

IDOC Adult Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, November 4th, 2019
Logan Correctional Center 10:30 am

Attendance In-Person: Director Rob Jeffreys, Alyssa Williams, Sharon Shipinski, Rich Stempinski, David Olson, Keith Lape, Phil Whittington, Jennifer Vollen-Katz

Video Springfield: Michael Lane, James Pagano, Rick Watson

Video Chicago: Nikki Robinson, Camile Lindsay

Phil Whittington called the meeting to order at 10:35am, no minutes were available, motion to move forward with discussion seconded by Dave Olson and Keith Lape.

Director Jeffreys expressed gratefulness for all in attendance indicating that staff have been very busy with immediate projects including risk/needs, procurement, legal processes, and pilot risk assessment programs.

Sharon Shipinski stated that we began use of the homegrown risk assessment tool at the end of October and would continue through the end of the year with statewide implementation expected in January 2019 as part of the Illinois Crime Reduction Act of 2009.

LEGAL

Camile Lindsay commented on the ongoing Rasha and Murphy lawsuits and failure to comply. She indicated Logan CC and Shawnee CC were starting programs to limit restrictive housing for SMI offenders to 29 days. We currently have 3 inmates with life sex offenses with no host sites that are potentially being placed in Adult Transition Centers.

Phil asked if all offenses were included in the pilot.

Alyssa Williams stated that we are currently working with 3 potential vendors for housing of which one is actively purchasing housing. She advised that it is primarily an issue in Chicago and reiterated the possible use of ATCs.

Mr. Whittington asked if all offenses were included in the pilot. Alyssa affirmed that the program included all offenses for SMI population. Director Jeffries stressed the importance of Mental Health being able to make proper assessments.

Adoption of Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS):

Director Jeffreys advised that the ORAS tool has been selected for implementation, initially at a lower level, to combine and eventually eliminate multiple risk assessment tools in an effort to proactively and aggressively address releasing parolees into homelessness and joblessness while preventing population turnaround. He indicated the risk and needs tool would assist in management of the population inside the facilities and recommended moving counselors onto housing units while enhancing programming and planning.

Mr. Olson suggested the homelessness is primarily an issue in Chicago as well. Additionally, that no standard minimal risk-assessment tool was used outside the department or in jails pre-trial.

Mrs. Williams indicated we are still in discussions to roll out the pilot program at Logan CC. Several assessments were completed by AOIC and ORAS will make us compliant with risk assessment for the Crime Reduction Act of 2009. Implementation is scheduled to begin mid-December at R&C centers and eventually help determine placement as well. After the holiday, training classes will begin consisting of 30 people eventually designating a master trainer. Assessments will be paper initially, later transitioning into O360.

Keith advised that long range plans would be needed to supplement the immediate plans being discussed.

Director Jeffreys emphasized the need to build foundations quickly to facilitate the development of long-term goals and communicated the importance of ORAS as one of the foundations. Additionally, he relayed that all policies would be reviewed starting January 1 and annual reviews would be implemented.

Implementation of PA 101-0440 (HB94)

Mrs. Williams advised that legislation pertaining to changes in program sentence credits prior to 1998 (pre-truth-in-sentencing) will make it possible to award 45- or 90-day credit for those still incarcerated. We are pushing out FAQs to determine acceptable certificates starting December 1st to be implemented January 1, 2020. This sentence credit will not be available to sexual offenders, but lots of immediate releases are expected. Sentences will be hand calculated and a form has been created. An affidavit can be sent to a webmaster account beginning December 1st.

LEADERSHIP:

Director Jeffreys stressed the importance of leadership and consistency to mold a cohesive group and build sustainability within the department. He stated that lack of a budget has led to a lack of leadership, but the majority of employees still come to work to do an outstanding job and should be commended. Additionally, the department is in the processes of interviewing wardens to aggressively begin the process of filling leadership roles.

Dave questioned how much training would be administered for the risk assessment tool. Director Jeffreys advised that it would be included with annual in-service training.

Education:

Mr. Stempinski provided statistics of current inmate education levels and waitlist. He stated we are in the process of hiring 8 teachers. The National Restaurant Association has provided a \$20,000 grant and apprenticeships would be starting January 1st for the governor's mansion and state fairgrounds. He indicated the new TABE test had been implemented and expected to see an increase in scores with the alignment of curriculum with standards. Increased participation has been noted. The A.D. is being revised for length of contracts and certificates.

Keith requested the reports be sent out ahead of meetings and that it would be beneficial to get the report out to the public to highlight accomplishments in the facilities.

Phil asked about Tablet technology roll-out for educational purposes. Director Jeffrey advised the department is in vendor discussions concerning what we need provided as opposed to what can be done for us in terms of education classes.

Director Jeffrey concluded the meeting by explaining that we need to present our story to display where we are going. He gave a hats off and thank you to all.

Phil motioned to close the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Olson and Mr. Lape.