

**Adult Advisory Board Meeting
Executive Office Building – Springfield, IL
April 27, 2009**

Present:	James Gannon, Chair Keith Lape William Warnell Michael Geriets	Brad Hillman, Program Services Eddie Jones, Acting Deputy Director – District 2 Jim Reinhart, Chief of Staff Jerry Buscher, Operations Security Director Sergio Molina, Executive Asst. to the Director
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Introductions

Chairperson Gannon welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced himself, as well as providing a brief summary of his background. Each person in attendance then introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their background.

Open Discussion

The yearly schedule of meeting was decided as follows:

- July 13, 2009 @ Peoria ATC
- August 24, 2009 @ Centralia CC
- October 26, 2009 @ Tamms CC

Jim Gannon was elected Chairman of the Adult Advisory Board for 2009 and William Warnell was elected Vice-Chair of the Board. All were in favor of the decision.

Governor's New Website – James Reinhart, Chief of Staff

Chief Reinhart discussed the Governor's new website, Appointments.Illinois.gov.

Governor Pat Quinn recently signed a new Executive Order to make appointments to Illinois boards and commissions more transparent and accessible. Under the Executive Order, the Governor launched Appointments.Illinois.gov, a website that allows Illinois citizens to access information about members and vacancies in the State's 300 boards and commissions. By visiting the website, those interested will be able to view all of the State boards and commissions, get information about their purposes and see lists of members. In addition, Illinois residents can fill out online applications for those appointments that are made by the Governor. The minutes of the Adult Advisory Board meetings will be posted on the website as well.

Chief Reinhart is the contact person for the Adult Advisory Board. Chief Reinhart would like to meet w/Chairman Gannon to discuss the Board w/regards to how they might be able to help the Department (i.e., possibly speaking to the General Assembly, etc.). The Board members have often asked what they could do to help the Department.

Through discussion amongst Chief Reinhart and the Board members, it was decided that the Board would establish 4 to 5 issues/items to focus on and discuss for the year and @ the end of the year, possibly prepare some type of end of the year report. The issues/items that were brought up were:

- Infrastructure
- Budget
- Personnel (outline critical vacancies, vacancy priorities, cadet classes)

Chief Reinhart asked the Board members to forward any resources that were worked on in the past to Lori Killam for his review.

New Programs/Education Initiatives – Brad Hillman, Program Services

The Job Preparation Program has been in place for two years now. Several additional programs focusing on Re-Entry have been added; such as TRAC and Parole School. TRAC (Trained Reformed and Capable) is designed to get offenders focused on re-entry from the beginning of their incarceration. It follows facility orientation at an offenders first placement following processing through R&C. Parole School is offered as an offender gets closer to their date of parole. A Parole Agent comes into the facility and works w/the inmate w/regards to what to expect and how to succeed upon parole.

The Department has started Transitional Units. Offenders are moved into Transitional Units as their out date nears. Not every facility has a transitional unit, but the re-entry programming is offered at all facilities. This program is geared toward offenders with 6 months or less. The Department has received some complaints from advocates regarding inmates @ Tamms Correctional Center for not getting this opportunity.

Lifestyle Redirection has recently been implemented. This is a 12-week program focusing on victim empathy, men's roles, and domestic violence.

Re-Entry Summits (formerly offered as Job Fairs) are held @ each facility two times per year. Employers participate in the Re-Entry Summits, as well as service agencies, motivational speakers, and even armed forces recruiters have come in.

Specialty programs that are offered in Women and Family Services are:

- Nail Tech training @ Dwight and Decatur Correctional Centers.
- Beauty Shops @ Lincoln, Dwight and Decatur Correctional Centers.

Women and Family Services is also looking @ a massage therapist program.

The Department is trying to get a partnership with the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence where speakers could come in to the facilities to discuss “hot topics” to both the victims, as well as the perpetrators.

The following question was asked: “What is the recidivism rate based on the programs that offenders went through?” Years ago, the University of Illinois put together a study/data that showed how much money the state saved based on recidivism rates and programming. The Department has had interest from universities that would like to conduct these types of studies.

Pontiac Correctional Center Status – Eddie Jones, Acting Deputy Director – District 2

Some housing units are currently down from the original closure plan. Four housing units are down in the MSU and 1 housing unit is down in the maximum part of the facility. The facility is slowly getting inmates back.