymore. Art therapy groups are currently doing a research project regarding art's effects on recidivism.

Ms. Hansen made the recommendation that sharing of best practices and networking amongst the instructors and neighboring institutions could be of significant benefit to the CDCR educational programs and would most likely improve or better utilize community resources.

Item 6. Presentation: Budget, Logic Model Update and Program Implementation, and Blueprint Implementation Status.

John Wordlaw presented the Blueprint came out April 2012 to show the administration's commitment to improvement in rehabilitation programs. Currently there are seven budget act items. Previously budget action items contained multiple programs on one item which meant that leftover funds from one item might flow to the other programs on the budget act item. Rehabilitation is now its own budget action item so any residual money will not be transferred to any other program and will remain for rehabilitation.

Mr. Wordlaw also reported that the PLP, health and retirement benefits have all been restored. The governor releases the budget tomorrow, but he held an important press conference yesterday regarding the three-judge panel court filings. He gave us some insight on what to expect because while the governor mentioned drug rehabilitation, job readiness, and reentry hubs are priorities, he also stated money is limited and we have to live within our means.

Tanya Rothchild and Colleen Curtin from CDCR presented on the Blueprint monitoring and Logic Model Update. Ms. Rothchild stated the Blueprint presentation outlines rehabilitation goals which are very similar to the goals of the Logic Model. She also stated that CDCR expanded its goal from inmates just obtaining a 9.0 reading level consistent with statute, to achieving a GED or HSD.

She reported that CTE has only activated 12 of 23 desired programs as a result of credentialing and applicant issues. The a milestone for next year related to cognitive behavior therapy will be to have this available in the reentry hubs to be opened next fall. In addition, CDCR is on target with the goal of opening the reentry hubs next year and they are working with DMV to obtain identification cards for inmates as they are necessary for obtaining employment upon release.

Ms. Rothchild also stated that next year is the estimated launch for a sex offender treatment program. The gang step down program, while not required of CDCR is a necessary component of the CDCR education program and will be introduced in the SHU unit to prepare inmates to be re-introduced back into general population.

Additionally, CDCR is examining the Post Release Employment Program best practices and working to create an inviting program for inmates. CDCR has been working very hard to expand programs in the department. Although they have experienced obstacles, they have made improvement such as a 20% vacancy rate at headquarters. Ms. Rothchild stated vacancies have significantly impacted our environment while the Blueprint and mission realignments have affected changes to inmate populations and staff. The expert panel really addressed the issues, they began a newsletter to inform staff of changes; they hold regular meetings with the Wardens, Associate Wardens, Principals and Vice Principals; and have informational videos for the inmates so they can keep informed about changes.

Colleen Curtin reported that there are ten one-stop shops/day reporting centers that are expanding and improving. They will house a literacy lab, and A & D Counselors so parolees can get outpatient help. The day reporting centers are contracted out.

Ms. Rothchild added that the Logic Model sets requirements regarding risk assessment measures and follow-up and that fewer inmates are coming to the reception centers. CDCR is looking at advertising to inmates over the TV about programs available after parole to improve program utilization.

Item 7. Future board meeting schedule.

It was decided that since we already have meetings scheduled through September 2013, that future meeting dates will be discussed at the March Board Meeting.

Item 8. Future agenda items.

David Warren submitted a letter proposing a future agenda item regarding examining training for staff at remaining women's facilities. The Board expressed an interest in hearing about the topic at the March meeting.

Susan Turner suggested the Board receive an update on changes and impacts of changes to the classification system and gender specific classification changes.

It was also proposed that the March meeting would be a good time to have a detailed budget discussion including impacts, to see if procurement continues to be an issue and/or what fixes have been put in place.

Item 9. Public Comment.

David Warren requested representatives be present to discuss the different perspectives of female institution issues including a representative for inmates and California Correction Peace Officers Association. He complimented the director of the women's facilities.

Vanessa Nelson works with lifers regarding rehabilitation for release. She commented that many of these inmates do not know when they might be released, so they don't know if they are within four years of release which is when CDCR is trying to get inmates into the programs they need prior to parole. She also commented she worries about COMPAS address lifers unbiasedly, counselors being unbiased, the need for transitional housing and how to find all they need for release while still inside prison.

MaryAnn Ellis-Jammal commented that she sees family support as a large part of stability for inmates. She expressed her concerns that reclassification transfers will likely move many inmates away from their families. She advocates for the establishment of more honor yards especially at CSP, Sacramento.

Gail Brown works to advocate for families of inmates. She thanked Ms. Still for encouraging her to attend the C-ROB meetings. She believes families are a vital part of parole and that CDCR needs to include families more. She will propose a future agenda item regarding families because she's noticed that visiting is only two days a week now, when it originally used to be seven. She asked the Board also please consider advocating the family connection.

Susan Lawrence of the Catalyst Foundation thanked the Board for their continued support of the LAC Honor Yard. She wanted to re-emphasize that the culture change at CDCR from one of punishment to rehabilitation is a huge improvement and will provide much better outcomes.

John Kern of SEIU 1000, wanted to acknowledge the Board and Chairman and to thank the Executive Director for visiting all the institutions. He also expressed that he believes the inclusion of religion and families to be a part of rehabilitation success.

Item 10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

C-ROB Secretary

Dated

(These Minutes are posted on the web at www.oig.ca.gov.)