

**Minutes of the Illinois Department of Corrections Adult Advisory Board  
Meeting  
Decatur Correctional Center  
Monday, October 25, 2010  
10:00 a.m.**

**Board members in attendance:** Shaena Fazal, William Patrick Hartshorn, Keith Lape, David Olson, Jesus Reyes, Gladys Taylor

**Board members in attendance via Phone:** W. Kendric Berry, Malcolm Young

**Non-board members in attendance:** Deborah Blair, Jaclyn O'Day, Deb Denning, Shelith Hansbro, Kimberly Smith, Cory Foster, Sharyn Elman, Sara Sullivan, Steve Karr, Mark Pradun, Bob Eifert, Patricia Murphy

**Call to order/Introductions**

- Chair Hartshorn called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
- Everyone in attendance was welcomed and introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

- The minutes of the July 26, 2010 meeting were accepted and approved.

**Population Trends FY'11 – Steve Karr**

(Handout was distributed to all in attendance regarding: Prison Population – End of Fiscal Year and Average Daily Population FY00 through FY10 / Total Admissions and Exits / Admissions by Type / Average good Time Days Awarded Per Exit / Parole Population)

- Offender population has been growing for the past year. There have been fluctuations because of the MGMT Push in letting Offenders out with meritorious good time; target was to get Offenders out a little earlier. The MGMT Push Program was suspended by Governor Quinn in December 2009. In January 2010 it was stopped by the legislature. Nothing has changed been changed by the legislature and not quite sure if there is a plan to do so.
- Department was in a lawsuit. The court ruled that IDOC had to abide strictly by the statute.
- Total Admissions and Exits: FY'00 – 27,000 exits – not awarding good time so therefore would increase the prison population. FY'05-FY'06 – the department saw an increase in technical violators due to Operation Windy City Initiative.
- Admissions by Type: represents technical violators. During that administration they were conducting more drug tests. More Parole Officers were hired to assist violators and working with them to help them succeed. For females it shows a lot more progress and represents a smaller portion of the population. Last five (5) years have been on the decline. Court admissions are gradually on the decline, never been in the system before.
- Average Good Time Days Awarded Per Exit: FY'09-FY'10 you don't have offenders getting MGMT. 16,000 offenders had their good time awarded. When the Governor stopped the program we had already awarded and by law we cannot take it away from them. The department has gotten rid of about 10,000 of those offenders and after that expires; the Governor and legislature

will come to a resolution of how the department will award good time in the future.

#### **IDOC Update – Acting Director Gladyse C. Taylor**

- Less resources means less day's offenders are going to earn. We are prohibiting offenders from getting days but there are plenty of offenders that are getting days.
- 60 day wonders – by the time we transfer them to a facility then it is time they are to be released. There is so much emphasis on releasing offenders. People have forgotten there was a 15 day program. At Sheridan, half of the offenders don't qualify.
- Developing tools and greater efficiencies for case management so that we can get the greatest use of our programs.
- GED – if you are in prison and you get your GED you will earn 60 days. We don't have a lot of offenders not getting their GED. Some counties offer the same programs offer GED but the offender will not receive the award until they are in IDOC.
- Continuum Service Delivery – 15 days of those types of awards that will help them succeed upon their release. Looking at some type of education treatment.
- Parole Population – huge decline. We have had 900 during this fiscal year. We still have to have parole so he can be successful. GED while on parole – discharge can be moved up 90 days.

#### **Mark Pradun**

- IDOC Quarterly Report – Table 9 – Annual Growth – Assumption: this projection assumed an annual growth rate of 3%. We are projecting a 6% growth of the next six (6) months. There are 6,000 offenders still in our system that qualifies for meritorious good time.

**Question:** Table 4 includes ATC's?

**Answer:** Statewide

**Question:** Within a 3% growth?

**Answer:** 1500 looking for additional beds.

**Question:** operating under your capacity?

**Answer:** We have been committed to a design. We operate on our bed capacity

Steve Karr stated that there is a bed reviewing process going on that is happening in a number of places in our department.

Gladyse Taylor stated that hopefully with the Advisory Board's help they can assist us with this challenge.

**Question:** Is the plan to take the study done by Judge Erickson to the legislature or is there something else going to the legislature?

