

California Rehabilitation Oversight Board Minutes January 26, 2023 Meeting

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board (C-ROB) met in open session at 10:00 a.m. on January 26, 2023, at the Sacramento State Harper Alumni Center.

Board Members present: **Amarik K. Singh**, Inspector General (Chairperson); **Krissi Khokhobashvili** for Jeffrey Macomber, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR); **William Arroyo, M.D.**, Mental Health Representative (Speaker of the Assembly Appointee); **Jacey Cooper**, State Medicaid Director and Chief Deputy Director, (Designee for Will Lightbourne, Director of the California Department of Health Care Services); **Brent Houser** for Stephanie Clendenin, Director, California Department of State Hospitals; **Alexa Sardina**, Assistant Professor, California State University, Sacramento (Chancellor of California State University appointee); **Carolyn Zachry**, Administrator, Adult Education Office, Career and College Transition Division, (Designee for Tony Thurmond, Superintendent of Public Instruction); **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: **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); Rita Biddle, Executive Assistant; and Linda Whitney, Board Secretary.

Presenters:

Rising Scholars Network:

Kellie Nadler
Javier Rodriguez
Rebecca Silbert

Public Comments: Byrhonda Lyons

Item 1. Call to order

Chair Singh called the meeting to order at 10:07 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. She announced that counsel to the board James Spurling has retired, and we wish him well.

Item 3. Review agenda

There were no comments concerning the agenda.

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

T. Nelson moved to approve the minutes and W. Arroyo seconded the motion. J. Cooper, L. Woodyard, T. Nelson, C. Zachry, T. Houser, A. Sardina, A. Singh, and W. Arroyo voted to approve the minutes.

Item 5. Executive Director Updates

Legislation

Ms. Barton-Schiele read the recently approved legislature which includes new reporting requirements for the C-ROB board.

60-day Corrective Action Plan in response to the 2022 report recommendations

Ms. Barton-Schiele reviewed the previous C-ROB recommendations and CDCR's actions.

2023 C-ROB Roadmap

Ms. Barton-Schiele reviewed the roadmap. She stated that it is very similar to last year's except it includes a new section on Housing Data and Programs.

Item 6. Presentation by California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office

Rising Scholars Network

Dr. Woodyard introduced his team for Rising Scholars Network program: Rebecca Silbert, Kellie Nadler, and Javier Rodriguez. Ms. Silbert reported that the network is a network of all Community colleges. She's currently co-located with CDCR. In 2014, there was no face-to-face college courses inside California prisons and SB 1391 allowed for face-to-face courses in prisons. In 2018, grant money was given to 44 colleges and now 80 colleges receive grant money for serving CDCR locations. Now they are in every prison and several jails. Success and completion rates are high in prisons and jails.

For example, Imperial college serves prison, jail, youth detention, and college campus. Ten percent of the CDCR population is enrolled in college classes. College classes in prisons have helped some incarcerated persons drop from Level 4 to 1. It's not just a program, it's a statewide massive partnership. Often the lifers/LWOP incarcerated persons spreading the word about education to other incarcerated persons eligible for parole later. Those who don't finish their degree in prison have the opportunity thru Rising Scholars Network to have their credits applied to a campus to finish or transfer CTE credits as well.

We viewed video clips that play on CDCR DRP TV.

Mr. Rodriguez presented on the on-campus program. He shared the demographics of the students at Palomar College: ten percent of women incarceration and serving nine percent African American students. The Rising Scholar Network program opened in Spring 2023, serving the Vista Detention Facility. The program expands opportunities into higher education and creates alternatives to incarceration and sentencing. An innovative part of the program is having social workers as staff members which provides necessary services not often found on a typical campus. Computer literacy is of particular focus for the incarcerated population since those who have been in a while really need this. Warm handoffs provide extra support and help ease students into the process.

There is a strategic partnership between the UCs and CSUs. They are encouraging students with convictions to pursue higher education opportunities and not be discouraged by conviction.

Ms. Nadler works in the greater bay area, Salinas Valley, North of Sacramento, and Bakersfield. She works with local probation and law enforcement office to let them know how to implement the programs. They are building a new Youth Justice Initiative to prevent juveniles from ending up in adult jail or CDCR. This will include any juveniles arrested or on probation, not just incarcerated persons. They are trying to leverage educational resources to prevent lifetime incarceration.

We viewed the testimonial of a Pelican Bay incarcerated person.

Ms. Nadler stated that in 2016, College of the Redwoods had one teacher and one degree option for Pelican Bay State Prison. Now, there are 20 faculty and five degree options.

Item 7. Board discussion regarding transfers of mentally ill incarcerated persons affecting continuity of rehabilitation

Ms. Barton-Schiele led the discussion. She stated that Penal code section 2933.7 covers continuity of rehabilitation. Dr. Arroyo stated there are challenges for the mentally ill incarcerated persons who were subject to many more changes in incarceration than the general population. Ms. Schiele is exploring that data and plans to incorporate it into the 2024 report.

Dr. Arroyo mentioned there is a CalMatters article covered the problem that the change of prison can undermine an incarcerated person's ability to continue rehabilitation. Sometimes subjecting them to three times the number of transfers of regular incarcerated persons.

Item 8. Board discussion regarding data collection for post-release housing needs

Ms. Barton-Schiele asked the board for data collection ideas and requested additional data idea suggestions since this topic has been added to our penal code. Ms. Cooper shared that the Department of Health Care Services will have a lot of this data moving forward. She offered to provide a presentation to the board later as well. Ms. Zachry suggested tracking county locations and where the person is released from. Ms. Nelson suggested we include not only incarcerated persons housing but housing for entire family.

Item 9. Future board meeting schedule

Ms. Barton-Schiele reviewed the dates for 2023 board meetings: January 26, May 4, and September 12. She also proposed 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

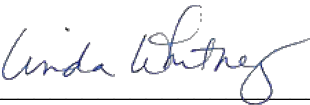
Ms. Barton-Schiele solicited new suggestions and Dr. Arroyo suggested a budget presentation at September meeting.

Item 13. Public Comment

Byrhonda Lyons commented that she was the reporter of the article mentioned earlier. Ms. Lyons replied to Ms. Khokhobashvili's earlier comment that the article reflected partial statements and incorrect data by stating that the data available in the article was received directly from CDCR.

Item 14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm.



C-ROB Secretary

September 12, 2023

Dated