



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
DIVISION OF REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMS
Director's Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting
January 29, 2015

Meeting Notes

The Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) Director's Stakeholder Advisory Group (DSAG) meeting convened on Thursday, January 29, 2015, at CDCR, 10961 Sun Center Drive - Room 123, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

DSAG Members/Representatives: Present at the meeting were **Millicent Tidwell**, Chair, Director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP); **Rodger Meier**, Deputy Director of DRP; **Robert Barton**, California Inspector General; **Steve Jackson**, STOP Program Director, Center Point, Inc.; **Bill Heiser**, Director of California Operations, Center for Employment Opportunities; **Demetrius Andreas**, Health Right 360°, Inc.; **Vanessa Nelson-Sloane**, Director, Life Support Alliance; **Dr. Carolyn Eggleston**, Executive Director, California State University San Bernardino, Reentry Initiative; **Dr. David Farabee**, Professor, University of California Los Angeles; **Mary Hale**, Deputy Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California; **Tom Pinizzotto**, Assistant Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California; **Shawn Jenkins**, Senior Vice President, WestCare, Inc.; **Dr. Sheldon Zhang**, Professor, San Diego State University; **Andrew Williamson**, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California; **Dan Stone**, Director, Division of Adult Parole Programs; **Helyne Meshar**, CA Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives; **Steve Moore**, California State Sheriffs' Association; **Matt Perry**, Assistant Superintendent, Sacramento County Office of Education; **Reverend Richard C. Baker**, Third Baptist Church of San Francisco; **Dave Bressler**, Judicial Council of California; **Sharon Nevins**, Deputy Director for 24-Hour & Emergency Services, California Mental Health Directors Association; **Douglas Sale**, Chief of Operations, California Workforce Investment Board; **Jana Boccalon**, Office of the California Inspector General.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Staff: **Notice Edwards**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of External Communications; **Albert Rivas**,

Deputy Chief, Office of Public and Employee Communications (OPEC); **Kevin Wortell**, Associate Director, Office of Offender Services, DRP; **Robert Downs**, Associate Director, Office of Program Accountability and Support (OPAS), DRP; **Corrine Manley**, Staff Services Manager III, OPAS; **Amber Barnett**, Chief, Community and Reentry Services, DRP; **Dr. Brantley Choate**, Superintendent, Office of Correctional Education (OCE), DRP; **Shannon Swain**, Chief Deputy Superintendent, OCE, DRP; **Kelly Medina**, Acting Chief, In Prison Programs, DRP; **Jennifer Winistorfer**, Associate Superintendent, OCE, DRP; **Raul Romero**, Associate Superintendent, OCE, DRP; **Jennie Wynn**, Associate Superintendent, OCE, DRP; **Janet Blaylock**, Associate Superintendent, OCE, DRP; **Candace Clevenger**, Supervisor of Academic Instruction, OCE, DRP; **David Ramirez**, Supervisor of Correctional Education (SCEP), OCE, DRP; **Beverly Penland**, Vice Principal, OCE, DRP; **Brandy Buenafe**, Principal Librarian, OCE, DRP; **Paul Costa**, Director of TV/Communications, OCE, DRP; **Benjamin Rice**, General Counsel, CDCR Legal Affairs; **Jim Cripe**, SCEP, OCE, DRP; **Sarita Mehtani**, SCEP, OCE, DRP; **Mike Valdez**, Supervisor of Vocational Instruction (SVI), OCE, DRP; **Len Gray**, PPM, DRP; **Regina Banks**, Staff Services Manager II (SSMII), DRP; **Tamera Calmer**, SSMII, DRP; **Nikki Gunter**, SSMII, DRP; **Tina Bayles**, SSMII, DRP; **Robert Logan**, Staff Services Manager I (SSMI), DRP; **Yong Lee**, SSMI, DRP; **Shari Kreier**, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA), OCE, DRP; **Gerald Dionisio**, AGPA, OCE, DRP; **Montell Johnson**, AGPA, OCE, DRP; **Ilna Feschenko**, AGPA, OCE, DRP; **Rachelle Riley**, AGPA, OCE, DRP; **Jenny Nguyen**, AGPA, OCE, DRP; **Dyana Feldmeyer**, AGPA, OCE, DRP; **Arianna Chavez**, Office Technician (OT), DRP; **Maya Hubbard**, OT, OCE, DRP; **Peter Whittier**, Office Technician, OCE, DRP; **Regina Sanchez**, Correctional Counselor II (Specialist), DRP; **Raymond Rodriguez**, AGPA, DRP; **Robert Nickerson**, AGPA, DRP; **Elvira Diaz**, AGPA, DRP.

Other Interested Participants: **Dr. Lindy Khan**, Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE); **Carey Buchanan**, CCCOE; **Andrea Mitchel**, Director of Quality, CSU Reentry Initiative; **Dorenda Hamarlund**, California Prison Industry Authority; **Dr. Mary Ann Ellis-Jammal**, State Inmate Family Council; **Janice Allen**, State Inmate Family Council; **Michael Kheyfets**, Aztec Software; **Randy Erickson**, Aztec Software; **John Kern**, SEIU 1000; **Doug Bond**, Amity Foundation; **Frances Valenzuela**, LA CADA; **Jessica Devencenzi**, Counsel, Senate Public Safety; **Dr. Youssef Elmanawy**, Phoenix House of California; **Helen Dover**, SEIU; **Mary Meuel**, California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO); **Karen Baker**, CCCCCO; **Kimberly Flores**, HR Dowden; **Bryce Brady**, California Volunteers; **Rebecca Baumann**, Representative, Honorable Senator Loni Hancock, District 09; **Eugene Alexander Dey**, CROP, Guest Speaker.

Agenda Item 1. Registration

Director Tidwell announced there were registration tables located in the lobby area and members were encouraged to sign in.

Agenda Item 2. Welcome and Introductions/Review and Approval of Minutes

Director Tidwell called the meeting to order, welcomed the attendees, and gave special thanks to Division of Adult Institutions (DAI), particularly to the Contract Beds Unit, Chief Moss, Lieutenant Leese, and Sergeant Salinovich for their hospitality. She provided an introduction to a new DSAG paradigm, which will provide an in-depth look into each of the three DRP programs for the next three DSAG meetings. She provided a brief description of the day's events and invited the group to view the displays provided by the Office of Correctional Education (OCE) during the lunch hour. She reported that after lunch, the group would participate in structured activities related to OCE and that, once the activities were over, participants would reconvene to discuss what this work means to them and how it might impact their professional roles. She emphasized that it is important for all stakeholders to have a good understanding of what DRP does to increase involvement and understanding.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Associate Director, Kevin Wortell, asked the group to review the minutes from the last DSAG meeting in October. Mary Hale, M.S., Deputy Director, Behavioral Health Directors Association of California proposed the minutes be approved; this was seconded by Mary Meuel of the California Community College Chancellor's Office. Minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 3. DRP Updates

Chief Amber Barnett reported out on Community Re-Entry programs. She noted there will be invitations to bid out for Parolee Service Centers on February 10, 2015 and for Residential Multi-Service Centers on February 27, 2015.

Acting Chief Kelly Medina reported on In Prison Programs. She explained that 12 of 13 Re-Entry Hubs are out for contract renewal, 10 additional Substance Abuse Treatment (SAT) single level programs are going out for bid, and 13 out of 13 Re-Entry Hubs are up and running. Additionally, she reported that 11 SAT Programs are operational as well as 1 Modified Community Correctional Facility (MCCF) re-entry style program. She noted that the CAL ID Card Program is getting underway and that the Story Time program began at two institutions. Story Time is a program that allows eligible inmates who are parents to be recorded reading a story, then have that DVD sent to their child to view along with the book. She reported that the Arts in Corrections program is going into its third year. The Offender Mentor Certification Program is happening in two male institutions and one female institution. She explained the development of the Offender Case Plan in the Strategic Offender Management System (SOMS) is being developed.

Director Tidwell added that over the next year and a half, there will be an Innovative Program Grant, which is intended to expand volunteerism in underserved prisons.

Agenda Item 4. Housing Committee Update

Associate Director Wortell reported from the October DSAG meeting they developed a subcommittee to look at ways of providing more affordable housing for offenders upon their release from prison. That subcommittee held a conference call in November and held an in person meeting on January 7, 2015. Ten members attended, including the committee chair, Doug Bond. Chair Bond reported members discussed three key areas:

- Funding for special populations and identifying atypical funding streams
- Growing and sustaining funding in rural, suburban and urban areas
 - Defining barriers to this growth
- Advocacy for public policy

The subcommittee is making a 12-month commitment on this effort and will have their next meeting on February 5, 2015. Director Tidwell noted that DSAG will continue to monitor progress of this important committee.

Agenda Item 5. Office of Correctional Education (OCE) Introduction and Overview

Dr. Brantley Choate outlined the OCE activities for the day. There will be 12-15 stations to visit, four of which have activities that will be presented after lunch. A final discussion will end the day. He began his presentation of OCE by asking the DSAG members what their homework was from the previous meeting- "How can OCE best prepare the incarcerated to be ready for your programs?" He instructed the group to hold off on answering that question, as he has a frying pan theory- that brains really begin to work (like frying pans) when they've had a chance to warm up. He explained that the activities of the day would facilitate that effort.

Dr. Choate led the group in a discussion of silos and how metaphorically, they are present in our department and among our stakeholders. Participants were invited to share their responses. Some responses included:

- The silo between theory and fidelity- that research and theory provide new ideas but fidelity to them and the adherence to implementing them fall to the wayside.
- There are limitations on the ability to communicate between providers.
- There is a perception that the field and Headquarters do not communicate.
- The interface between Rehab and Prevention seems non-existent.
- Providers competing rather than cooperating with each other.
- Institutions are silos working with their own resources and goals.
- Jails and prisons are silos even though they need to work together.

Highlights from Dr. Choate's PowerPoint:

- OCE oversees 35 adult schools
- 92 administrators
- Approximately 1,400 teachers

- 52% of our student population is reading below the 9th grade reading level and requiring Adult Basic Education (ABE). This amounts to roughly 19,000 students. Approximately six-thousand of those students are in ABE 1 due to a language barrier requiring English language instruction.

- While Career Technical Education (CTE) does not require completion of a GED, many of the trades require high level mathematics skills. As a result, there are tutors available to assist students who need some help.

- The Academic Leadership Committee is mapping our educational programs and the CTE requirements to see where there is overlap.

- Deputy Director, Rodger Meier, added that the penal code was recently revised to provide the expectation that achievement of 9th grade reading level should not be the highest achievement, but that the incarcerated should strive for higher education beyond that.

- Associate Superintendent, Jennie Wynn, noted that they are presently collecting data to reach those inmates who were previously unreachable due to medical conditions, maximum security or institution rules.

- Programs offered via OCE:
 - GED classes and testing
 - High School courses
 - Career Technical Education (CTE):
 - Several industry trades taught, including construction, automotive, and green industries such as solar
 - National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) certifications
 - State apprenticeship program
 - College courses
 - 7,500 E-readers provided to all college students by August 2015

- In Fiscal Year 2013-14, OCE has provided:
 - 6,419 Industry certifications
 - 4,800 GEDs issued

- 5,700 course completions

Agenda Item 6. Guest Speaker Presentation: Eugene Dey- Program Graduate

Eugene Alexander Dey is the Vice President of the CROP Organization; criminal justice consultant; freelance writer. During his incarceration, Dey earned degrees or certifications from Lassen College, Palo Verde College, Coastline College, and then completed his BA from California State University, Sacramento. Upon release Dey was hired by CROP as a consultant to further develop an Alcohol and Drug program he helped bring to California Training Facility (CTF) in 2010. Dey is married, lives in Sacramento and commutes to CTF. Eugene spoke of his time in prison and what OCE programs and education meant to him. His final message of his presentation was that inmates need to first study what got them into prison first and why. He said he needed to have a change in his heart before really absorbing all that the programs had to offer and if we can incorporate that study into the programs, we will help them be successful.

Agenda Item 7. Lunch Break (12:00-1:00 pm)

During lunch, a variety of displays of various programs that are offered by OCE were available for participants to view. Each display included a basic overview of the program featured, as well as an OCE subject matter expert on hand to explain the program and answer questions. The following OCE programs were represented with display boards:

- Career Technical Education
- Recreation/Leisure Time Activities
- Credentialing and Special Programs
- Recreation and Legal Libraries
- “Louder Than a Bomb” Poetry Slam
- Institutional Television Services
- Academic Education
- Assessment
- College and Career Readiness

After lunch, the group reconvened and was divided into 4 sub-groups. Each sub-group was then assigned to one of four “stations”, where a subject matter expert was on hand to explain that program component of OCE.

Agenda Item 8. OCE Presentation and Activities

OCE Activities and Information booths were as follows:

- **ACADEMIC LESSON DEMONSTRATION**

Participants had the opportunity to experience an Academic “mini” lesson, utilizing SMARTboard technology. This station was facilitated by San Quentin academic teacher, Phil Leonida.

- **CTE TRAINER DEMONSTRATION**

Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) instructor, Thomas Melton, from Deuel Vocational Institution, was on hand to demonstrate instruction utilizing the new “trainer” provided for HVAC instructors. Supervisor of Vocational Instruction, Mike Valdez, was outside with the new “Auto Clips” used to instruct students in auto body and auto repair.

- **AZTEC COMPUTERIZED INSTRUCTION**

The president of AZTEC Learning and Associate Superintendent, Jan Blaylock, provided participants the opportunity to try out the computer software AZTEC, used by students of Adult Basic Education (ABE) for individualized, competency-based instruction.

- **RECREATION AND LAW LIBRARY**

Principal Librarian, Brandy Buenafe, provided participants the opportunity to complete a search for legal information utilizing the LEEDS Legal Kiosk, now being disseminated and installed in all 35 institutions. Participants also were invited to use book titles to create a “found poem,” thus demonstrating the type of activities promoted and facilitated in institutional libraries.

Agenda Item 9. Education Policy Discussion

Dr. Choate reconvened the group to discuss the day’s events and the topic of the homework assignment. He solicited feedback on what people learned and where they think CDCR could improve in the education arena. Some feedback included:

- Integrating substance abuse rehab with educational programs, at least to the extent that the providers have knowledge of one another and can refer an inmate.
- Providing vocational programs more regionally specific or paroling inmates to regions where they will have a job in the field in which they trained.
- Involving county jails in the capture of data that will provide better flow in the continuum of care.
- Educators and administrators must mirror the socialization and professionalism expectation for these inmates so they know how to act and behave when they are on the outside.

- As a result of presentations and activities such as those featured today, community providers are better informed of what CDCR does, and can be a better extension of the department.
- Director Tidwell indicated she would be putting out a list of community providers' contact information to academic staff and administrators immediately in an effort to improve communication.
- OCE will be looking at what it would take to broaden the credentialing requirements from those of K-12 educators to including options from the adult education field as well.

As a result of the last discussion point, Director Tidwell asked if there was enough interest to form a subcommittee to work on these items. They committed to at least discuss subcommittee participation via email, and the participants included: Matt Perry, Mike Valdez, Janice Allen, Carey Buchanan, Carolyn Eggleston, Dr. Lindy Khan, and Steve Jackson.

The group shared their positive feedback for the work OCE is doing and how much they learned from the day's activities. They indicated they were not aware of the extent of the programs offered. They also urged that this information be provided to the community at large so they understand what is going on as well.

Agenda Item 10. Setting of Next Meeting Date

Director Tidwell indicated some information on programs CDCR is developing including the Automated Re-Entry Management System (ARMS) which will provide better communication and tracking of parole violation data flow between systems. This system will roll out in the summer. Another development is the Employment Development unit which will build a community of employers willing to hire. In addition, the Transitions Program is working with Re-Entry Programs.

Director Tidwell thanked the membership for attending and thanked the OCE staff for their presentation. She indicated that Associate Director, Kevin Wortell, will make his presentation at the next meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015. Director Tidwell reminded the group of a quote the department is adopting: "Today's Inmate is Tomorrow's Neighbor". We must do all we can to make that a smooth transition.

Agenda Item 11. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00pm.