

**California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes  
March 12, 2014 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 9:30 a.m. on March 12, 2014, 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); **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); **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Regional Medical Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; **Ian Parkinson**, Sheriff, County of San Luis Obispo (Governor Appointee); **Jennie Singer**, Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); **George Maynard**, Director (A), Hospital Strategic Planning and Implementation, State Hospitals (Designee for Cliff Allenby, Director (A), Department of State Hospitals); **Brenda Grealish**, Division Chief, Division of Mental Health Care Services, Department of Health Care Services). Absent from the meeting was **Patricia Terry**, Education Administrator, Adult Education Office, California Department of Education (Designee for Tom Torlakson, Superintendent of Public Instruction) and **Debra Jones**, Dean, Career Education Practices, Workforce and Economic Development, California Community Colleges (Designee for Brice Harris, Chancellor, California Community Colleges).

**Office of the Inspector General staff:** Misty Polasik, C-ROB Executive Director; James C. Spurling, Counsel to the Board; Linda Whitney, Board Secretary, and Jana Bocalon, Rehabilitation Analyst.

**Presenters:**

**CDCR:**

Millicent Tidwell  
Rodger Meier  
Sondra Jacobs  
Jennifer Winistorfer  
Jason Lopez  
Wayne Babby  
Kevin Grassel

**SEIU:**

John Kern  
Roger White

**BSCC:**

David Lovell

**Straight-A Guide:**

Michael Santos

**Public Comments:**

Susan Lawrence  
Roger White

**Item 1. Call to order.**

Chairman Barton called the meeting to order at 9:42 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 introduced Misty Polasik as the new Executive Director.

**Item 3. Review agenda.**

There were no comments concerning the Agenda.

**Item 4. Review and approve minutes from the January 8, 2014 board meeting.**

The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

**Item 5. Executive Director updates.**

Ms. Polasik stated that information previously requested was received from CDCR and is included in the board member packets.

**Item 6. Board Discussion of the March 15, 2014 Draft Report.**

The board discussed the draft C-ROB report. It was mentioned that page 16 was ambiguous when it mentioned the word “programs” to identify “classes.” It was agreed to change the word from “programs” to “classes.” It was clarified that enrollment is the number of slots budgeted while utilization means how often students were in class. Further clarification was provided regarding the difference between budgeted capacity (number of seats set aside) and filled capacity (seats activated by the number of teachers available).

**Item 7. Board Decision Regarding the March 15, 2014 Draft Report.**

The draft report was approved pending the agreed upon change discussed in Item 6.

**Item 8. Prison Tour Results.**

Jana Boccalon reported on what she observed while visiting the prisons during the previous year. Ms. Boccalon stated that there were several successes such as dedicated staff, positive culture changes and program implementation. Ms. Boccalon stated she has seen at many institutions that educational and custody staff are very supportive of each other and the programs. In more than one institution custody staff attends education meetings showing ownership of the programs. Academic models appear to be working well, especially the voluntary education program (VEP), primarily because of its flexibility. Career technical education (CTE) programs have a wide variety of offerings, quality inmate leisure time activity groups (ILTAGs) are run by community resource managers at every institution. Ms. Boccalon provided several examples, such as Choice Theory which is being facilitated by the principal. The principal reported that he has been tracking success rates of the program over the last four years, and found that out of the 618 participants, 175 have paroled. Of those offenders that have paroled only five have recidivated.

Ms. Boccalon also stated there were several challenges still facing CDCR. Population changes often negatively impact the necessary target population to provide programs. Older institutions do not have space to accommodate programs. Weather and changes in the temperature also create challenges, e.g. if it is too hot or too cold, classrooms cannot be used. Procurement continues to be an issue in the vast majority of institutions. Purchasing needs and challenges should be anticipated by the department to prevent delays with purchasing supplies for education programs, particularly career technical education. Additionally, all but two institutions have reported challenges with their Information Technology (IT) department being able to respond timely to IT requests. Ms. Boccalon also received reports that the inmate assignment process is not working efficiently. For example, there have been complaints that inmates receive academic assignments based on incomplete TABE scores, which results in a cumbersome process to remove or reassign the inmate. Ms. Boccalon also reported that since the Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification exam went online, over a year ago, inmates are unable to take the exam while inside the institution. Finally, Ms. Boccalon

identified a lack of educational resources, such as English language learner (or English as a second language) curriculum for the large Spanish speaking population.

