

Adult Advisory Board

October 20, 2014

Hill Correctional Center

Attendance: Kendric Berry, Phillip Whittington, Carlos Quezada Gomez, Richard Watson, Laura Kunard, Keith Lape, David Olson, Edna Lee, Assistant Director Gladyse Taylor, Joni Stahlman, Amber Bolden, Margaret Burke, Dr. Melvin Hinton, Shannis Stock, Tina Neely, Joseph Yurkovich, Stephanie Dorethy, Emily Ruskin, Brad Curry,

Phone: David Gomez, Pat McGuire, Jared Brunk, Tracey Williams,

Meeting began at 10:02 am

Introductions

Approval of Minutes

1. Risk Assessment Implementation

Assistant Director-Gladyse Taylor stated that IDOC has been working on implementing a risk assessment tool to determine the risk of re-offending and to determine the needs of the 49,000 offenders in custody and 29,000 under parole supervision. From February 2014 through April 2014, the Department initiated a pilot risk assessment implementation at six IDOC facilities using correctional counselor staff to perform the initial assessments. Chief Shannis Stock stated that due to other counselor workload requirements and the need for appropriate training, the Department has since reevaluated using correctional counselors for this initiative. The Department is waiting for CMS approval to use the social worker II position classification to begin piloting risk assessment implementation instead of counselors. Once these positions have been established, IDOC will move forward with full risk assessment implementation. Implementation will take around 18 – 24 months to be fully implemented across all IDOC facilities. It is anticipated that it will take over 36 months to fully evaluate all offenders in custody and parole (76k offenders). This will create a clearer picture of the greatest demand. The department is daily propositioned about education, mental health, vocational services as the risk assessment tool will further enhance services in addition to MSR's and Supplemental Sentence Credit.

2. Parolee Housing

Chief Shannis Stock stated that housing parolees is the Department's greatest challenge. The Placement Resource Group (PRG) is working on building relationships with several outside entities such as public housing around the state. The requirements and restrictions for housing ex-felons are very demanding. Most of the parole re-entry budget is spent on housing and electronic monitoring detention. It is difficult for offenders with felony and misdemeanor convictions to participate in housing programs. Per Chief Curry, PRG has to make difficult decisions based on all the various classifications.

3. Mental Health

Dr. Hinton is continuing his efforts to work with mental health policies and procedures to provide the proper mental health care across all facilities. His team is working to improve on the various levels of care, identifying adequate programming space in addition to properly identifying the correct distribution of offenders throughout the system based on the required level of care for this unique population. The

National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) has looked at a few facilities within the Department with positive feedback. Dr. Hinton believes we will meet their standards as our current policy and procedures are comparable to other agencies. IDOC's policy is good but the biggest challenge is staff to effectively carry out good policy. Staff shortages are challenging but blanket hires are not recommended. There will be a mix of Wexford and IDOC staffing increases to address mental health. The contract with Wexford states that they are to provide services as IDOC has a responsibility to provide administrative staffing as well. Most of clinical staff will come from Wexford. Careful distribution of staff to facilities that have the most need is the more viable solution. Currently, there are 140 Mental Health Professionals including psychiatrists who possess master degrees. The Department is looking to introduce bachelor's degree level hires into our system as well. Currently, Dr. Hinton is determining where to put offenders with the most need and hiring at those facilities and is working with DHS and various private entities to address the Department's inpatient mental health patients. Mental healthcare across the state is gaining more awareness. Illinois is looking into providing more community based treatment options.

4. Electronic Medical Records

Wexford selected Kazee of Florida's tool "PEARL" for the electronic medical record implementation. The Department's last awarded medical contract to Wexford Healthcare included a provisions to implement an electronic medical record system. The EMR data will be linked to Offender 360. Until Offender 360 is fully implemented the Department and Wexford are piloting EMR implementation within female facilities.

5. Video Visitation, Inmate Mail , Legal Law Library and Mp-3 players

Tina Neely stated that GTL has finally signed the contract awarded through the RFP process. The Department will start the wiring the pilot facilities: Decatur, Vandalia, Shawnee, Vienna, Menard and Big Muddy where the kiosks will be located in the visiting room and other common areas (dayrooms, gymnasiums, and housing units). IDOC must be flexible as the design of some of facilities won't allow kiosks in certain areas. The kiosks located in facility libraries will be used for legal research only. Housing units will have an "i-mail" inmate mail system with security attached to it (similar to email). Mp-3 players and music can be purchased through facility commissary operations and downloaded. Offenders can also purchase Mp-3 players through facility commissary operations and can be transferred to other facilities. Kiosks will be at gatehouses to allow family members to deposit funds into offender trust fund accounts when they arrive at the facilities. Illinois is the first statewide implementation of this type of initiative. There is no limit to number of logons but there will be time limits, similar to phones. This is a 5 year contract with the renewal.

6. Adult Education and Vocational Services

Christine Boyd stated that there are several vacant positions within Adult Education and Vocational Services; especially for librarians. Currently there are two paralegals positions filled, and two positions vacant. Educator positions are filled quickly because many candidates qualify for these positions.

Vocational vacancies also have much better results but it will take time to service all offenders on the waiting list.

On-GED testing is currently on hold to current discussions between the Department and Pearson-Vue on contract language. Daily dialogue is ongoing to resolve outstanding contract issues. Ipathways, the on-line GED study curriculum is operational at all facilities are up and running. The curriculum using computer labs has been successful. There are a few technology bugs but staff is very supportive of the program. Offenders that have passed their post assessment test are waiting to just take their final GED test. This delay is jeopardizing potential good time credit for the population.

The Adult Basic Education/Special Education Committee is re-writing the curriculum to match common core standards to mirror college and industry ready standards. There is no Administrative Directive or Institutional Directive policy change required.

Adult Education and Vocational Services is finalizing the end of year annual report.

7. 2015 Adult Advisory Board Meeting Dates and Locations

Tuesday, January 13th 2014- Stateville CC

Tuesday, April 14, 2014 Menard CC

Tuesday, July 14, 2014 Centralia CC

Tuesday Oct 20, 2014, Logan CC

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45am