**Answer:** The approach will be from a number of different perspectives and support how we award good time. Expand levels of population served will be hard to do without resources. We will dedicate ourselves and move through the population. We hope for a favorable outcome from the legislature. We are taking a good look at the challenges and educate everyone who needs educated. We are looking at some

things for the spring legislative session. We don't know how successful we will be but we will sure try.

IDOC Strategic Plan – Acting Director Gladys C. Taylor

- IDOC is operating at 29%, of that appropriated a majority is staff. IDOC is operating a little more favorably with their budget. We try touring on a weekly basis one of our facilities and we look at commodities, inventory levels, food inventory. There has been historical spending in reserve. We are looking at taking inventory levels down to one (1) month to six (6) weeks. Third and fourth quarter there would be an opportunity to reduce the level of spending.
- Medical Care – statutorily, IDOC is required to provide the service. We have no control over the expense. We spend almost \$47 million in hospitalization/medical costs.
- Food Expense was less than \$10 million for the first four (4) months of this year.
- Utility spending is down.
- Older facilities are needing major repairs – utility/service delivery. These are operational improvements that need to be made that impact housing for 3000 offenders. This is not optional.
- What will occur now is normal maintenance of commodities. Surveys are being done at each individual facility regarding change out of offender clothing. We are looking at every option as to what our base requirements will be and the impact that we are going through now.

**Question:** Does the state pay after market power rates with one vendor or do they spread it out?

**Answer:** There is a blanket purchase with CMS.

**Question:** Statewide.

**Answer:** Statewide, but it is daunting.

**Question:** Have you had vendors tell you that they will no longer do business with the state?

**Answer:** We were challenged at the end of last fiscal year by some of our educational facilities. Now we provide a forecast to the Comptroller and Office of Management and Budget. There are federal statutory requirements that we have to meet. It is a matter of asking state agencies not to spend as much as they need. Manage as they spend.

**Question:** Is there a trend in the aging.

**Answer:** Yes there is. Aged, as well as, their tenure. Most murderers will die in prison. We will provide that extended health care treatment.

**Question:** Can you provide the services within house?

**Answer:** We are currently in the process of evaluating. We are looking at some opportunities.

### **Bob Eiffert, Adult Education and Vocational Services**

- Huge vested interest of what we can do to educate the offenders.
- 1972 School District #428 had 150 personnel (general revenue and contractual)
- 2002, due to early retirement, the number of staff declined

- 2004, due to reorganization of the School District, there was one principal per facility, now there is one principal sharing the duties at two facilities.
- 2006, Department of Juvenile Justice combined with Education. With their numbers we still have been able to obtain our numbers.
- Have been maintaining a high pass rate for GED.
- ABE – we are not able to serve the offenders.
- Headcount approved is 220 and we are currently at 190.
- 193 current staff of which 130 are educators. Department of Juvenile Justice has 90 educators. We have not been able to keep up with personnel.
- FY'10 – we were able to serve 11,000 offenders just once. As programs go down we have not been able to replenish.
- There is currently a wait list of 7600 offenders. We don't have the positions to put students in.
- Past year we gave out cumulative years of good time.
- Five day work week, half of the facilities went to a four (4) day work week.
- Three classes a day no longer exist due to staff.
- Department of Juvenile Justice – Special Education also suffered under the age of 22.
- We have proven that we are able to serve
- We help fund ourselves
- We promote offenders to no come back and that is where education ties in.
- ABE – we are required to provide it up to 90 days.
- We don't have the staff to keep up with the grading.
- We have to get the staff levels back up.
- It takes approximately seven (7) to eight (8) months to get through an ABE program. We have to meet A.D. requirements.
- We are down library staff. Several positions have been vacant for a number of months or even years. We have had staff plug those holes.

**Question:** What is the wait list for programs?

**Answer:** It will vary from facility to facility. First time offenders take priority.

**Question:** You are only required to have them in for 90 days.

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** It is voluntary that they stay in?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Distance learning programs – have we looked into those programs to reduce the wait list?

**Answer:** Early 90's it was tested at Taylorville Correctional Center through Eastern Illinois University. No interaction with the teacher. Tamms Correctional Center conducted education courses through Kentucky education training via circuit television. Two individuals were hired to go from cell to cell. At the end of October the GED test will be given to four (4) offenders at Tamms Correctional Center and they will get their GED.

### **Vocational Offerings – Pat L. Murphy**

- There has been a decade of decline in programs offered.
- Enrollments for FY'09 were 4516 and FY'10 are 4232.
- Community College Board helps to offset the cost.

- At Decatur Correctional Center when the population was at 500 there were six (6) programs at the time. Today's population is at 641 and we have two programs. Repeat offenders will not see those programs.
- 2003 funding for academic programs was eliminated. The college brings those programs as long as they don't cost the college money. There are 65 offenders allowed in the programs and there are currently 65 offenders on the wait list. We are not able to service them all. We are all committed to the same thing. Colleges are concerned.

**Question:** Looking at the recidivism rate in ABE, are any of you keeping accurate records?

**Answer from Mr. Eiffert:** No

**Answer from Ms. Murphy:** The college does their own. One year to three years out - 44% to 14% completers. Those are unofficial numbers.

**Question:** According to a University of Illinois study, it generates more money than the cost of running the program.

**Answer:** From an educational aspect it more than pays for itself and it will generate additional money because you have a lesser population.

Suggestion was made to look at the recidivism rate of the educational programs and tie it to the dollars. Wherever we have those wait lists, we need to address it.

#### **Strategic Plan – Acting Director Gladys C. Taylor**

IDOC is making some revisions to the plan. Acting Director Taylor asked the Adult Advisory Board for their opinions/recommendations.

- IDOC can't be everything to every offender.
- The department wants to reorganize to place offenders according to medical, education, substance abuse, sex offender, mental health, security and geriatric needs i.e., targeting facilities to be specific educational facilities. We will use the new assessment tool being developed to identify these needs and place offenders accordingly.
- Medical needs – IDOC currently is reviewing a plan to develop a long-term care unit at Stateville Correctional Center.
- Service Delivery – target 10 facilities that are focused on service delivery and continuum care.
- We have been working aggressively to increase staff.
- Security Classification Profile has not been looked at in over 10 years. We are tracking the progress effectively.

IDOC potentially would like to use this Advisory Board's assistance via weekly status meetings via conference call to see how IDOC can work through this. Staff is fully vested in making sure the offender receives follow-up when they leave the facility. We are getting an increased wait list in educational programs because there is no MGMT.

Acting Director Taylor asked that the members of the Adult Advisory Board get in touch with both Cory Foster and Sara Sullivan to let us know if the board would be willing to assist IDOC. If the Adult Advisory Board finds there is something in the agency report, quarterly or annual, this would be an opportunity to have an interaction with the agency in that reporting environment. Acting Director Taylor stated that the agency is currently updating their visitation policy and broadening our

volunteer involvement to see how it can be enhanced. Assistant Director Taylor stated that the agency wants to improve mail delivery for offenders to receive funding to their accounts. The agency is currently looking at mechanisms to erode the bargaining unit and provide tools for service delivery.

Acting Director Taylor plead for the Adult Advisory Board's help. The agency would welcome your involvement.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business brought up for discussion.

### **Open Discussion**

Cory Foster invited all Adult Advisory Board members to the 9<sup>th</sup> Cadet Graduation on Friday, November 19, 2010. We are embarking on hiring. Lack of staff hindered our operation as far as security. We are bringing on staff and reducing overtime. We have hired 1,044 new correctional officers over the past 18 months. This will increase safety and security for all of our facilities.

**Question:** Is this a net gain.

**Answer:** FY'10 we hired 460 correctional officers. Our target for FY'11 is five (5) classes with 140 cadets in each class and one (1) class with 80 cadets. Annual attrition is 500. Our staff is aging. We will be looking at hiring some non-security as well.

**Question:** Do you know the number of new hires with college degrees.

**Answer:** We can get some feedback for the Advisory Board for the next meeting.

The next Adult Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sheridan Correctional Center.

The remainder of the Adult Advisory Board meeting dates will be set for 2011.

### **Term expirations – Illinois Adult Advisory Board**

Keith Lape  
Wilder Berry

The members to the Illinois Adult Advisory Board are appointed by the Governor. If the above individuals wish to nominate themselves they will need to resubmit their nomination to serve. You may also go to [Appointments@illinois.gov](mailto:Appointments@illinois.gov).

Meeting adjourned – started chair seconded by Dave Olson at 12:00 p.m.