

Council on Mentally Ill Offenders (COMIO)

November 20, 2014 Meeting

MINUTES

**LOCATION: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
1515 S Street, Room 510-South, Sacramento, CA**

IN ATTENDANCE:

COMIO Council Members

- Dr. Mark A. Grabau, Ph.D., Chief Psychologist, California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) (representing DSH Director Cliff Allenby)
- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) (representing DHCS Director Toby Douglas)
- Manuel J. Jimenez, Jr., MA, MFT, Director, Behavioral Health Care Services, Alameda County, COMIO Vice Chair
- David Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Ret.), Humboldt County (via phone)
- The Honorable Stephen V. Manley, Santa Clara Superior Court Judge
- David Meyer, J.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California (via phone)
- James W. Sweeney, J.D., Legislative Advocate, James W. Sweeney and Associates
- Diana Toche, DDS, Undersecretary, Health Care Services, and Undersecretary (A), Administration and Offender Services, CDCR (representing CDCR Secretary Jeffrey Beard)
- Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Law Enforcement Consultant, Orange County

CDCR Staff

- Kristoffer Applegate, Chief, Legislative Affairs Office
- Kirsten Barlow, Executive Officer, COMIO
- Thomas Gilevich, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of Legal Affairs (via phone)
- Lisa Heintz, Parole Administrator, Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO)
- Pamela Michel, Associate Health Program Advisor, Statewide Mental Health Program, Division of Health Care Services
- Albert Rivas, External Affairs
- Virginia (Ginger) Steele-Pirie, RN/NCPR, DAPO
- Robert Storms, Special Assistant to Undersecretary Diana Toche
- Fu Yiu (Yoyo), Statewide Mental Health Program, Division of Health Care Services

Interested Parties

- Joseph V.A. Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities
- Molly Willenbring, Executive Director, Forensic Mental Health Association of California (via phone)
- Melinda Homola, OTSUKA Pharmaceuticals
- Leslie Costalin, OTSUKA Pharmaceuticals
- Rudy Vidaurri, Assistant to James Sweeney

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Welcome and Introductions

- Mr. Jimenez called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. and others in attendance made self-introductions. Members made welcoming remarks, including extending a welcome to COMIO's new Executive Officer, Kirsten Barlow.

- Ms. Barlow shared that COMIO has many emerging opportunities to be helpful to CDCR, local community corrections and mental health providers, and policy makers, particularly in light of current statewide and national interest in the intersection between criminal justice and mental health. Ms. Barlow described her goal that over the next calendar year, COMIO should develop tangible work products and written resources toward achieving COMIO's mission. These projects might include, for example, an overview of the current efforts and investments in California; a series of short briefing papers or fact sheets on cost-effective strategies that could be used as resources for program implementers and policy makers; and developing and promoting COMIO's web site as a resource on best practices, reports, news coverage, other information on model programs. Ms. Barlow identified the challenge of stigma associated with mental illness, which is compounded for individuals in the criminal justice system. She identified the short-term need to complete COMIO's annual legislative report, and concluded her comments by describing some of the organizations and stakeholder groups with which she hopes COMIO will actively collaborate (e.g., Board of State and Community Corrections, Forensic Mental Health Association of California, Judicial Council, counties, law enforcement, mental health providers).
- Mr. Meyer discussed the importance of coordinating with the numerous other initiatives occurring in parallel to COMIO's work, which could be better leveraged. These include the Judicial Council, Forensic Mental Health Association of California (including the Words-to-Deeds Annual Conference), the new round of Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grants (Mr. Meyer and Judge Manley are participants of the steering committee), and the initiatives by Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey.
- Ms. Grealish stated support for COMIO develop an overview of the current lay of the land on criminal justice/mental health in California, which could help ground and anchor COMIO's work, tie into our recommendations, and identify COMIO's role in helping on identified issues.
- Judge Manley urged members not to overlook the work COMIO developed in the past, and stressed that there are new, urgent issues to consider (i.e., the impacts of Proposition 47). With so much for the Council to accomplish, Judge Manley suggested COMIO meetings be extended beyond two hours.
- Mr. Sweeney discussed that some programs already being implemented just include mental health, particularly the CDCR Reentry Centers. Mr. Sweeney acknowledged the prior issues attempted to be tackled by the Council.
- Mr. Grabau stated his appreciation that CDCR provided resources to hire an Executive Officer and his hope that COMIO will develop concrete byproducts of the expertise council members possess. Mr. Grabau concurred with Ms. Barlow's statement about stigma, and pointed out that some exists within the service delivery system itself.
- Mr. Lehman urged the Council to revisit the three white papers developed earlier, particularly on the issues of juvenile offenders and adult mentally ill offenders in jails.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Adoption of Minutes

The minutes from the July 24, 2014 and September 25, 2014 meetings were adopted as drafted.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Public Comment

- Mr. Joseph Partansky, Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, announced that a story on COMIO was published by Don Thompson of the Associated Press. Mr. Partansky also talked about the serious issue of suicides in the California state prison system. Mr. Partansky discussed that COMIO could provide guidance and leadership in regard to Proposition 47, and suggested the Council align with other interested entities, such as the Department of State Hospitals, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Little Hoover Commission, and law schools (such as Stanford). Mr. Partansky provided a handout regarding the use of force with mentally ill inmates in the California state prisons, as well as an article about a recent U.S. District Court ruling against the use of the death penalty.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Chair Report

COMIO's Chair, CDCR Secretary Jeffrey Beard, was not present at the meeting, but was represented by Diana Toche, DDS, CDCR Undersecretary. Dr. Toche welcomed COMIO's new permanent Executive Officer to the Council.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Old Business

a) Action Items Updates

(1) Mr. Lehman indicated that Senator Darrell Steinberg would not be able to attend COMIO's November meeting, and possibly unable to attend in January as well.

(2) Reimbursement issues have been resolved. Department of State Hospitals will continue to reimburse COMIO members' travel expenses.

b) Leadership, Participation, and Support

The Council members removed this item from the agenda.

c) Discussion of 2015 Strategic Plan

A conference call will be scheduled shortly to identify the Council's priorities for 2015.

d) Update on Secretary Beard Request

This item was not discussed.

e) Letter of Appreciation to Senator Steinberg

Members agreed the Council should send a letter of appreciation to Senator Steinberg and extend an invitation for him to attend a future meeting to discuss the new mental health institute he recently created.

f) Legislative Update

Kristoffer Applegate, CDCR Chief of Legislative Affairs, provided a legislative update, including a written and verbal summary of several bills signed into state law this session. Mr. Sweeney also provided a packet of information about recent legislation that may be of interest.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – New Business

a) COMIO Best Practice and Innovative and Promising Awards for 2015

The awards will be discussed with the Executive Officer and the council members who volunteered to serve on a subcommittee, Mr. Lehman and Judge Manley.

b) New Executive Director – Integration of COMIO and State Agencies

Dr. Walters suggested the forging of public/private partnerships, as with COMIO and FMHAC. Ms. Barlow would like to reach out to a variety of other public state and local agencies for collaboration.

c) Planning for Next Meeting on January 22, 2015

Mr. Jimenez proposed that on the agenda for the next meeting, the Council consider either organizing longer meetings or more frequent meetings in the future in order to get more accomplished. Judge Manley agreed and asked that the meetings occur monthly or at least every six weeks rather than every eight weeks. Judge Manley requested that two items be included in the January meeting agenda: 1) DSH waitlist for Incompetent to Stand Trial individuals, and 2) Proposition 47 implications.

Adjournment of Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.