IDOC Adult Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, June 20th 2016
Logan Correctional Center
10 am

Attendance: John Baldwin, Gladys Taylor, Michael Lane, Jared Brunk, Carlos Quezeda-Gomez, Keith Lape, Edna Lee, David Olson, Philip Whittington

Call in: Kendric Berry, Tracey B. Williams

- Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m. by David Olson

- Roll call

- Review of the minutes from March 21, 2016. Minutes approved

• Update provided to the board on the governor’s commission on criminal justice and sentencing reform. Met twice since last meeting which focused on community corrections and parole (supervised release). The commission wanted to know how this program would work and details related to caseloads. What suggested reforms will work to improve efficiency? Discussion on length of supervised release is efficient and how it is structured. Length is based on felony class of crime. Doesn’t involve risk and individual needs. Discussion on how offenders can be released if they accomplish certain things. The commission is in discussion to limit the length of the supervised release to 18 months maximum. There has been no decision made yet. If there is a formal recommendation by the commission, this group should review and provide feedback/reaction. The commission is also reviewing MSR arrests, types of arrests, and how offenders would be returned to prison. Much discussion on domestic battery by the commission. Some commission members were very honest in their opinions on the program and even used the term “loopholes” as this policy can be used to send folks back to prison and abuse by police and relatives housing parolee to send back to prison. No votes yet but an in-depth discussion held on this policy. By the next board meeting, there should be better recommendations on the table. A recommendation was made about the sex offender population on how the MSR for this population will be addressed and perhaps shorten sentences for this group. It was advised that this population was questioned during the discussion about the length of 18 month term and it was pushed further down the list. It was mentioned that an entire day can be spent trying to find a sex offender who has met all prison requirements, a host site. This is something that the commission needs to get in front of and not kick down the road or it will be an issue and burden on the Department at large. Several risk assessment tools are being utilized in other states. Parole is looking at a program called IVVI to see what type of prediction for Illinois offender. Hoping to have something soon where a button can be pushed and quick results on RISK can be made readily available. David Olson will advise the board on upcoming meetings and encouraged attendance.

• Director Baldwin read his report.
Policy change to 504 administration detention was signed last week. This is a fundamental change in how IDOC addresses offenders in administrative detention. You have to be in administration detention for a valid purpose. It is not a finished product, but there are ongoing round tables talking to paroles, institutions, etc. talking about changes and feedback. Bottom line: changes are happening. Why? Started taking away administrative detention for offenders who have low violations. The goal is to get the Department to operate more efficient and effective to minimize/avoid lawsuits. What other states have found, when in alignment, staff assaults have been reduced.

Encouraged Board to attend the next HHS Transformation meeting to be held at University of Chicago. Led by one of the governor’s top people. Huge changes coming to our Department related to mental health population. This will require IDOC to act in a more robust fashion as we are moving down this path really fast in how we work with behavioral health. IDOC should dictate where offenders go based on the risk assessment and needs.

RASHO – We are under a 90 day time frame to get a MH space identified in conjunction with working with DHS. Once identified, will be moving aggressively. New space will be institutional based but run by DHS. There are under 400 people ready to go for FY17. The RASHO case is huge. Met with Preckwinkle last week trying to iron out issues of RASHO stuff. Discussions about sharing jail data as this affects her side of corrections as well. This will be a huge transformation for IDOC. This is on target. We are hopeful to have a State budget passes soon. Not having a budget makes running the prison, operationally difficult.

Looking into bringing a life skills prison concept to Illinois. The goal is to prepare offenders to reenter society who came to us without basic, fundamental skills regardless of where they didn’t get this during their lifetime. We are taking over Kewanee. Currently 350 beds will be double bunked, ideally to create life skills prison. We need the extra space if future problems arise from other prisons due to budget impasse. Kewanee has great space. It will be our newest institution, only 15 years old. 2 separate campuses near each other. The current staff will stay but will paid from IDJJ salary.

News this morning that the FEDS have assigned someone and paying them to restructure our training program for institution and parole.

- Right now we owe our vendors over $3 mil. Details given which details how much is owed and to whom, along with the FY17 budget request.

