

**Women's Issues Sub-Committee Meeting
Department of Corrections Advisory Board
Illinois Department of Corrections
1301 Concordia Court
Springfield, IL**

**April 26, 2010
11:30am**

MINUTES

Present: Pat Hartshorn, Board Member
David Eldridge, IDOC
Bill Marshall, IDOC
Cecil Polley, IDOC
Brad Hillman, IDOC
Kelly Gilroy, IDOC
Mike McCotter, IDOC
W. Kendric Berry, Board Member

Jesus Reyes, Board Member
Dave Olson, Board Member
Shaena Fazal, Board Member
Eddie Jones, IDOC
Deb Denning, IDOC
Kathy Kiss, IDOC/Chicago PD
Mark Prosperi, IDOC/Governor's Office
Jim Gannon, Board Member

Participated via phone:
Angela Rudolph, Board Member

Introductions

There was no need for introductions as everyone had already introduced themselves at the previous meeting. David Olson was in charge of the meeting due to Ms. Rudolph participating via phone.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 25, 2010, meeting were accepted and approved.

Moms & Babies Program @ Decatur – 3rd Year Anniversary – Deb Denning

The Moms and Babies Program at Decatur just celebrated their 3rd anniversary. Since opening in 2007, 25 moms and 19 babies have successfully completed the program. The program is helping reduce the recidivism rate for women in the State of Illinois. Program participants show a 0% recidivism rate compared to the statewide rate of 51.3%

Miscellaneous – Deb Denning

As of April 1st the female population was 2,798 throughout 5 facilities.

Kankakee will be closing effective April 30, 2010. Decatur will become a Level 5 facility effective May 1, 2010.

There are currently 90 beds left in the Women's Division. Dwight has 24 cells condemned which they are working hard to re-open. The MGT suspension has had an impact on the population. 53% of the female population is from Cook County and the collar counties and 25% of the female population is from central Illinois which has increased.

The following facilities are within Women and Family Services:

- Dwight – all levels and Reception and Classification
- Fox Valley ATC – located in Aurora
- Women's Treatment Center – located in Chicago
- Lincoln – Level 4
- Decatur – Level 5
- Female offenders are housed at Dixon Springs IIP (boot camp) – currently 17 females

Angela Rudolph stated that she would like to tour a women's facility some time. Mr. Hartshorn suggested touring a women's facility in conjunction with the October meeting. Ms. Denning suggested visiting Decatur because they have the Moms and Babies Program, the video visitation program, etc. Ms. Rudolph stated that she was okay with touring the Decatur facility in October and then conducting the meeting @ a public location afterwards.

Dave Olson has been working w/a couple of researchers @ Loyola University regarding a recidivism study. The study is a comparison of female and male adult inmates in IDOC. The study should be finished up over the summer. A draft power point presentation was presented to Deb Denning last week. A copy of the presentation was provided to all in attendance. Mr. Olson briefly discussed some of the information contained in the report.

Pat Hartshorn asked if the Department had any programming for prostitution. Deb Denning indicated that they are trying to find the core reason for prostitution . . . alot of times it's financial and substance abuse is another huge issue. There is no vendor/group specifically for prostitutes. Over 90% of the female population has some type of abuse history. ICJIA did a study which will be e-mailed to everyone. The study used female ex-offenders to come in to interview/question the female offenders. Shaena Fazal asked if the women who committed crimes committed the crime against the person who victimized them. If so, could this be overlooked for MGT purposes?

Jesus Reyes expressed an interest to serve on the Women's Issues Sub-Committee. Mr. Reyes was appointed to the Sub-Committee.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned @ 11:55am.