



Division of Rehabilitative Programs

Director's Stakeholder Advisory Group
Sacramento County Office of Education
David P. Meaney Education Center
May 14, 2015
Meeting Minutes

I. Members Present:

Director Millicent Tidwell	Vanessa Nelson-Sloane
Rusty Bechtold	Dr. Matt Perry
Cathy Cirina-Chiu for Dr. Sheldon Zhang	Tom Pinizzotto
Dr. Carolyn Eggleston	Albert M. Senella
Dr. Vitka Eisen	Virginia Sparks
Dr. David Farabee	Dan Stone
Wayne Garcia	Colleen Stoner
Marc J. Hering	Dr. Sushma D. Taylor
Rodger Meier	Linda Whitney for Jana Boccalon
Sheriff Steve Moore	Andrew Williamson

II. Welcome and Introductions/Review and Approval of Minutes

Director Tidwell called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. The meeting started with welcome and introductions.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tidwell requested for the group to review and approve the minutes from the January 2015 Director's Stakeholder Advisory Group (DSAG) meeting. A member mentioned that the affiliation noted for Dr. Mary Ann Ellis-Jammal and Janice Allen on page 1 of the minutes should be corrected to read that they represent the State Inmate Family Council.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes with the corrections recommended.

III. DRP Updates

Director Tidwell announced that Harvinder Baraich is serving as Acting Chief of Community Reentry Services while Chief Amber Barnett is out on leave until September. Kevin Wortell, who was the Associate Director (AD) of Office of Offender Services, moved to a different position. DRP is in the process of filling the vacancy. The new AD will be introduced at the next DSAG meeting.

Ms. Tidwell advised that DRP is looking at ways to provide a continuum of integrated care for offenders. Furthermore, it lead her into the discussion about the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) current Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Waiver, which is a California-only pilot program that will be implemented soon. The waiver has been expanded to cover residential treatment for offenders. The five year pilot will test a new model for the organized delivery of health care services for Medicaid eligible individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and demonstrate how organized SUD care increases the success of Medi-Cal beneficiaries while decreasing other system health care costs.

Ms. Tidwell added that anticipated approval of the waivers will have a significant impact on DRP's delivery system of rehabilitative services. Thomas Powers recently returned to DRP to assist in these efforts. Ms. Tidwell expressed an interest in establishing a new DSAG ad hoc committee to work with DRP in identifying current system challenges that will need to be modified to ensure the contracted services design will be compatible with the DMC-ODS.

IV. Housing Committee Update

Director Tidwell stated that the committee has met frequently to better understand the housing challenges for the parolee population in California. Ms. Tidwell thanked the DSAG Housing Committee (HC) Chair Doug Bond and the HC members who have worked diligently on the challenges. She looks forward to hearing their recommendations on how DRP can better address the housing needs of parolees.

Mr. Bond reported out. Since the October 2014 DSAG meeting, the HC have met on five separate occasions with an expansion of the initial participant group. Chairman Bond noted the participation of Ken Spence representing Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins. Mr. Spence provided DSAG a summary of the legislation (AB 1056 – Second Chance Program) authored by Speaker Atkins. If approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, the bill would require a portion of Prop 47 funds be allocated to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for implementation and administration of a grant based program that would be for diverse offender services, including transitional housing.

The Committee initially identified three priority topics to review, discuss and recommend a course of action for DRP. After receiving the HC recommendations, Ms. Tidwell stated that she would respond to the report prior to the next DSAG meeting and discuss with Mr. Bond the next steps for the committee.

V. Office of Offender Services

DRP Deputy Director Rodger Meier opened up dialogue with the group as it related to what DRP should be doing in the prisons. He spoke about the newly adopted re-design of the Correctional Officer Academy curriculum that now includes DRP training. It will consist of two training segments, which includes a testing component. He showed a brief video from Warden William Muniz that reflects the viewpoint comparison of prison through the eyes of custody verses programs. The video will be shown in the academy and will be an ongoing training component for current Correctional Officers. Mr. Meier concluded his presentation by emphasizing the importance of having long term integration of rehabilitation in Corrections.

Ms. Tidwell expressed the importance of educating Correctional Officers and DRP staff. She further spoke about the importance of Motivational Interviewing and how it will be incorporated into the training curriculum for Correctional Counselors and DRP staff.

Director Tidwell asked Superintendent of Office of Correctional Education (OCE), Dr. Brantley Choate, to briefly speak about a recent new project from OCE. Dr. Choate stated that OCE recognizes the use of video to deliver powerful content. There will four new TV stations: Reentry TV; Education TV; College TV, and Freedom TV. The Freedom TV channel will focus on inmate success stories. DRP is still in the process of adding material/content and will reach out to contract providers for input on content. DRP is working to change the culture in the prison and to rehabilitate from within.

