

Department of Corrections Advisory Board Meeting
1301 Concordia Court – Springfield, IL
10/22/09 @ 10:00am

Present: James Gannon, Chair – Advisory Board
Pat Hartshorn – Advisory Board
Keith Lape – Advisory Board
Dave Olson – Advisory Board
Shaena Fazal – Advisory Board
Jesus Reyes – Advisory Board
Ken Berry – Advisory Board
Donald Young – Advisory Board
Cory Foster, Sr. Policy Advisor – IDOC
Jim Reinhart, Chief of Staff - IDOC
Deb Denning, WFS Coordinator – IDOC
Eddie Jones, Southern Region Deputy Director – IDOC

Participated via phone:

Angela Rudolph – Advisory Board
Malcolm Young – Advisory Board
Ed Huntley, Chief Legal Counsel – IDOC

Introductions

Everyone in attendance were welcomed and introduced themselves.

Per Chief Reinhart:

- IDOC has been advised by the Governor’s Office that the proper name for the Board is ***Department of Corrections Advisory Board***.
- The Board is to produce an end of the year report to the Director which will, in turn, be shared with the Governor’s Office.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 24, 2009, meeting were approved.

Open Meetings Acting – Chief Huntley

Minutes of all meetings are posted on the website. They are first placed on the website in “draft” form; until such time they are officially approved @ the following Board meeting.

The schedule of regular meetings should be posted on the website @ the beginning of the year. Special meetings can be held and notice of those meetings will be posted as scheduled.

The Board is required to post meeting notices 48 hours in advance. These notices should be posted on the website, as well as @ the meeting site.

Meetings can no longer be held @ a correctional facility now that the public is invited to attend. Facility tours can still be conducted; but during the course of the tour no

business can be discussed. Observations should be made and discussed @ the open meeting.

IDOC Overview – Cory Foster & Jim Reinhart

A booklet providing an overview of the Agency was distributed, as well as the Department's organizational chart.

- Women's Issues

Deb Denning, Women & Family Services Coordinator, was asked to briefly discuss women's issues. Ms. Denning discussed the Mom's and Babies Program @ Decatur Correctional Center. The program is getting ready to start its' third year. There are currently 13 moms and babies out in the community w/no returns to date. Parole and Placement Resource Unit are a big help to this program.

Ms. Denning will discuss women's issues further @ the Subcommittee Meeting.

- Cost Savings

IDOC implemented an Employee Cost Savings Suggestion Program to achieve potential savings through employees submitting cost savings ideas.

Director Randle recently approved a \$2.5 million cost savings initiative; which includes ten cost-cutting measures.

A handout describing the program and the \$2.5 million cost savings measures was distributed to all in attendance.

- Tamms Closed Maximum Security Unit: 10-Point Plan

When Director Randle was appointed, Governor Quinn gave him direction to thoroughly review the operations @ Tamms. Director Randle visited Tamms and developed a 10-point plan for the supermax prison in Southern Illinois. A copy of the 10-point plan was distributed to all in attendance and discussed.

Mr. Gannon indicated that he feels the points are positive; but he has a lot of concerns. He hopes the implementation of the plan doesn't affect the overall thought process of inmates throughout the state, as well as staff. The Department's response to Mr. Gannon's concerns was that the Department will not compromise safety or integrity of the facility. The Department believes we have accomplished this w/the 10-point plan.

There are two classes of inmate @ Tamms: 1) disciplinary seg (inmates transferred to Tamms in disciplinary seg status); and 2) administrative detention.

Mr. Hartshorn expressed his concerns that most of the inmates @ Tamms more than likely have some type of mental health issue. Will these inmates be able to adapt to the changes?

A "Media Day" is being planned @ Tamms. Board members will be invited. This event is tentatively scheduled for November.

- Reclassification of Inmates

Director Randle is reviewing the Department's reclassification process. An individual outside of the Department will be consulted with regards to helping the Department w/our reclassification tools.

- Early Release Program

The Early Release Program is a three prong approach:

1. 47% of the offenders in the Department's custody have been in custody less than 6 months.
2. The Department needs to expand and build on rehab programs.
3. The Department needs to build on community based partners and re-entry.

1,500 offenders meet the criteria for the Early Release Program. Offenders will start being paroled in November. These offenders will be assigned a Parole Agent.

The Department received \$4 million. \$2 million will be dedicated to these offenders paroled due to the Early Release Program. It is more expensive to house these offenders in a facility for one year than it is to parole them early. The other \$2 million will be used for the Crime Reduction Act which will take effect January 1, 2010.

- Crime Reduction Act

Included in the handout that was distributed regarding the Tamms 10-Point Plan, was information referring to the Crime Reduction Act.

Mr. Lape suggested looking @ the recidivism rates and, more importantly, looking @ the recidivism rates of those offenders returning @ what levels (educated, etc.). What are the characteristics of the 49% not returning and what are the comparisons? Recidivism will be a future agenda item.

Ms. Rudolph asked if there was anyone in charge of coordinating this effort. The Department's response was that the Secretary of DHS is the Co-Chair w/Director Randle for the Crime Reduction Act. Governor Quinn has initiated a Task Force to share data by implementing an automated integrated system to link courts, probation, prison and parole. Such a link will help formulate an offender's re-entry plan and reduce recidivism. It will also identify resources and services needed; as well as other factors that can affect the outcomes related to the re-entry process (example: education level, skills, etc.). Mr. Reyes announced that Cook County will be happy to assist.

Old Business

- Budget

Five facilities were targeted for layoffs – Logan, East Moline, Decatur, Vandalia and Vienna Correctional Center. This process is currently tied up in court awaiting an arbitration decision. Most of the individuals laid off would be called back w/in three months or less due to attrition.

The Department spent \$60 million in overtime last year. This should hopefully be reduced due to the recent hiring of Correctional Officers. Two cadet classes have gone through the Academy recently and an additional class is scheduled for November.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting date will be January 25, 2010 @ 10am in Springfield. A Chairman will be appointed @ that time, as well as setting the meeting dates for the year.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned @ 12:25pm.