- Session should have been over 3 weeks ago. Still ongoing. Cannot predict what bill the governor will or will not sign. The agency had an initiative dealing with drones, which died in committee. Drones flying into facilities to drop contraband / take photos. Cable tv companies opposed the bill. IDOC wanted to impose penalty. Can revisit next year. Other states do not allow drones to fly over facilities. IDOC requires the cable companies to ask for permission, Cable Company opposed. Asking governor to veto 2 bills, 4326 – require
IDOC to open work camps, passed house and senate. This was a controversial bill. We do not have the funds to reopen when we closed our work camps. 2nd nurses association – minimum 150 nurses employed with IDOC. We fought, went around the labor contract. Don’t want an outside force advising on how many to employ. IDOC was not allowed to testify at the House. Brief testimony at the senate. Bill 6200 – phone bill. Questions arising on video conferencing, jpay. Questioning our fees. Bill 2465 – cost of incarceration. If IDOC identify someone in our custody with $10k in assets, turn over to attorney general’s office to go after a portion of this to offset cost of incarceration. Question from board if a person has been incarcerated wrongly, what happens to the money. Clarity given regarding offenders who are currently incarcerated and come into funds while incarcerations, those funds would be considered. Drafted 1500 bills and we have opposed all those that affect population, but three bills which are 1582 vehicle code, bill 3603 firearms tracking, and bill 2907 – raise threshold on criminal damage to property. Board requests a copy.

- Turn Arounds. Whenever a person convicted of crime at local level, once they are sent to RCC, their time will be calculated to include time spent at county jail (jail credit). If this time exceeds the amount of time they are supposed to serve with IDOC, they are released from IDOC. Cook County is the largest population that comes to IDOC, 1100-1200/month, average 10% of this number. Outside of Cook County, 12-15/month. All other counties are combined. Violations are defined by many different things, there is an issue with host site. Largest are sex offenders and electronic monitoring requirements. They will be technically violated because they don’t have anywhere to go and are unique but different from the standard turn around.

- SSC – There was not an interruption of the review and granting of SSC during the absence of a Chief Public Safety Officer, the process continued in the same manner as before. The same system is in place since the SSC program was enacted, which is an automated system through the O360 system. There were a total of 29,731 offender records created for review, 9,260 offenders were reviewed for SSC and 1,625 offenders received SSC (31% of offenders were eligible for review) a total of 196,163 days were approved among the 1,625. Sharon Shipinski will provide the annual report this week.

- David Olson questioned if everyone from the board has submitted their ethics training. Tracey Williams advised will send reminder for those who have not sent in the ethics signature page. Form for reimbursement will also be sent to the board.

- A recommendation that the next meeting should be held in Springfield and update on Budget prior to next meeting.

- Meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm

- David Olson called to order the Women’s Subcommittee on Women’s Issues at 12:46 pm

* The Department is lacking policy specific for gender. We do very little gender training. Took two facilities and combined into one to include the switch from a male facility.
Logan has a large number here are mental health. The largest issue exposed were cultural issues with putting 2 facilities into one with staff to help manage this population. Cannot implement change without getting staff on board with the mission. 1 facility will pilot core corrections practices. This is a precursor to risk assessment tool. Addresses, the who, what and why. Put training staff into the core corrections practices units to get results. Hopeful that staff will see that this practice works and the message will spread. NAMI training ongoing for 3 months now and staff enjoy it. Goal is to teach how to deal with mental health offenders.

Many leadership and philosophy changes in dealing with this population. She is the 6th Warden since it the facility was switched over. Mental health offenders, female offenders and staff doesn’t adapt well with any new changes. Culture understanding is to ride it out until the next administration comes in. The facility is in desperate need of consistency. The facility grew quickly. 93% of staff have been in their position less than 3 years. Officers are promoting to lieutenants in 3 years. Hope is to bring in seasoned staff to be training/teaching. Approved recently by NIC for training. Agency approach to gender informed policy. We get about 10 turnarounds in this division, quite a few come from cook county. Logan does a great job of doing calculations before they arrive so that they can get back on the bus which is helping with costs. Logan is already doing the electronic data sharing. DR504 population is now down to 50 when high was 154. Could single cell but not wise. Hoping that introducing different training and right staff, better understanding of roles and more stability. Reclassification will get better with risk assessment. Maggie says that the scoring from females against males are different with mental health. Half of women go home within 1 year.

- Meeting adjourned 1:15 pm