

## California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes September 12, 2023 Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 10:00 a.m. on September 12, 2023, at the Sacramento State Harper Alumni Center.

**Board Members present:** **Amarik K. Singh**, Inspector General (Chairperson); **Jeffrey Macomber**, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **Sydney Armendariz**, Chief, Justice-Involved Reentry Services Branch, Office of Strategic Partnerships (Designee for Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Health Care Services); **Brent Hauser**, Chief Deputy Director, designee for Stephanie Clendenin, Director, California Department of State Hospitals; **Tamika Nelson**, Chief Probation Officer, San Diego County (Senate Committee on Rules Appointee); **Brie Williams**, MD, MS, Director, Amend at UCSF, Co-Director, The ARCH Network, UCSF Center for Vulnerable Populations (President of the University of California Appointee); **Latonya Williams**, PhD, Dean, Academic Affairs (Designee for Eloy Ortiz Oakley, Chancellor, California Community Colleges); **Carolyn Zachry**, Ed. D., 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); and **William Honsal**, Sheriff, Humboldt County (Governor Appointee).

**Board Members absent:** **Alexa Sardina**, Assistant Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee)

**Office of the Inspector General staff:** Shaun Spillane, Counsel to the Board; Linda Whitney, Board Secretary, and Rita Biddle, Executive Assistant.

### Presenters:

**California Lawyers for the Arts,  
Williams James Association, &  
California Arts Council**

Laurie Brooks  
Jack Bowers  
Henry Frank  
Alma Robinson  
Ayanna Kiburi

**CDCR**

Niki Dhillon  
Spencer Puente  
Anthony Dobie, III

**CCHCS**

Janene Delmundo  
Duane Reeder  
Denise Allen

**Transformative In-Prison Workgroup**

Ayala Benjamin  
Kim Grose Moore  
Bernard Moss  
Ginny Oshiro  
Kenneth Hartman  
Betty McKay

### Public Comments:

Patricia Barrett

### Item 1. Call to order

Chair Singh called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 welcomed the new members.

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

There were no comments concerning the agenda.

### **Item 4. Review and approve minutes from the January 26, 2023 board meeting**

Sheriff Honsal moved to approve the minutes and C. Zachry seconded the motion. T. Nelson, B. Houser, A. Singh, W. Honsal, C. Zachry, and W. Arroyo voted to approve the minutes. B. Williams, L. Williams, and J. Macomber abstained from voting.

### **Review and approve minutes from the May 4, 2023 board meeting**

T. Nelson moved to approve the minutes and J. Macomber second the motion. T. Nelson, B. Houser, and A. Singh voted to approve the minutes. B. Williams, C. Zachry, L. Williams, J. Macomber, W. Arroyo, and W. Honsal abstained from voting.

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

Ms. Singh mentioned that SB 883 is currently with the Governor for approval.

### **Item 6. Board discussion regarding the September 15, 2023 draft report**

Ms. Whitney reviewed the revisions done between the posting of the draft online and the meeting. Dr. Arroyo proposed several minor changes including consistently using the term “substance use” rather than “substance abuse.” It was also suggested to add wording to page 50 for clarification.

Laurie Brooks participated in public comment about the report. She stated that lack of staffing is a large roadblock to program support.

Patricia Barrett commented that it would be a good idea to have virtual AA and mental health support meetings on the tablets. She also suggested they be able to access classes through their tablets.

### **Item 7. Board decision regarding the September 15, 2023, draft report**

W. Arroyo moved to approve the report and W. Honsal second the motion. S. Armendariz, T. Nelson, B. Houser, B. Williams, C. Zachry, L. Williams, J. Macomber, A. Singh, W. Arroyo, and W. Honsal voted to approve the report with the agreed upon changes.

### **Item 8. Presentation by Arts in Corrections**

Ayunna Kiburi, Jack Bowers, Henry Frank, Alma Robinson, Laurie Brooks reported on the Arts in Corrections (AIC). They stated that this is the first year they have been allocated funds directly. The funding of 8 million today has grown from 2.5 million in 2013. Several organizations make up the council. The California Arts Council is a part of the San Quentin Transformation Advisory Board. The board discusses training for staff to adopt a mindset of transformative programming and rehabilitation rather than punitive.

Laurie Brooks reported on Williams James Foundation. She reviewed the goals of foundation, their history, and their impact. Jack Bowers shared his experiences as an Artist Facilitator at the Correctional Training Facility (CTF). He stated that several formerly incarcerated participants are now teaching at the institution. One program at CTF built guitars for local high school music programs. She read a letter from a former student. She suggested an Artist Facilitator at each institution would make the AIC program more efficient. An Artist Facilitator could assist the

Community Resource Manager (CRM) rather than adding more work to a position that already must keep track of all the programs at the prisons.

Henry Frank is a formerly incarcerated and AIC participant. He shared his personal experiences. He was a Men's Advisory Council committee member. There was an incident that ended him in the hole, and he thought about his classes he'd be missing. He processed how he felt through art to bring himself peace and calm. He stated that he recently toured San Quentin and he only felt comfortable in the AIC room. He further stated that he's a big advocate for having AIC at every institution.

