

IDOC Adult Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, October 16th, 2017
Video Conference – Springfield & JRTC
10: 30 am

Attendance Chicago: Gladyse Taylor, Phil Whittington, David Olson, Tracey Williams

Attendance in Springfield: Keith Lape, Richard Stempinski, Jared Brunk, Richard Watson

Guests Springfield: Carolyn Gurski, Alyssa Schafer-Williams, Chris Higgerson

Call in: Carlos Gomez

- I. David Olson called the meeting to order at 10:33 am
- II. Approval of the minutes from minutes1 correction noted. Motion to approve minutes with correction. There was a 2nd. No further discussion no opposition. Motion carries.
- III. Legal – Report provided by Chris Higgerson. In May 2017, Monitor provided an annual report with both positives and negatives. Counsel for the plaintiffs wrote asking for plan and remedy for the unfavorable items. The parties met to discuss these issues. 10/1/17 the monitor noted that IDOC was in a state of psychiatric emergency. There was a motion to enforce the settlement agreement. IDOC and AG's office is in the process of filing a motion to answer this motion. The areas of concern are: Treatment and planning, evaluation, medication, segregation, crisis status and staffing shortage. There is a huge shortage in psychiatrists, currently approximately 40 vacant positions. Per AD Taylor, there is a shortage across the nation.
- IV. Staffing
 - o Education Staffing report read by Richard Stempinski. Staffing numbers down. Education is down to one of its lowest levels in 4 to 5 years. Reviewed budget with Jared Brunk and can allow for 30 positions available for staffing to include library and academic staff. Re-establishing vocational positions. Joliet, recalled 3 educators for this facility who will begin working on Nov 16, 2017. Received approval to post an **EFA**, office coordinator, librarian and legal assistant position.
 - o Mental Health Staffing report read by Alyssa Schafer-Williams. There has been significant progress in filling the mental health positions at Joliet. A review of each position was conducted and numbers were provided. In relation to the RANA specialists, the Department continues its hiring efforts. There are currently 14 with two more that recently accepted positions. For this fiscal year, 63 are in the budget allocation and the Department will continue to work to fill the positions.
 - o Per AD Taylor, IDOC will be participating in the National Association of Social Workers Conference to see potential candidates.
- VII. Budget – report given by Jared Brunk. The General Assembly appropriated \$1.450 billion to the Illinois Department of Corrections for Fiscal Year 2018. This is \$52 million less than the Governor proposed in his budget. The General Assembly's budget failed to give the Department appropriations to pay the

backlog of unpaid bills from previous fiscal years totaling \$500 million. Not taking into account the amount needed to clear the unpaid bills from previous fiscal years, the Department is moving forward with their operations. This includes the opening up of Joliet and Elgin. All facility operations remaining at the status quo. Hiring staff to fill vacancies and combat overtime. What the backlog of unpaid bills means though, is that the Department cannot fully move forward with obligating contracts and vouchering payments to our vendors. Best case scenario for priority vendors (community support, dialysis, utilities) is a 90 day timeframe from the invoice received date. Right now, the combined interest has climbed to over \$150 thousand per day in accrued prompt pay interest. The current cash flow out of GRF (State's payment cycle) is running approximately 9-10 months from the voucher date. We cannot issue a voucher without an appropriation. The sole discretion will always reside with the Comptroller's Office. The State is working on a bond sale that is aimed at speeding up the payment cycle. The bond sale should take place within the next 30-45 days. Hopefully between the bond sale and the tax hike, the State's payment cycle will be more in the 3-5 month timeframe. The capital needs of the Department were not addressed in the FY18 budget. The Department's deferred maintenance now tops over \$2 billion. There was a small lump sum for \$40 million included in the FY18 budget, but it is for all state agencies and is intended to cover emergent situations.

- VIII. PA99-0938/ 100-003 is the new Earned Sentence Credit program. The new legislation made statutory modifications to the 2012 sentence credit reform legislation and expand eligibility for certain populations to receive sentence credit. The expansion of offenses that are now eligible include all 50% offenders (the Director may consider excluding forcible felonies), all 75 % offenses (the offender must still serve 60% of their sentence and those convicted of gunrunning must still serve 75% of their sentence), and all 85% offenses that have served 85% of their sentence. IDOC holds weekly calls to prepare IDOC staff for implementations effective Jan 1st, 2018. There will be a new automated assessment tool that will be used to evaluate offenders for earned sentence credit. The current sentence credit award process requires clinical services to review every offender's master file to determine sentence credit eligibility. This process will still take place but the Department is considering if the new automated evaluation tool is the final decision point for earned sentence credit award or if some form of internal clinical service review is still required prior to awarding earned sentence credit. The new Earned Sentence Credit Program legislation also expands eligibility for program credit.
- IX. There is no old business by the board
- X. Keith Lape directed next meeting to be arranged by David Olson and Director Baldwin. Last meeting to be held in December 2017.

- XI. Motion to adjourn at 11:28 am. There was a 2nd. No discussion, no opposition. Motion carries.
- XII. Keith Lape called to order Women's Subcommittee Meeting at 11:29 am.
- XIII. HB3904, creates a Women's Division that is operationally handled separately from the male division. The bill requires a Deputy Chief of Women's Division be appointed. Currently the appointment is to be confirmed by the Senate, however the Governor and the Department have asked for an amendment to be approved in veto session that allows the Director and the Assistant Director to appoint the individual selected. In addition, the bill requires the Agency adopt gender responsive policies, practices, programs and services shall be implemented in a manner that is considered relational, culturally competent, family centered, holistic and strength based. Also to include trauma informed policies, practices, processes, programs and services that involve understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all types of trauma with emphasis on physical, psychological and emotional safety. Training of all staff who work in women's prison's in gender responsive and trauma informed practices, a classification tool, risk assessment and needs assessment tool to coincide with case management for women. Currently we are working on of these things and have been for the past 12 months. We are training staff in a 5 day gender responsive and trauma informed care practices developed through partnerships with CORE Associates and Women's Justice Initiative in Chicago. We have also begun to utilize the SPIn-W tool and the Collaborative Case Management for Women. Recently we received technical assistance from the National Resource Center on Justice Involved Women for policy writing.
- XIV. Motion to adjourn at 11:46 am. There as a 2nd. No discussion or opposition. Motion carries.