

IDOC Adult Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, March 21st, 2016
Chicago- JRTC
Executive Conference Room
10:00 am

Attendance:

John Baldwin, Kendric Berry, Carlos Quezada-Gomez, Laura Kunard, Keith Lape, David Olson, Gladys Taylor, Phillip Whittington, Tracey B. Williams

Call in: W. Richard Watson, Jared Brunk

- David Olson called the meeting to order at 10:00am
- Roll call was taken
- Reading of December 7th meeting minutes.
- David Olson motion to approve December 2015 minutes. Laura Kunard 2nd the motion **Board Approved.**
- Topics for this meeting were identified by David Olson & Director Baldwin. The Board was encouraged to send upcoming topics early before future meetings to aid in preparation for the meetings and coordinating staff presenting at the meetings.
- The board was advised that Adler University was hosting a commission on Madison & Dearborn today between 1-5 pm and encouraged to stop by. It was mentioned that the last meeting of this caliber produced a great turnout and offered great ideas. 3 or 4 of those ideas have surfaced as bills and currently going through the legislative process.
- IDOC is looking to pilot a key issues on low risk offenders, specifically those on electronic detention. The department is looking to put offenders in the community and closely monitored. There has been a study about 6 months underway and looking to receive a grant through the Parole operation to supervise this pilot closely. There will be job training, drug treatment in an effort to make this population of offender's productive citizens. The goal is to start with a small number and through successful milestones, increase the numbers in time. A recommendation was given on careful evaluation on how "non-violent" offenders are classified. All meetings are recorded and available online if there is further interest in understanding the goal of the commission. A board member stated that the last meeting he attended was very productive and he was impressed.

- Jared Brunk provided update on the budget. rate
- An estimated opening date of July 1st, 2016 for IYC Joliet was given and SMI's will be housed at the new remodeled facility. The Department will be recruiting for Warden Positions. The goal is to have SMI's treated to a level of stability in order to return to general population. Joliet will be a treatment center but still a correctional facility. There will be maximum, medium and low level offenders in general population all under the same roof. IDOC has a much lower percentage of SMI than most states. Logan has its RTU 18% complete (building 14). There are treatment rooms in new spaces and the small gym. The women's facility will come in phases. All plans have been drawn up but there has been no appropriation for it. We'll eventually get to Logan but it will be quite a few months out. IDOC has partnered with HHS to provide services to its offenders. Partnering the two Departments are not as popular among other states. Changes are being made with how Illinois will approach those who need the care from HHS. The implementation of the new I2 Data Exchange System will change how social services will share information. The goal is to care for a person at the most reasonable care, reasonable cost with measurable outcomes. The IDOC philosophy will be that reentry begins at reception. There will be one coordinator who will continue with an offender through the system. There will be a total of 90 staff with the focus on high to medium risk. There will be none for low risk.
- Questions were posed if there have been any issues with IDOC related to contracts due to the budget impasse? 2 colleges terminated their services. Emergency appropriations are not enough to cover education, there is restricted ability to pay utility companies and hospitals, and the community service providers enrolled in the vendor support initiative where 90% or bills that are 90 days or older must forfeit their funds.
- This years training will include NAMI. It will be a 2 day training developed by NAMI. There will be 50 trainers and will include training for IDOC staff, Wexford and the Prison Release Board. IDOC is looking to bring in NIC. The Department will be sending 3 folks in June "Thinking for a Change" which will be centered around cognitive training. We can receive funding unless an assessment has been done. The goal is to have any staff work with an offender in a way less likely to risk confrontation. The assessment will be 6-8 months but NIC will fund this initiative. There were positive responses to NAMI training for those who employees who have had it thus far. The department is looking to hire a new training director and looking to change the curriculum.
- The cable tv alliance wants to fly drones in IDOC territory. IDOC rejected. This may kill the bill.
- Kewanee is being considered to be turned into an IDOC facility. The ideas were viewed but the institution is small and wouldn't allow for much bed space. Many educators are

currently reviewing if we can use Kewanee but no decision has been made yet. It has value but several drawbacks. It's a juvenile facility that they can no longer use. There are 306 single cells that could potentially be doubled.

- The board was advised that Gladys Taylor is now the Assistant Director again. The Department is currently filing warden positions and there are now candidates for the remaining 4 positions in the central office. If they say yes, we will be at full staff. The following 4 positions have to be filled: 1. Executive Chief, 2. Director of Programs, 3. Public Safety Officer, and 4. Public Safety Liaison. Michael Atchison is now the Chief of Operations, and Marcus Hardy is the Assistant Chief. Nancy Vinson is now handling the RASHO compliance and assisting with the legislative and legal reviews. She is to make sure we are on task with RASHO.
- IDOC now has a new Facebook page.
- Sharon Shipinski advises that the population is decreasing. Admissions are down. Cook County is gauged against the rest of the state as more class x offenses are out of cook county typically because this county really enforces offenses under this classification. Class 3 & 4's are under review as the sentencing authority is making changes. There have been fewer females admitted to males over the last few years. Dr. Lape questioned if we track the percentages for other counties. Sharon advised that we can track this information but it is best provided by the authority and percentages throughout the rest of the state. The stock population number of offenders at the end of the fiscal year demographics are the same for the female population.
- The department has RASHO and about 25 other law suits. The legal team has been involved and very committed but it has been difficult due to the paper tracking. Judges are not patient and they have many of IDOC suits in their possession. Federal welcomes any prison suit as most are bad. The major workload includes the class action law suits. Lippert – there was a lengthy report provided by the monitor with a lot of IDOC challenges within it's content. IDOC cases can be pretty difficult to fight in court. They are requiring many changes within the department. Discussions about settlement have not been decided. Litigation is necessary in order to have control over how to manage expectations. Oftentimes, outside expectations can be unrealistic. There are several other lawsuits brewing "Holmes" which speaks to the deaf and hard of hearing, The "Morales" case which speaks to the parole revocation process, The "Clancy Case" speaks to risk assessment. There is a "shakedown" case also brewing as we are in the early stages of discovery. The goal with the courts is for IDOC to identify the problems and give us time to make corrections. We have spent more time on the bigger lawsuits. The goal for legal is to engage with the department at large to collaborate on how to get things done. The "wrongful death" suit, there have been 2 that have settled in lieu of no budget and 1 more is coming which will be about 1 million. These were cases that arose years ago. The department is now looking at problems and how to prevent them going forward. IDOC may have a new expert. Generalizations have been made from other experts' reports.

There are frivolous lawsuits where offenders know what to say for the cases to not get dismissed. The State can dismiss these cases but it's much more difficult if they go to federal. There is a fund to address these types of cases and work is being done to determine the merit. We are hurt in suits because we lack proper tracking of documentation. Many states are dealing with the same general issues. Other states have a more robust defense. We need to make sure we have a defense, ie. Moving toward a more automotive system to prove that we do what we say we do and can prove what we did. With facility updates, cameras will be installed. The staff is not too favorable but it works in the favor of the department all around.

- Maggie Burke (Women & Family Services Division) on December 2015 she moved offices to Logan CC to support the staff. As of February 2016 she is now the acting Warden to manage day to day operations. On October 2015, Logan had an assessment with ODJ, NIC & National on being more gender informed. Looking at dates to sit with the director to review the report. The assessment will provide grant support for training and resources. The numbers are down with population trends from 1 year ago. Sentences are coming in are all longer. 50% are going home within 6 months. Will continue to monitor. Building 14 of the RTU has 2 wings that were retrofitted through RASHO. The expected completion date is April 2016. There is a waiting list as the current classes are full. The vocational has been temporarily shut down. The main themes are cultural issues. Most of the staff have been at male facilities for years. Being at a female facility is challenging as 54% are mental health or have larger medical issues. There is a different dynamic with this population. There is lots of movement which increases the workload. The staff is not accustomed to this type of workload. Many staff have had the NAMI training and have provided positive feedback. The lieutenants have gone and the line staff will start soon.

- There was no old business to discuss

- New Business – Ethic training must be completed. Packets were distributed. The next meeting will be either June 6th or 13th at Logan CC. David Olson encouraged the board to send topics for agenda as ideas come up.

- Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm.