

**Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)**

**January 21, 2016 Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**LOCATION: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)**

**1515 S Street, Room 510-South, Sacramento, CA**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**COMIO Council Members**

- Mark Garbau, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist Forensic Services Division, California Department of State Hospitals (DHS) (representing DHS Director Pamela Ahlin)
- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) (representing DHCS Director Toby Douglas)
- Mack Jenkins, Chief Probation Officer, San Diego County
- Dave Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Ret.), Humboldt County
- The Honorable Stephen V. Manley, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge
- Lester P. Pincu, D. Criminology
- Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Law Enforcement Consultant, Orange County

**CDCR Staff**

- Brant Choate, Ed.D, Acting Director, Division of Rehabilitative Programs
- Lisa Heintz, Parole Administrator, Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO)
- Diana Toche, DDS, Undersecretary, Health Care Services
- Stephanie Welch, Executive Officer, COMIO
- Renee Whitehead, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Secretary

**Interested Parties and Guests**

- Jonathan Caudill, Ph.D, CSU Chico
- Zima Creason, CEO, Mental Health American of California
- Matt Gallagher, Executive Director, California Youth Empowerment Network
- Katie Howard, Executive Director, Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC)
- Sheree Lowe, Vice President, Behavioral Health, California Hospital Association
- Amy Jarvis, California Department of Finance
- Joseph V.A. Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- Albert Rivas, Deputy Chief External Communications
- Sara Rogers, California Department of Social Services
- Kit Wall, Kit Wall Productions, Words to Deeds Coordinator
- Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association of California

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Adopted Meeting Minutes from November 17, 2015**

**Special Guest: Amy Jarvis, California Department of Finance**

Ms. Jarvis provided an overview of the Governor's **proposed** January budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 and the major areas in which COMIO might have an interest. Here are some highlights -

- Expansion of programs and services for Lifer population including parolee service center beds, in-prison long-term offender programs, the offender mentor certification program and the pre-employment transition program. The Governor recognizes that there are not a lot of services to support this population in their transition to the community. COMIO may wish to consider if they have any role in supporting these efforts.
- NIMBY continues to be a significant barrier to supporting people with criminal justice histories to re-enter or live in their communities and receive needed services. \$25M is proposed in incentives to cities and/or counties that approve new long-term permits for hard to site facilities that improve public safety and support the criminal justice system through delivering services like substance use disorder treatment, mental health services, and reentry programming. Members were particularly interested in understanding how they can support successful siting strategies.
- \$30M for a one-time grant program to be administered by the Judicial Council encouraging courts to conduct innovative business practices that can demonstrate a measurable benefit to the public. Members discussed whether or not any of the pre-trial diversion practices or even post-arrest practices would fit under this opportunity. Follow-up should be taken up with the Judicial Council.
- \$20M in city law enforcement grants for effective outcomes between city law enforcement and the homeless community, persons with mental health needs, and/or high risk youth populations. Members noted that this was a need identified in the training committee and wondered how existing and new efforts to be implemented through SB 11 and SB 29 would be aligned or leveraged. The budget also provides some support for law enforcement entities to get support in order to take leave and participate in the new training that will be available due to SB 11 and SB 29.

#### **Special Guest: Sara Rogers, California Department of Social Services (DSS)**

Ms. Rogers provided an overview of a significant reform under way at DSS called California's Child Welfare Continuum of Care Reform (CCR). COMIO's juvenile justice committee also looked into the issue in detail the day before at their meeting, which also included a presentation from Rosie McCool, Deputy Director, Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC). Multiple departments and stakeholders have been involved in this process for several years. The effort has an important goal which is to reform the current group home structure and keep and serve youth in their communities.

With COMIO's charge of preventing of youth with mental health needs from becoming incarcerated, CCR is important to monitor and possibly provide input to, because of the unfortunate possibility that very "difficult to place" youth with trauma, mental health, and substance use disorder service needs, have a higher likelihood of ending up in Juvenile Hall. The Juvenile Justice committee will continue to explore how it can contribute to CCR meeting its goals in future meetings.

#### **Update from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), Katie Howard, Executive Director**

Ms. Howard, with support from Helene Zentner, field representative for the BSCC, provided an update on key activities and proposed budget items. Some of these are briefly described below:

- The administration of local police grants is a recent activity and provides incentives for helpful data collection that can inform practice.

- Prop 47 had optimistic initial estimates and now the focus of BSCC will be to go out into the field/ communities, through forums, and hear about what kinds of services are needed.
- MIOCR grants are proceeding with the first round of progress reports due in February. That said, initial outcomes will not be available until the end of year one.

Members discussed their interest in better collecting and sharing outcome and evaluation data on programs serving the realigned population with mental health and substance use needs. The BSCC would be a good partner in this area and further discussion should take place.

#### **Update from the CDCR Division of Rehabilitative Programs, Brant Choate, Acting Director**

Mr. Choate spoke about the opportunities for rehabilitation that are part of the Governor's proposed budget. Specifically, the budget includes approximately \$400M to the division to provide a wide range of programming including expanding substance use disorder treatment, cognitive behavioral treatment, family reunification, and employment and educational programs. The division will continue to work on expanding their community reentry facilities which are places that provide significant supports to prepare individuals for successful integration back into their communities.

COMIO has been invited and will actively participate in the Directors Stakeholder Advisory Group (DSAG) which is developing strategies to improve access to Medi-Cal services (particularly the new drug Medi-Cal expansion) and community reentry, including developing a wide variety of improve housing options. These are areas included in the COMIO work plan as activities and the council is eager to offer any support needed to the division and DSAG.

#### **The 2016 Work Plan was adopted with minor edits that included:**

- Ensuring a focus on pre-arrest and pre-trial diversion,
- Clarifying with language in the overview that the work of each committee builds upon each other, working in concert to have a collective impact. In addition there are several cross-cutting issues across committees such as data-collection challenges, and
- Including a statement about the need to identify additional resources to support capacity to execute the activities in the work plan.

#### **Other Action Items**

- The name of the First Responders Training Committee was changed to the Training Committee
- The COMIO Best Practices Award Recommendation was adopted
- Communication Tools were adopted

#### **Public Comment**

Joseph Partansky, an advocate for persons with disabilities, suggested that COMIO add victim's rights groups and resources to its website. Staff noted looking into that in collaboration with other CDCR staff.

#### **Adjourn**