

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Correctional Rehabilitation Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 15, 2013

Meeting called to order at 1:38 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Figueroa, Labahn, Montes (Chairperson), Peck, Singh were present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Comments and Clarification regarding Correctional Rehabilitation Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2012: No comments.

Commissioner SINGH moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner LABAHN. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: No comments.

REPORTS

Report from Executive Officer JENNIFER SHAFFER

No comments.

Report from Chief Counsel HOWARD MOSELEY

No comments.

Report from the Chairperson, COMMISSIONER MONTES

Commissioner MONTES stated that the committee's goals have been finalized and distributed. Senior Staff Attorney KATIE RILEY and Staff Attorney MINA CHOI met with staff at CDCR to discuss programs that are available at institutions.

PRESENTATIONS

Introduction to the Office of Community Partnerships, presented by Jane Soria, Manager, Office of Community Partnerships, Division of Adult Institutions

SORIA gave a presentation on the work of her office. She provided a handout outlining the programs available at each institution. The office works closely with Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups (ILTAGs) and welcomes programming suggestions from inmates and the public. Her office encourages volunteer participation and is constantly reviewing the provision of programs.

In response to questions, SORIA confirmed that the list of programs was current. She stated that she would provide copies of her report.

Commissioner PECK asked whom commissioners should contact regarding programming at specific institutions. SORIA stated that they should call the community resource manager.

Commissioner MONTES asked who decides whether a particular program should be offered. SORIA stated many people are involved, including the warden of the institution.

Commissioner MONTES encouraged all the commissioners to check out the programs for themselves if they have the opportunity.

Timelist Group, a Self-Help Organization, presented by Andre L. Wiley, Sr. and Michael Prather, Founders, Timelist Group

WILEY and PRATHER, former inmates and founders of the Timelist Group, gave a presentation of the group's work and described the group's foundation, principles, and the programs that are offered. WILEY introduced TRACEY GREENWELL, a former inmate who is associated with the program.

Commissioner PECK asked about the group's locations and how the curriculum was created. WILEY replied that it started at Avenal State Prison and has expanded to other institutions. WILEY stated that he had created the curriculum, with input from PRATHER.

Commissioner ZARRINNAM questioned how the group had ensured effective continuity of the program. PRATHER stated that reliable inmates are identified and trained to pass on their knowledge and experience to other inmates. A training manual has also been created.

Commissioner LABAHN asked if information is reviewed before being included in the program. WILEY stated that they work directly with a captain and deputy warden, who review the material prior to its use. PRATHER stated that they frequently alter program material at the request of the captain.

Commissioner FRITZ asked how long each component of the program takes to complete. WILEY stated that Timelist was an ongoing program and inmates could stay in as long as necessary.

Commissioner FRITZ asked if inmates must do the whole program or may only complete certain components. WILEY stated that inmates were given the option of doing the whole program or individual components.

Commissioner ZARRINNAM asked how many inmates obtain certificates. WILEY stated that the program has strict attendance rules and about 85% of inmates complete it.

Commissioner SINGH asked if lifers were given priority and WILEY stated that anyone can attend the program.

OPEN COMMENTS

Agenda Items for Future Meetings: None

Public Comments

DAVID SLOANE of Life Support Alliance commended the activities of the Timelist Group.

GAIL PATRICE of Life Support Alliance questioned the accuracy of the list of program availability provided by the Office of Community Partnerships, Division of Adult Institutions.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE of Life Support Alliance also questioned the accuracy of the program availability list provided by the Office of Community Partnerships, Division of Adult Institutions, and referred to difficulties that some volunteers encounter in gaining access to institutions.

JANE SORIA of the Office of Community Partnerships, Division of Adult Institutions, said that the list is still being updated. The online version is old and they are working to get the updated list online.

Meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Correctional Rehabilitation Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 15, 2013

Meeting called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners Labahn, Montes, Peck and Singh were present. Commissioner Figueroa was not present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Comments and Clarification Regarding Correctional Rehabilitation Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2012:

Meeting minutes of December 11, 2012, have already been approved by the Committee. Approval of meeting minutes from April 15, 2013, will be at a later date.

Public Comment: No comments.

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Report from Executive Officer JENNIFER SHAFFER

SHAFFER reported on a proposal for commissioners to tour transitional housing facilities. The purpose is to learn more about the facilities and share their observations with the rest of the Board.

Report from Chief Counsel HOWARD MOSELEY

No comments.

Report from the Chairperson, COMMISSIONER MONTES

The committee has made the recommendation that the commissioners will go out and visit the transitional housing facilities. It would be helpful if during their visits commissioners could talk with some of the staff and parolees who are there and then come back to the Board with what they have learned.

Commissioner MONTES spoke on the Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups and she introduced VICTORIA PROPP of the Office of Community Partnerships.