**Item 9. Sex Offender Treatment Pilot Program.**

This presentation has been postponed until the July 9, 2014 board meeting.

**Item 10. 2013 Outcomes Report.**

Wayne Babby and Kevin Grassel shared the key points of the Outcomes Report. They clarified that “return to prison” is equivalent to “primary recidivism measure.” However, this measurement does not include those who have returned to a county facility. Serious/violent offender rates dropped from the prior year’s report. Overall, the three-year recidivism rate has declined to 61 percent. This data is based on the 2007-2008 cohort followed for three years post-release. The report found that most individuals recidivate within the first year of release (74.1 percent). Realignment occurred over the last year of following the cohort and showed a drop in recidivism.

**Item 11. FY 2013-14 Budget Status Update & FY 2014-15 Rehabilitation Funds Plan.**

Jason Lopez reported on the budget updates. The current year is trending to \$4 million surplus by June 30, 2014. Conversations are earmarking the surplus for expenditure so there will actually be no surplus reverted back to the general fund. This year’s 14-15 budget includes a proposed plan of \$60 million in recidivism funds for the local, substance abuse treatment and drug interdiction treatment programs: \$40 million is tied to the reentry facilities, \$11 million allocated to a drug interdiction proposal to expand programs at ten non-reentry hub institutions, and \$10 million for expansion of programs at contract facilities.

**Item 12. Offender Data Collection.**

David Lovell, a research specialist for the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), reported on how the BSCC collect and evaluate research data they’ve been collecting. He has participated in base item recidivism studies in Napa County, and worked with the Washington Department of Corrections regarding their programs and recidivism rates for mentally ill offenders. Mr. Lovell stated that the BSCC is using the results of this research to help the State evaluate the effects of Realignment in California prisons.

**Item 13. Results of SEIU’s Academic and Vocational Education Survey.**

Roger White and John Kern reported on the results of the SEIU’s education survey. Mr. White stated that according to the survey responses, voluntary education program (VEP) was a popular model and that 67 percent of the respondents said it is effective. Mr. White also stated they are still in the process of reviewing all the comments. The survey revealed that the VEP binder needs updating. SEIU believes the rollout of the newest version of the strategic offender management system (SOMS) should reduce duplicative paperwork. SOMS is due to rollout by June 2014. Teachers responding to the survey felt that VEP provides good opportunities to expand on college opportunities. Mr. Kern stated that he has shared the results with the department and CDCR is working to address the issues brought up in the survey. In all, SEIU collected 566 academic teacher and 234 CTE teacher survey responses.

**Item 14. The Straight-A Guide Program.**

Michael Santos presented information about the Straight-A Guide Cognitive Skills Development Program to the board. Mr. Santos provided his personal background and explained that he made some bad decisions in the early 80s trafficking drugs, and as a result was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole in a federal prison. Shortly after arriving in jail, he decided to take responsibility for his actions and embark on a journey to serve his sentence with dignity and become

a contributing member to society. Mr. Santos described how he earned his bachelor's degree and then his master's degree while in prison.

Mr. Santos believes that the prisons need to change the inmate's philosophy of life to encourage rehabilitation, which his Straight –A Guide Program does. Mr. Santos believes that we need to spread awareness to make steps toward resolving recidivism. His program includes the following steps: Attitude, Aspiration, Action, Accountability, Awareness, Achievement, and Appreciation. The cognitive skills program includes 50 videos and 50 separate lesson plans that teach offenders how to develop communication skills, self-directed learning techniques, critical thinking skills, and how to reject criminal lifestyles and criminal associations.

**Item 10. Future agenda items.**

Ms. Polasik stated that we have several items on the agenda for the next meeting; specifically a presentation of the Sex Offender Post-Release and In-Custody Pilot, and an update on the Affordable Healthcare Act's effect on inmates and asked the board if they had any additional items they would like heard at the next meeting.

**Item 11. Public comment.**

Susan Lawrence stated she is a long-time supporter of the honor program and was really glad to hear Mr. Santos' presentation. It reminded her that the honor yards were started by prisoners with staff support.

John Kern commented that many of the items reported by Ms. Boccalon are supported by the SEIU survey results.

**Item 11. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57p.m.

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C-ROB Secretary

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Dated

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