

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes**  
**March 28, 2013 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on March 28, 2013, at the California State University, Modoc Hall, Willow Suites, 3000 State University Drive East, Sacramento, California.

**Board Members:** Present at the meeting were **Robert Barton**, Inspector General (Chairman); **Jeff Beard**, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **Wendy Still**, Chief Adult Probation Officer for the City and County of San Francisco (Senate Committee on Rules appointee); **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 Brice Harris, Chancellor, California Community Colleges); **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; **Ian Parkinson**, Sheriff, County of San Luis Obispo (Governor Appointee); **Greg Williams**, Chief Operating Officer, California Department of State Hospitals (Sitting in for **Pam Ahlin**, Director of Hospital Strategic Planning and Implementation, State Hospitals (Designee for Cliff Allenby, Director (A), Department of State Hospitals)). Absent from the meeting was **Jennie Kaufman Singer**, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee and Michael Cunningham, Director (A) of California Department and Alcohol and Drug Programs.

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

**Presenters:**

CDCR: Tanya Rothchild, Director (A), Division of Rehabilitative Programs and Jennifer Valadez.

**Public Comments:**

Vanessa Nelson-Sloane  
David Warren  
Susan Lawrence

**Item 1. Call to order.**

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:51 a.m.

**Item 2. Introduction and establish quorum.**

Chairman Barton introduced California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Secretary Beard and welcomed him to his first C-ROB meeting. Mr. Barton also introduced Office

of the Inspector General staff participating in the meeting and asked Board Members to introduce themselves. A quorum was established.

**Item 3. Review agenda.**

There were no comments concerning the Agenda.

**Item 4. Review and approve minutes from the January 9, 2013 board meeting.**

The minutes were unanimously approved without any edits.

**Item 5. Executive Director updates.**

Ms. Hansen presented the board with information submitted to the Board by SEIU Local 1000 regarding Assembly Bills (AB) 494 and 1019. She explained that SEIU requested that C-ROB provide input regarding the bill amendments. SEIU Local 1000 Representative Hellan Roth Dowden provided a synopsis of the amendments. The intent of the proposed amendments to AB 494 is to update the existing language, which states that 60 percent of inmates would be reading at the ninth grade level by 1996 and replace it with the language from the Blueprint. AB 1019 would put into law standards for vocational education programs, also referred to as career technical education (CTE). AB 109 would state that the Superintendent within the Department would be required to come up with standard requirements for CTE programs. This matter was placed on the agenda for the C-ROB's July meeting.

**Item 6. Board discussion of the March 15, 2013 draft report.**

Tanya Rothchild and Jennifer Valadez from CDCR were present to discuss the draft report. Ms. Rothchild thanked the C-ROB and executive director for their work on the report and for recognizing that this has been a transition year for the Department.

Ms. Rothchild referenced page 12 of the report wherein the report outlines how the COMPAS assessments addresses needs of offenders. However, the needs identified do not reflect the overall population and are based upon individuals who have a moderate to high risk to reoffend based on the CSRA.

On page 24, Ms. Rothchild asked that the chart on the left-hand side include an asterisk to reflect the reason for the reduction in enrollment in October of 2012. The expansion of these programs caused a decline in enrollment until the programs were fully operational.

Ms. Rothchild also addressed the chart on page 25, which indicated a reduction in capacity in December. She explained that the reduction was caused by Valley State Prison's conversion from a female to a male institution and requested that the report include language regarding the capacity reduction.

Susan Turner recommended adding language on page one to clarify the different roles of the C-ROB and the OIG as they relate to the Blueprint. Mr. Barton explained that the OIG was tasked to monitor the Department's adherence to the Blueprint, which includes several components. While there will be some overlap, the intentions and scope of the OIG's role is very different than C-ROB.

Ms. Turner also suggested adding some additional information to several tables to provide a summary of the information being reported. Ms. Turner referenced the table on page 23, which indicated a decline of CTE Achievements and Program Completions. Ms. Rothchild explained that the decline may be attributed to the department's conversion to computer based testing requirements in some vocations. She also questioned the drop in In Prison Substance Abuse Treatment Completions in August 2012. Ms. Rothchild was not able to provide an explanation during the meeting regarding what caused the 12 percent decline between June and August, but offered to get additional information for the Board. The drop in Community Aftercare Substance Abuse Treatment Completion was also addressed. Ms. Rothchild explained that the parole population dropped more than originally projected and it was difficult to encourage offenders to participate in programs, but that the department was working towards increasing incentives to improve SAT completion post-release.

The graph on page 31, Offenders Released Fiscal Year 2012-2013, indicated that the number of offenders receiving evidence-based programming has remained fairly static. Ms. Turner questioned whether this was a sign of a potential problem getting offenders' needs met. Ms. Rothchild explained that the numbers reflected the constantly changing population and suggested working with Director Hansen to identify charts that can provide a clearer snapshot.

Mr. Arroyo suggested adding a phrase regarding the problems related to the preparole process benefits program discussed on pages 28 and 29.

#### **Item 7. Board decision regarding the March 15, 2013 draft report.**

After much discussion and hearing comments offered by Tanya Rothchild, Director (A), Division of Rehabilitative Programs, the March 15, 2013, report was approved.

#### **Item 8. Future board meeting schedule.**

Ms. Hansen confirmed the next board meeting for July 10. The following board meeting is scheduled for September 11.

#### **Item 9. Future agenda items.**

Director Hansen stated that the board will receive presentations regarding gender-specific programming, arts in corrections, and the workforce investment board. Ms. Hansen will also coordinate a board trip to the Folsom Women's Facility. It was suggested that the board might benefit from a presentation by the Department of Health Care Services concerning the implications of healthcare reform on the current population. Board members would also like to address mental health programs as it relates to rehabilitative and reentry opportunities.

#### **Item 10. Public comment.**

Vanessa Nelson-Sloane spoke on behalf of the non-profit advocacy group for life-term prisoners, Life Support Alliance. Ms. Sloane attends parole hearings as an observer and is concerned that lifers are only prioritized for programming within 24 months of parole suitability hearings. In her opinion, the parole board considers this to be short-term participation and not enough time to enhance suitability. Ms. Sloane also addressed the lifer population's access to mental health services and

suggested making counseling sessions more accessible to them, which is a valuable rehabilitative tool.

David Warren spoke on behalf of Taxpayers for Improving Public Safety and requested that the presentation regarding women's issues in the prison be postponed to November to allow time for the new administrators to implement any changes. He also stated that his organization is prepared to coordinate the attendance of six women who have spent approximately 18 to 22 years in prison and have recently paroled. However, the women will need permission from their parole officers to leave their current sites to attend the November CROB meeting; therefore, he expressed his hope that the department would be helpful in facilitating their attendance.

Susan Lawrence, founder and CEO of the Catalyst Foundation, spoke to the board and welcomed Secretary Beard. She discussed the Honor Program at California State Prison, Los Angeles County (LAC) and explained that the program began in 2000. Ms. Lawrence explained that within the first year of the program violence was reduced by 85 percent, weapons offenses were reduced by 88 percent, and saved taxpayers over \$200,000 in the first year by reducing staff hours spent preparing disciplinary incidents. She thanked the board for its support of the program.

**Item 11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

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C-ROB Secretary

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Dated

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