Update from the Office of Community Partnerships, presented by Victoria Propp and Natalie Fransham, Office of Community Partnerships, Division of Adult Institutions

Following an update from PROPP and FRANSHAM, Commissioner PECK asked why Avenal does not have many programs.

PROPP said they could be missing volunteers. The programs must be requested. She also indicated that a new listing was available and organized by category. Many programs overlap and fall into multiple categories. She commented that not every program is displayed on the listing, but that the listing will get updated to be more complete.

Commissioner MONTES stated that it is an improvement over what the commissioners had access to before. She also stated that sometimes they have a problem determining which yard has which programs.

Update on Long Term Offender Pilot Program, presented by Rodger Meier, Chief of In-Prison Programs, Division of Adult Institutions

Commissioner MONTES stated that RODGER MEIER's presentation on the Long Term Offender Pilot Program is postponed until the next meeting because MEIER was unexpectedly unavailable.

Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program, presented by Renee Smith, LCSW, Managing Director of Women and Children's Services, HealthRIGHT360.

Commissioner MONTES stated that the agenda incorrectly referred to the program as the Female Offender Treatment and Education Program. The correct name of the program is the Female Offender Treatment and Employment Program.

Commissioner MONTES introduced RENEE SMITH. SMITH showed a PowerPoint presentation of the program, which is within the CDCR network. Longer programs of up to 15 months where children may come with their mother are also available. Sex offenders are not eligible to join the program, but otherwise eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis. Women's needs in parole are different from that of men and the program helps the parolees acquire the skills needed for employment. The program is good for lifers because it is long term. They have served 16 lifers so far this year. Of those lifers, four have gone to sober living environments. The majority are still in treatment. One lifer has been in treatment for 17 months and received an extension for 15 months more. There is the opportunity to stay in the program for an extended period of time.

Commissioner MONTES thanked SMITH for her time and the presentation.

In response to a comment by SMITH regarding the participants not having a significant history of violence, Commissioner PECK asked for clarification. SMITH clarified that eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis, and any history of violence in the institution will be considered.

Commissioner MONTES commented that by definition, lifers have been violent in the past. She also asked if program participants have reoffended and SMITH replied that they have not.

Executive Officer SHAFFER asked SMITH how the inmates access the program, commenting that some programs will not consider anyone who does not already have a grant and sometimes inmates will not receive a grant because of a lack of plans.

SMITH stated that they do evaluate in advance, with a higher priority put on those who will get out soon. She stated that they will send out letters of acceptance to avoid anxiety.

Sacramento County Office of Education-Community Based Coalition

Commissioner MONTES introduced DAVID GORDON, superintendent of the Sacramento County Office of Education. He stated that they were approached to operate this program about 5 years ago. His message to the staff when it started was to run the best program possible and to keep data to insure they are tracking their success rates. Two former clients were present. Over 200 active clients are participating in the program at any given time. The program offers clients life skills, employment training, a GED program, and transitional housing which is funded for 90-150 days. Participants must stay clean and have at least 80% attendance. They have had over 2700 clients enrolled. There have been 105 GED graduates since 2009, and in 2012 there were 30 graduates. There have already been 28 graduates in 2013 and potentially 70-75 by the end of the year. Only 8.5% of the violators received new prison time.

JANICE RITCHIE, former lifer, spoke about her positive experience with the Sacramento County Office of Education program after having participated in the Female Offender Treatment and Education Program. She said the program is appropriate for lifers. She also thanked Commissioner Peck for the opportunity to parole.

GEORGE FREDRICKS, former lifer who paroled on March 26, 2013, after 32 years of incarceration, spoke about the services he received through the program. He thanked Commissioner Garner for the opportunity to parole. The program helped him channel his energy and learn many life skills. He spoke of the difficulties of getting out into a new world and said the program is tailored to suit the client. He said that it made his transition to society much easier.

Commissioner MONTES asked how he heard about the program. FREDERICKS replied that he heard about it through word of mouth.

Commissioner MONTES asked if he has thought of how his outcome could have been different without this help. FREDERICKS replied that he had no doubt that he would have been successful, but that the program made the transition much easier.

Commissioner LABAHN asked for any observations on the approach to adjustment between lifers and non-lifers.

CHRIS LIEBORTH responded that lifers are the most successful because they are most motivated to stay out of prison.

OPEN COMMENTS

Agenda Items for Future Meetings: None.

MOSELEY indicated that the Correctional Rehabilitation Programs Advisory Committee's next meeting will probably be in September.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, stated that she supports the Sacramento County Office of Education Community Based Coalition program, and noted that she has spoken with the Board before about the available programs. She stated that one problem is that the inmates have to be referred to the program and that is sometimes difficult to get done with the reduction in DAPO staff.

Executive Officer SHAFFER announced that the Best Practices Committee would meet following this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.