

## COUNCIL ON MENTALLY ILL OFFENDERS

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

### MINUTES

January 15, 2009

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Department, 1515 S Street, Suite 502 South, Sacramento, California hosted this meeting.

#### **In Attendance:**

##### **Council Members**

Matt Cate, Undersecretary, CDCR (Chairperson),  
Stephen W. Mayberg, Director, Department of Mental Health (Vice-Chairperson)  
Joel Fay, PsyD, Officer, San Rafael Police Department  
Dave Lehman, Chief Probation Officer (Retired)  
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, San Francisco Jail Psychiatric Services  
James W. Sweeney, J.D., Principal, James W. Sweeney & Associates  
Charles L. Walters, Ph.D., Assistant Sheriff, Orange County

##### **Support Staff**

Allan Lammers, Executive Officer

##### **Interested Parties**

Aaron Carruthers, Special Advisor, CDCR  
Sherry Cook, Staff Services Manager I, CDCR-DAPO  
Gary Wion, Deputy Director, CSA,  
Suzie Cohen, Consultant, CSA  
Steve Keithley, Project Manager, CSA  
Paul Verke, Information Officer II, CDCR  
Kit Wall, Local Government Relations, Eli Lilly & Company

**Absent:** All members were present. Support staff member, Bruce Slavin, Chief of Legal Policy – CDCR, was absent.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1 – Introduction / Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Matt Cate called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M., roll was taken, and a quorum was present. Guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

James Sweeney moved and Duane McWaine seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on November 20, 2008. The motion was PASSED.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2 – Discussion of 2009 Legislation / Recommendations**

Consistent with our previous meeting discussion, the consensus is that due to the budget problems non-price tag issues will be the only types of legislation that will be considered. There are several issues that need to be addressed and this may be done through legislation or through other modes such as working with the California Administrative Office of the Courts. Several COMIO members are active on AOC committees and are involved with the AOC's Task Force on Criminal Justice-Collaboration with Mental Health. Subsequent to extensive discussion, the Council agreed that a positive direction for COMIO is to offer AOC subject matters that have been developed and refined by COMIO members and others. For example, a proposed draft mental health evaluation and assessment tool developed by Jo Robinson's committee is attached. Related to this discussion, two motions were made.

Judge Lindley moved and James Sweeney seconded the motion - To identify mentally ill offenders in a consistent manner throughout the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, COMIO endorses the development of an early identification and screening tool that would function as a thorough and quickly administered universal instrument incorporating standardized data items for use in multiple jurisdictions. The motion PASSED unanimously.

Jo Robinson moved and Judge Lindley seconded the motion that – COMIO endorses the development of universally approved standards for evaluators that create tests for determining

Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity and the ability to stand trial. A draft prepared by COMIO member David Meyer is attached for consideration. The motion PASSED unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – 2009 Best Practices Applications / Committee Assignments**

Allan Lammers reported that COMIO has received eight applications for consideration. A package containing the eight applications and rating materials was distributed to all Council Members. The criteria for reviewing the projects remain the same as in 2008. Council Members Dave Lehman, Duane McWaine and David Meyer agreed to serve on a review committee and discuss the ratings during an upcoming conference call. All applicants will be notified as to the outcome of their applications after the review committee finalizes the ratings. Awards will be made at the annual FMHAC Conference on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

The Executive Officer will design the award plaques for submission to Kathi Garcia, Vocational Instructor at Sierra Conservation Center, who manages the Director's Plaque Program. CDCR will cover the cost of production.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – COMIO Project Status / Updates**

Facilities Needs Survey

The CSA has initiated planning to implement a COMIO endorsed study that would address:

- The intake and release process followed in jails and juvenile halls
- A review of the medication follow-through, and
- A review of space and programming allocations for mentally ill offenders.

CSA staff Steve Keithley, Gary Wion, and Consultant Suzie Cohen outlined their proposed approach and requested input from the Council Members. COMIO Members Jo Robinson and Dave Lehman will continue to be involved in this effort. A work group will be formed, a meeting schedule will be prepared and discussions will take place with a goal of providing a verbal progress report to COMIO at the May 21st meeting in Sacramento.

Update on COMIO Website Enhancement

As a result of State and County budgetary issues, work on this project has been put on hold at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – OLD BUSINESS**

None

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS**

**CIT Coordinators Training** – Charles Walters and Joel Fay reminded the Council that this new training would be going on in Monterey preceding our COMIO meeting in Seaside in March (all day on the 16<sup>th</sup> and a half day session on the 17<sup>th</sup>).

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Dave Lehman and seconded by Jo Robinson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.

*The next COMIO meeting will be held on **Wednesday March 18** at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Seaside, California at 11 am. It is held in conjunction with the Forensic Mental Health Association of California annual conference and will feature the COMIO 2009 Best Practices Awards.*

MINUTES RECORDED AND SUBMITTED BY:

Allan Lammers,  
Executive Officer, COMIO