

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Correctional Rehabilitation Programs Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Meeting called to order at 1:35 p.m.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Comments and Clarification Regarding Correctional Rehabilitation Programs Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2012: None.

LABAHN moved to approve the minutes, seconded by PECK. The motion was carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Report from Executive Officer, Jennifer Shaffer: None.

Report from Chief Counsel, Howard Moseley:

Presentation on Committee Goals by Katie Riley, Senior Staff Counsel

RILEY distributed a document outlining the committee's goals, as discussed at the September 18, 2012, meeting.

PRESENTATION

CDCR Rehabilitative Programs, Tanya Rothchild, Deputy Director, Rehabilitative Programs

ROTHCHILD stated that there is an enhanced focus within institutions on rehabilitative programs. It is also intended to provide rehabilitative programs for inmates during their first year on parole. Inmates will be clustered at 13 institutions during the year prior to their release. They may participate in academic, vocational, cognitive therapy, anger management, employment and transitional programming. The hubs will open in the summer of 2013. The Substance Abuse Treatment Program lasts 5 months and is available within 24 months of an inmate's release date. The Department will ask incarcerated and released inmates about what would be helpful for inmates. Academic opportunities have been increased by approximately 5,000 inmates. The Department is working on programs dealing with gang management, is identifying cognitive programs that would be helpful in the step-down process and is evaluating sex offender programs.

LABAHN asked ROTHCHILD whether inmates who have an immigration hold may participate in the Substance Abuse Program. ROTHCHILD replied that they would like to offer programs to everyone who has a need, but currently inmates who have an Immigration and Customs Enforcement hold are not on priority placement lists.

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MONTES expressed concern about waiting lists for the Substance Abuse Program, stating that some inmates have complained about being on the waiting list for two years.

ROTHCHILD said that she would look into it, but believed that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation can accommodate 70% of inmates prior to their release.

MONTES asked how many inmates will be involved in the program. ROTHCHILD said that the number is not known at present, since the program is still in its development phase.

Public Comments

GAIL BROWN, Life Support Alliance, stated that inmates are frustrated when programs are not available.

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, stated that inmates should be able to participate in the Substance Abuse Program sooner than 24 months before their release. Life term inmates with immigration holds are disadvantaged at hearings through not being able to participate in the program.

MONTES thanked ROTHCHILD for the presentation.

OPEN COMMENTS

Agenda Items for Future Meetings: None

Public Comments:

VANESSA NELSON-SLOANE, Life Support Alliance, stated that it would be beneficial if there were open sessions on risk assessments and the use of confidential information.

MOSELEY acknowledged the comment regarding confidential information and stated that Thursday is an open session on risk assessments.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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