Ms. Tidwell spoke about the DRP Innovative Programming Grants. Approximately, \$2.5 million in grants were awarded to individuals and not-for-profit organizations who currently offer programs in CDCR institutions. Programs will now be expanded to 17 institutions that have low volunteer rates. The purpose of the one-time seed grants is to fund innovative programs and to enable current volunteer programs to build sustainability in underserved prisons.

Director Tidwell briefly announced a few DRP programs:

1. Arts-in-Corrections- CDCR established an agreement with California Arts Council and have implemented art programs in 14 institutions.

2. CAL ID Card Program- DRP is working with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to expand the CAL ID Card Program into all institutions. They are currently waiting for DMV to approve the contract.
3. SB 1391- permits community colleges to offer accredited college level courses in prisons that are typically offered outside of the institutions. It is an opportunity to have face-to-face classes as well as being able to provide a standardized higher education curriculum. Dr. Choate and Wardens have been meeting with colleges to discuss how this could work. Due to the classes being accredited, inmates who complete their courses are assured of also earning college transfer credits from academic colleges and university certificate programs. DRP is looking at 15 community colleges to start by the fall. A request for proposal (RFP) was issued for a \$2 million grant to establish partnerships with community colleges and DRP, in order to assist in increasing inmate access to higher education opportunities.
4. The implementation of the Male Community Reentry Program (MCRP) was discussed at the meeting. CDCR entered into contracts with Los Angeles County and Kern County to provide reentry services to male inmates who are within four months of their release date.

VI. Community And Reentry Services

Ms. Tidwell introduced Acting Chief Harvinder Baraich. He joined the DRP team late last year and previously worked in the Licensing and Certification Division at Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

Mr. Baraich provided a PowerPoint presentation. He described the certain elements that create the framework of services provided to the parolee population when they return to their communities. The core pillars of the framework are:

1. Substance Use Disorder Education and Treatment
2. Transitional and Sober Living Housing
3. Employment and Education
4. Ancillary/Support Services

Chief Baraich updated members about the integral role of the Employment Development Unit (EDU) to develop strong partnerships with stakeholders that provide diverse employment services. He further emphasized that the EDU is a bridge to connect between CDCR, community-based groups, and employers.

VII. Integrated Care Committee

Before recessing for lunch, Ms. Tidwell compiled a list of names of those who were interested in participating in a workgroup as it relates to the California Drug Medi-Cal waiver. The following DSAG members and interested parties volunteered to serve:

1. Tom Pinizzotto, Assistant Health & Human Services Agency Director, Health Services
2. Dr. Vitka Eisen, CEO, HealthRIGHT 360
3. Marc Hering, Vice President, Center Point, Inc.
4. Kathy Jett, Consultant, CA Forward
5. Albert M. Senella, President, CA Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc.
6. Doug Bond, Director of California Services and Operations, Amity Foundation
7. Juan Navarro, Executive Director, L.A. Centers for Alcohol and Drug Abuse
8. Cathy Cirina-Chin, Managing Director of Social Science Research Lab, San Diego State University
9. Dr. Brantley Choate, Superintendent, CDCR DRP Office of Correctional Education
10. Shannon Swain, Deputy Superintendent, CDCR DRP Office of Correctional Education
11. Lisa Heinz, Parole Administrator, CDCR Division of Adult Parole Operations
12. Willie Bulda, Parole Agent III, CDCR Division of Adult Parole Operations

The ad hoc committee was named as the Integrated Care Committee. Thomas Powers will chair the committee. Ms. Tidwell asked the committee to develop some short and long term goals along with action plans associated with the California's waiver for the Drug Medi-Cal Program.

VIII. Lunch

The group adjourned for lunch.

IX. In-Prison Programs

Acting Chief Kelly Medina gave a historical overview of inmate services emphasizing the growth of In-Prison Programming over the last three plus fiscal years. She stated that as of July 1, 2015, there will be an In-Prison Program in all but one California state institution.

Director Tidwell requested feedback from the members on what DRP's contract bidding process should entail. She stated that an emphasis on the highest quality services for participants as possible is vital in the bidding process.

Mr. Rodger Meier agreed that there should be performance indicators that are measureable to understand the successes and failures of treatment programming. He indicated that the ARMS project, which DRP anticipates rolling out soon after the beginning of the new fiscal year, has been purposely designed to track many program data points. Furthermore, it is DRP's expectation that tracking performance measures will enhance not only DRP's understanding of the service system shortcomings, but more importantly – will recognize what is working for inmates and parolees.

X. Meeting Recap and Next Meeting Date

Director Tidwell acknowledged everyone for their participation at the meeting. She stated that the sub-committee work is going to be particularly important for improving the contracting system challenges and the Division's long term planning for a more expansive system of integrated services.

Ms. Tidwell asked for suggested dates for the next DSAG meeting. The next meeting date will be August 13, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.