

## **California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes May 4, 2023 Meeting**

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 10:00 a.m. on May 4, 2023, at the Sacramento State Harper Alumni Center.

**Board Members present:** **Amarik K. Singh**, Inspector General (Chairperson); **Brantley Choate**, Director, Division of Rehabilitative Programs for Jeffrey Macomber, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **Jacey Cooper**, State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director, (Designee for Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Health Care Services); **Stephanie Clendenin**, Director, California Department of State Hospitals; **Alexa Sardina**, Assistant Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); **Tamika Nelson**, Chief Probation Officer, San Diego County (Senate Committee on Rules Appointee); and **LeBaron Woodyard**, PhD, Dean, Academic Affairs (Designee for Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges).

**Board Members absent:** **Carolyn Zachry**, Administrator, Adult Education Office, Career and College Transition Division, (Designee for Tony Thurmond, Superintendent of Public Instruction); **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Mental Health Representative (Speaker of the Assembly Appointee); **William Honsal**, Sheriff, Humboldt County (Governor Appointee)

**Office of the Inspector General staff:** Ashley Barton-Schiele, Executive Director; Shaun Spillane, Counsel to the Board (A); and Linda Whitney, Board Secretary.

### **Presenters:**

#### **California Prison Industry Authority**

Michelle Kane  
Bill Davidson  
Rusty Bechtold

#### **California Correctional Health Care Services**

Dr. Amar Mehta

#### **CDCR, Division of Rehabilitative Programs**

Jessica Fernandez  
Spencer Puente

**Public Comments:** None

### **Item 1. Call to order**

Chair Singh called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

### **Item 2. Introduction and establish quorum**

Chair Singh introduced the C-ROB Executive Director and the Office of the Inspector General staff participating in the meeting and asked the board members to introduce themselves.

### **Item 3. Review agenda**

There were no comments concerning the agenda.

#### **Item 4. Review and approve minutes from the September 8, 2022 board meeting**

Chair Singh announced that reviewing and approving the minutes will be tabled until the next meeting because we do not have a quorum.

#### **Item 5. Executive Director Updates**

Ms. Barton-Schiele mentioned that the board received correspondence, copies of which are at the back table.

#### **Six-month Corrective Action Plan in response to the 2022 report recommendations**

Ms. Barton-Schiele reviewed the board's recommendations and the action taken by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). She mentioned that Care Grant recipients will use ARMS as it expands and CDCR is updating computer labs to conform to space needs.

#### **Item 6. Presentation by California Prison Industry Authority**

Michele Kane, Bill Davidson, and Rusty Bechthold reported for CalPIA. Ms. Kane reported on the rehabilitation job training that CalPIA offers, to give careers upon release so they can support themselves and families. Last fiscal year over 5000 incarcerated persons completed certifications: computer coding, AutoCAD, dental techs, opticians, commercial dive program, and underwater welding. Every prison offers cleaning at a hospital level, metal fabrication and welding, forklift certifications, and carpentry and construction. Incarcerated persons can do apprenticeships.

We watched an overview of CalPIA video of programs and success stories.

Mr. Davidson reported that there is job training in every prison. There are 27 enterprise job training programs which prepare the incarcerated persons for jobs once released from prison. The CTE dive program at CIM had their lead instructor retire and his replacement is a formerly incarcerated person dive program participant. He was working as lead diver in gulf coast but now is our instructor. They develop essential skills in the workplace program, such as working with coworkers, timely attendance, and interview skills. CalPIA just partnered with UC Irvine under Susan Turner, and they monitored the progress of previously incarcerated persons from the program; 8,600 individuals. They are looking into how CalPIA works following those who participated for 6 months or more, and those on waitlist. Those who participated for 6 months or more showed less recidivism. They are also looking again at 6 months or more, but by program to see if there's a difference in recidivism. Then they'll look at the impact of jobs after release.

CalPIA is overseen by a board, and now has a formerly incarcerated person on the board.

