



Division of Rehabilitative Programs

Director's Stakeholder Advisory Group
Sacramento County Office of Education
Conference Center
February 4, 2016
Meeting Minutes

I. Members Present

Brant Choate
Rusty Bechtold
Doug Bond
Linda Connelly
Carolyn Eggleston
Vitka Eisen
David Farabee
Cynthia Florez-DeLyon
Bill Heiser
Phillip Hernandez
Kevin Hoffman
Steve Jackson
Shawn Jenkins
Igor Koutsenok
Arley Lindberg for Hon. Stephen V. Manley

Stephen J. Maulhardt
Vanessa Nelson-Sloane
Russell J. Nichols
Charles Pattillo
Matt Perry
Misty Polasik
Sharon L. Rapport
Albert M. Senella
Sushma Taylor
Stephanie Welch
Andrew Williamson
Sheldon Zhang

II. Welcome and Introductions/Review and Approval of Minutes

Brant Choate, Director (A), called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting started with welcome and introductions.

Director Choate requested for the group to review and approve the minutes from the August 13, 2015 Director's Stakeholder Advisory Group (DSAG) meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes.

III. DRP Updates

Director Choate gave a brief update regarding the changes at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The Governor recently appointed CDCR Undersecretary Scott Kernan as Secretary. Additionally, former Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) Director, Millicent Tidwell, moved on to new endeavors at the Judicial Council of California; Deputy Director Rodger Meier recently retired, and Chiefs Amber Barnett from Community Reentry Services (CRS) and Kelly Medina from In-Prison Programs are no longer with DRP. Cynthia Florez-DeLyon is the Deputy Director of CRS and Program Support; Kevin Hoffman is the Deputy Director (A) of In-Prison Programs; and Jessica Mazlum is the new Chief of CRS.

Deputy Director Hoffman provided a brief overview of the recent release of the Governor's Budget proposal that included the following:

- \$15.2 million to expand Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT) to the remaining 11 institutions without a program.
- \$3.4 million, of which \$2.1 million is one-time funding to expand the Long Term Offender Program (LTOP) at a Level III or IV institution.
- Additional funding to expand "Transitions" programming to every institution, under the auspices of the Office of Correctional Education (OCE), enabling inmate opportunities to participate in these specialized program services.
- Augmentation for Offender Mentor Certification Program (OMCP) that would expand OMCP sessions. The OMCP allows long term and life-term offenders to complete a certification program for Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Counseling. This gives them the opportunity to be employed as AOD Counselors when they are discharged to parole status.

Deputy Director Florez-DeLyon stated that OCE has been expanding the college curriculum in the institutions. They have been very successful in achieving important partnerships with community colleges that have resulted in an increase number of college classes in CDCR institutions than ever before. DRP now has several college tracks in which inmates are not only limited to earning transferrable college credits, but they are able to earn associate and bachelor's degrees.

Other program areas briefly highlighted by Deputy Director Florez-DeLyon included:

- Lifer population – As CDCR continues to release eligible life-term offenders, CDCR is dedicating more resources to address the many specialized community transition needs, such as employment, primary care, and permanent housing.
 - Recently, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. and CDCR Secretary Scott Kernan went to a career tech program in Los Angeles and met with a representative

group of lifers to gain first hand insight about the many challenges lifers are experiencing. The dialogue resulted in the establishment of a “Lifer Advisory Group” that is structured to provide DRP the ability to ensure DRP program efforts are responsive to lifers’ needs.

- The Governor’s Budget includes \$32.1 million to expand the Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP) to four additional sites and continue the operation of existing sites. The program is voluntary for participants that have 120 days or less to serve. The Governor’s budget proposal expands the timeframe to 180 days.

IV. Integrated Care Ad-Hoc Committee (ICC)

Kevin Wortell from DRP, gave a brief overview of ICC and gave an update on the committee’s activities. During the report out, three sub work groups provided recommendations for the DSAG membership to review. Sub Work Group 1 presented on Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver integration; Sub Work Group 2 discussed contract re-design; and Sub Group 3 presented on future model development. The DRP Executive Team plans to revisit the recommendations after the DSAG meeting and determine the next steps accordingly.

V. Lunch

The group adjourned for lunch at 11:55 a.m. and meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

VI. Housing Committee

Doug Bond, DSAG’s Housing Committee Chair, introduced Sharon Rapport to give an overview of the homeless policy and housing services challenges. He mentioned that Ms. Rapport is nationally recognized as a subject matter expert in that field. He further expressed the Housing Committee’s gratitude for the commitment of her time and willingness to help DRP stakeholders increase their knowledge about what they can do better to improve housing access for parolees.

Ms. Rapport opened her presentation by stating that in 2008, one-third to one-half of parolees living in Los Angeles and San Francisco were homeless. She further stated numerous research findings link lower recidivism to housing that is stabilized or permanent. She referred to a study that reflected an offender was seven times more likely to re-offend if they were homeless than housed. She stated that the homelessness cycle (jails, prisons, hospitals, detox, shelters, etc.) is expensive; however, permanent housing with services saves money and improve outcomes.

Sharon Rapport provided a historical perspective of the various homeless response models that were in the 1980’s up until present. She continued her presentation by briefly identifying some of the major housing barriers for parolees, such as the following:

- In accordance with the current federal definition of “homelessness” – if a person has lived in an institution 90 days prior to release, they do not meet the standard of being homeless.
- In general, housing authorities have one-strike laws that are used as a disqualification for subsidized housing of any kind – housing background checks are stringent and severe.
- Conditions of parole sometimes conflict with harm reduction and housing first.
- Inadequate and poor coordinated assessment and entry systems among primary and secondary system stakeholders for the coordination of regional, categorical housing inventories, and priority or triage of participant housing needs.

Ms. Rapport concluded her presentation by outlining program and regulator solutions as follows:

- Establish a housing access process that includes the principle of “*No Wrong Door: Entry Point*” for services
- Staff system with a “*Housing Navigator*”
- Establish and maintain a reliable regional system inventory of available permanent housing
- Link the housing services system to wrap-around services and treatment

She cited several programs that are assisting in breaking homelessness barriers:

- Los Angeles County
 - \$6 million in rapid re-housing for adult offenders
 - Goal of housing 200-300 individuals over a two-year period
 - Up to 24 month rental subsidy (re-evaluated every three months)
 - Intensive case management services
 - Individually tailored employment services
- Jail In-Reach supportive housing program in partnership with Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department
 - Most referrals come from Jail Mental Health
 - Services begin while clients are still incarcerated
 - Bridge Housing, around 45-60 days, while waiting for permanent housing
 - Placement into supportive housing
- Returning Home Ohio
 - \$5 million for supportive housing for chronically homeless people exiting prison

Doug Bonds introduced Policy Director John Bauters from the Californians for Safety and Justice. He presented on the following:

- AB1056 (Atkins) - the Second Chance Program for Community Re-entry- which is an overlay of the ballot initiative Prop 47. The bill directs a portion of the Prop 47 savings toward providing housing opportunities along with other supportive services. It is to be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). It calls for a

collaborative effort between community based groups, local government, and other individual stakeholders to develop strategies for reentry programming.

- AB 1837 (Atkins) - Pay for Success is a model in which private investors agree to provide financing to service providers to achieve social outcomes agreed upon in advance. Services include employment, job skills training, and short to long term housing. In return the governmental entity agrees to pay a return on the investment to the investors if successful programmatic outcomes are achieved by the service provider. The bill limits the total amount of the grants to \$5,000,000.
- The Governor's Budget included a budget item referred to as "*Bringing Families Home*" which will help parents exiting incarceration to reunify with their children by assisting with housing.
- Exclusionary conditions to the Public Housing Rule Making.

VII. Meeting Recap/Next Meeting Dates

Deputy Director Florez-DeLyon expressed DRP's appreciation of the countless number of stakeholders whose work was brought to fruition at the meeting. Both she and Deputy Director Hoffman thanked the DSAG committee chairs and individuals who presented important information for DRP to consider to incorporate for inmates and parolees.

Deputy Director Florez-DeLyon provided the following save the dates for upcoming DSAG meetings.

- Thursday, May 5, 2016
- Thursday, August 4, 2016
- Thursday, November 3, 2016

Host sites are still to be determined. Per consensus of the DSAG members at the meeting, DRP will poll members at a later date for the feasibility of having a future meeting in Southern California.

Prior to adjournment, Dr. Carolyn Eggleston recommended a reentry committee be established to expand on the work presented by the various work groups that presented that day. DSAG members were in accord and Kevin Wortell indicated staff would poll members for interest to serve and proceed based on their responses. A report from this effort will be presented at the May 2016 DSAG meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.