Alma Robinson presented for the California Lawyers for the Arts. They are working to strengthen arts in prisons. During COVID they sent recommendations of who to release during pandemic. They didn't want them homeless, so they created a program for release - internship programs. They have several funding sources that support AIC and the internship program. Interns are CLA employees receiving paycheck, and commuting and technology stipends. Of the 231 applications received, 107 individuals were placed. The goal is to place 50 persons each year. She shared success stories of interns who are now employed and showed a video.

#### **Item 9. Presentation by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Rehabilitative Programs FY 2023-24 Budget & Updates**

Amy Casias, Niki Dhillon, and Spencer Puente presented. The 2023-24 budget is 730 million, which is an increase from last year. New programs funded are Returning Home Well and the bachelor's degree expansion. EBSCO provides a research tool for the college students. RIGHT grants funded programs inside the institutions. Funding for correctional education includes adult basic and post-secondary education, career technical education, peer literacy mentor programs, and transitions. In addition, CalID goes live statewide this week with electronic submissions of applications.

#### **Community Partnerships Unit**

Anthony Dobie presented about the Rehabilitative Achievement Credits (RAC) and how they are used. Prop 57 increased incentives which equaled RACs. Program categories are anger management, self-help, etc. Once RACs were enacted, many already existing programs began to qualify to give RACs. He stated that programs are reviewed annually to make sure they still qualify to give RACs. The RAC calculation is 1 week granted for every 52 hours attended, for up to 4 weeks per year. RACs are only awarded in 1 week increments. There is no partial credit and credits cannot roll over to next year. The CRM office monitors attendance and completion processing for RAC activity completion.

#### **Item 10. Presentation by California Correctional Health Care Services Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment FY 2023-24 Budget & Updates**

Janene Duane, Denise Allen, and Duane Reeder presented. Ms. Delmundo reviewed the screening and assessment process. She stated that cognitive behavioral therapy and cognitive behavioral interventions are offered by the Division of Rehabilitative Programs. Supportive housing has been implemented and is being enhanced. Additionally, CalAim comes on board in 2026.

Mr. Reeder reviewed the budget. He stated that ISUDT has about \$282.7 million. Participants drive personnel needs for about 25% of the positions, while 75% of personnel are not affected by number of participants. They review and adjust the budget twice each year based on participants.

#### **Item 11. Presentation by The Transformative In-Person Workgroup**

Kenneth Hartman, Ayala Benjamin, Kim Grose Moore, Bernard Moss, Ginny Oshiro, and Beth McKay presented. Mr. Hartman stated that the TPW represents 87 community-based organizations.

Ms. Oshiro stated that they aren't just a feel-good program. They focus on what works and believe in community-based organizations.

Ms. Benjamin stated that the Boundless Freedom Project is an organization providing program at CDCR since 2010. They believe in the positive impacts of mindfulness. The program pairs former incarcerated persons with experienced mindfulness based professionals. They employ former correctional officers, lawyers, former incarcerated persons, therapists, and several others. Currently they are at eight CDCR prisons, serving about 500 people. They want to use DRP TV and tablets to provide their programming to the incarcerated population. Additionally, they have several people on the waitlist because they do not have enough funding, space, or staff to offer program to everyone.

Mr. Moss stated that Guiding Rage into Power (GRIP) is a 52-week offender accountability program. He graduated in 2012 after going through the has the program. GRIP has four basic principles: stop violence, develop emotional intelligence, cultivate mindfulness, and understand victim impact, and do no harm. The GRIP recidivism rate is under 1% and they are currently serving 500 incarcerated persons.

Ms. Grose-Moore stated that GRIP facilitates the rehab process. She stated that she wants to highlight indicators other than recidivism are equally important. For COVID they morphed into self-intensive programming for a shorter amount of time. They are currently researching any spill-over effects (effects beyond the participant). Research findings will be available in 2024. They are also building a network of incarcerated persons who previously completed the program to come back in and teach.

Ms. McKay stated the TPW women's committee organizations go into women's prisons as community-based organizations. They work on the needs of incarcerated women to assist thru community-based programs. TPW conducts surveys and research to send message of hope on the inside. They did 125 surveys at CCW and CCWF.

#### **Item 12. Future board meeting schedule**

Ms. Whitney reviewed possible dates for the first two 2024 board meetings and the board agreed on February 29 and June 13. She stated that the last meeting date would be discussed at the February 2024 meeting since it depends on whether SB 883 passes or not.

#### **Item 13. Future agenda items**

Ms. Singh solicited new suggestions. C. Zachry suggested a presentation regarding correctional education. W. Arroyo asked to hear about staffing challenges, especially in behavioral health, and an update regarding CALAIM. Ms. Singh suggested an update on tablets.

#### **Item 14. Public Comment**

Patricia Barrett asked the board to be mindful of all the presentations. She stated that her son doesn't have a tablet, has diabetes and Huntington's disease, and that body cameras are not being used.

#### **Item 15. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

*Rita Biddle*

C-ROB Secretary

February 29, 2024

Dated