Mr. Bechthold reported on the post employment workforce development reentry assistance program. The industry employment program helps obtain meaningful jobs upon release. Incarcerated persons receive on the job training, one program is the transition to employment program, and getting them work histories, and other employment docs upon release. They created a transition call center for assistance and contact cards for quick help.

Also, they establish jobs prior to release for civil service, in partnership with Caltrans, and participate in prison to employment hiring events. CalPIA plans to continue the program since it was successful. Thirty previously incarcerated persons have received intent-to-hire letters, and five are working for Caltrans. They receive full access to Caljobs after release to receive further employment services.

Also, employers pay incarcerated persons the same wages as non-incarcerated persons doing similar work. The money goes to things such as mandatory savings, room and board, restitution, and child support. Annually, these incarcerated persons provide about \$40,000 to victim funds.

#### **Item 7. Presentation by California Correctional Health Care Services**

Dr. Mehta presented on the transfers of incarcerated persons in the Mental Health Services Delivery System and the effects on rehabilitation. Of the 2012-2022 population in CDCR, 26%-33% are in mental health programs. Several lawsuits have been filed on their behalf, the largest of which is Coleman. About 95% of patients are in an outpatient program and they are seen about every 90 days. Enhanced outpatients are seen every 30 days, and inpatients are seen daily. Each facility treats different levels of care and require a different number of doctors. Enhanced outpatient care is available at about half of prisons.

Some DRP programs are offered at every prison, while other are not. Coleman is another large lawsuit that notes different timelines for transfers of patients mandated by the lawsuit or there are penalties and fines. These rules contribute to transfer of mental health patients. San Quentin State Prison and California Institution for Women have mental health inpatient beds. CDCR operates the California Health Care Facility, California Medical Facility, and the Salinas Valley State Prison as hospitals to help with meeting the Coleman transfer deadlines. Also, transfers happen according to the mental health level of care and within security levels. In restricted housing or AdSeg, if the patient gets a RVR or has a safety concern, then they are transferred. PREA allegations, staff conflicts, overfamiliarity concerns, outside medical needs, hardship transfers, pre-release programs, going to county jails for hearings, going to a reception center upon entering CDCR, facility issues, staffing shortages, or medication restrictions all can cause transfers. High risk medical incarcerated persons have the highest number of transfers which is typically short-term. Most transfers are usually requested from the incarcerated person rather than forced by CDCR.

#### **Item 8. Presentation by CDCR Division of Rehabilitative Programs**

Spencer Puente, and Jessica Fernandez reported on programs which aid in post-release housing and post-release housing statistics. Ms. Fernandez presented an overview of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs (DRP) and collaboration with the Division of Adult Parole (DAPO). She reviewed DRP's vision and mission. They contract with community resources for programs after release and have four types of programs: Male Community Reentry Program, Custody to Community Transitional Reentry Program, Alternative Custody Program, and Community Prisoner Mother's Program. They connect to resources pre-release to help provide self-sufficiency upon release. There's pre-parole planning where they meet with DAPO staff regarding eligibility assistance and to coordinate placement. DAPO continues to work with DRP post-release for parolee programming and transition.

They contract for 24/7 residential treatment and services to continue services the incarcerated person received while in prison. They also provide outpatient services. Ms. Fernandez reviewed each of their programs and what they each provide: Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP); Day Reporting Centers (DRC) and Community-Based Coalitions (CBC); and Long Term Offender Recovery and Reentry Services (LTORR).

#### **Item 9. Future board meeting schedule**

Ms. Barton-Schiele reviewed the dates for the remaining 2023 board meetings: September 12. She also reviewed the August 24, 2023 for the Report Writing Subcommittee Meeting. She also mentioned that we still have a vacancy on the Report Writing Committee.

**Item 12. Future agenda items**

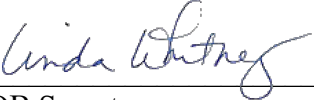
Ms. Barton-Schiele solicited new suggestions and mentioned that Dr. Arroyo previously suggested a budget presentation at September meeting.

**Item 13. Public Comment**

None.

**Item 14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
C-ROB Secretary

September 12, 2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated