

# COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS

<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/COMIO/index.html>

## MINUTES

November 15, 2007

This meeting was held at the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation, 1515 S Street – Suite 502, Sacramento, California.

### **COMIO Council Members in attendance:**

#### Council Members

Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Vice-Chairperson  
Dave Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Retired), Humboldt County  
Wendy Lindley, Judge, Orange County Superior Court  
Duane E. McWaine, M.D., Medical Director, DHCMHC, Los Angeles  
David Meyer, J.D., USC Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science  
Jo Robinson, M.F.T., Assistant Director, Programs, San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services  
James W. Sweeney, J.D., Principal, James W. Sweeney & Associates  
Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Assistant Sheriff, Orange County Sheriff

#### Support Staff

Allan Lammers, Executive Officer  
Bruce Slavin, Counsel to COMIO

#### Interested Parties

Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association  
Robin Dezember, CDCR (representing Chairperson James E. Tilton)  
Lynda Frost, MIO Co-leader, CSA  
Bob Takeshta, Deputy Director – Facilities Standards and Operations, CSA

### **Absent:**

Council Member James E. Tilton, Chairperson was represented by Robin Dezember. Also absent were Jo Robinson and Judge Wendy Lindley. Steven W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Vice Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:10. A quorum was present.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1 - Opening Comments/Previous Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Mayberg, Vice-Chairperson, welcomed all in attendance; introductions were made.

The Executive Officer briefly reviewed the agenda and offered background information about the meeting materials distributed to Council Members. There were no changes noted to the minutes of September meeting. James Sweeney moved and David Meyer seconded the motion to approve the minutes – Passed.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2 – Review Process for “Best Practices” Applications**

Executive Officer Allan Lammers reported that the deadline for submission of the “Best Practices” applications was extended to the end of November due to requests from the field. In anticipation of the eventual review of the applications, Council Members discussed a variety of considerations and suggestions. David Meyer noted that a literature review should include what is promising, what data items should be considered and also move away from traditional institutional corrections questions. Charlie Walters expanded upon this to suggest emphasis on what community benefits can be documented from each program submitted. Duane McWaine mentioned that COMIO should look beyond what is generally accepted now out in the field and focus on what is unique, is built on evidence and has the capacity to be replicated. Robin Dezember explained that our critique should ensure that what a project was set out to do was actually accomplished. Projects should really stress what is unique and effective, James Sweeney added, and Dave Lehman challenged us to determine how we could flush out the results to validate the measures used so that we better understand what these measures and the findings actually tell us.

The Council agreed to have a subcommittee be in charge of the review process and to make recommendations back to the full Council. Volunteers to review the applications are Duane McWaine, David Lehman and David Meyer. Packages containing all the applications will be distributed to the full Council at the next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – Competency to stand trial - Proposed checklist**

Tabled to next meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – CSA Standards and Inspections**

At the request of Council Member David Lehman, an invitation was extended to Bob Takeshta, Deputy Director – Facilities, Standards and Operations for the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) to provide the COMIO with an update and better understanding of their activities. He provided an update on AB 900 and reviewed the LAO's recent comments that the State presently has a \$2 billion shortfall and will be more than \$8 billion next year. Vice-Chairman Mayberg noted that all agencies are facing a minimum 10% deficit making it unlikely that new legislation providing new funding in some of the areas of COMIO's concern will be funded. The Council Members had several questions about CSA's activities; however, other CSA Divisions would better address these. On-going discussions with CSA will be necessary.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – Geel Belgium on-Site Visit Report**

Charlie Walters reported on his recent visit to Geel Belgium, a town that has had a social "experiment" for 700 years of providing foster homes for adult mentally ill individuals. A kin-like relationship seems to exist with recognition of individual's limitations yet without any negative stigma attached, as is often the case in the rest of the world. Sheriff Walters is interested in exploring how such a social experiment might be replicated here. As a follow-up to his report, COMIO will receive a presentation at the next meeting from Dr. Jacqueline Goldstein, who has made several visits to Geel to study Geel's century old, unique foster family model of community mental health care. Dr. Goldstein will also be making a presentation at the annual conference of the Forensic Mental Health Association in March.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – Future Legislative Concerns**

See agenda item #4 above.

**AGENDA ITEM 7 – Old Business**

- MIOCR projects - Lynda Frost (CSA) provided a progress report on the statewide Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction grant program. While progress has been made, due to the threat during the past legislative session that funds might be discontinued, many counties chose not to move forward for fear of having to let staff go. The result is that several counties have been very slow in spending funds and moving forward. One other issue noted seems to be that some counties are deficient in their fiscal record keeping which is being addressed by CSA.
- *Words to Deeds IV: Changing the Paradigm for Criminal Justice and Mental Health* - COMIO Member David Meyer reported that this years conference was a huge success with a much more diverse group of people including six judges, eight Sheriffs and ten Mental Health Directors. The conference was once again sponsored with the support of the Eli Lilly & Company, the State Sheriff's Association and CSAC. A final report will be published in the late winter and plans are now forming for a fifth conference in 2008.

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – New Business**

- Annual COMIO Report – The Executive Officer requested comments and input from the Council regarding the previously distributed draft of the 2007 annual report. This was an opportunity to incorporate thoughts for 2008 priorities as well. Some modifications and additions were suggested which will be incorporated for review at the next meeting.
- 2008 Meeting Schedule – A new meeting schedule was agreed to and is attached.

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – Announcement**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 10 – Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 P.M. was made by Duane McWaine and seconded by David Lehman – Passed.

MINUTES RECORDED AND SUBMITTED BY:

Allan Lammers,  
COMIO Executive Officer