

**Adult Advisory Board Meeting
Peoria ATC
7/13/09**

Minutes

Present: James Gannon, Adult Advisory Board – Chair
Keith Lape, Adult Advisory Board
Michael Geriets, Adult Advisory Board
William Warnell, Adult Advisory Board
Ed Huntley, IDOC – Chief Legal Counsel
Jerry Buscher, IDOC – Operations Security Director
Rick Bard, IDOC – Chief of Operations
Jim Reinhart, IDOC – Chief of Staff
Jesse Montgomery, IDOC – Chief of Parole
Barbara Hurt, IDOC – Deputy Director of Community Services
James Graham, IDOC – Supervisor of Peoria ATC
Deb Denning, IDOC – Deputy Director of Women & Family Services
Lori Killam, IDOC – Operations Division
Mandy Bentley, IDOC – Operations Division

Introductions

Mr. Gannon welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced himself. Each person in attendance introduced themselves as well.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Lape moved to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2009, meeting. Mr. Warnell seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Therefore, the April 24, 2009, meeting minutes have been approved and will no longer be indicated as “draft” on the Governor’s website.

Open Discussion

The Board members are looking for guidance with regards to what the Board can do for the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Open Meetings Act – Ed Huntley, Chief Legal Counsel

There are two main questions w/respect to the Open Meetings Act and the Adult Advisory Board:

- 1) Does the Open Meetings Act apply to the Adult Advisory Board?
- 2) What impact does the Open Meetings Act have on the Adult Advisory Board?

The Open Meetings Act requires that any meeting of a public body @ which public business is going to be done has to be open to the public.

The Board meetings have traditionally been held @ one of the correctional centers w/a tour of the facility following the meeting; which could create a problem w/regards to allowing the public entrance into an IDOC facility. Future meetings will need to be held @ a location that is open to the public so that anyone interested in attending a meeting would have an opportunity to attend.

A suggestion was made to have the facility tour separate from the Board meeting. The tour could be conducted prior to the Board meeting and the meeting could be convened @ a nearby location that would be open to the public (example: local library, etc.). During the facility tour there could be no discussion that could be considered public business as this would be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. Rather than the members talking with each other during the tour, they could/should take notes that could be discussed @ the public meeting following the tour.

The next Adult Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2009, @ Centralia Correctional Center w/a tour of the facility prior to the public meeting. The tour will be restricted to Adult Advisory Board members and Department personnel. Kaskaskia College will be contacted as a possible location for the public meeting. The tour will tentatively be scheduled to begin @ 9am w/the public meeting beginning @ 10:30am.

The following items will be added to the Agendas in the future: Old Business, New Business and Public Comments.

Sub-Committee on Women's Issues – Deb Denning, Deputy Director

A Sub-Committee on Women's Issues is required in the Statute. Therefore, the Board needs to move forward on setting up the required sub-committee. Not having this sub-committee can be an audit finding and is currently on the preliminary audit list for 2007-2008.

The Sub-Committee shall be comprised of three members of the Adult Advisory Board appointed by the Adult Advisory Board Chairman. The Sub-Committee shall conduct four meetings a year as well. These meetings could be held @ the same time as the Adult Advisory Board Meetings.

Mr. Gannon appointed Mike Geriets, Keith Lape and William Warnell to serve on the Sub-Committee for Women's Issues. William Warnell was appointed the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

The first Sub-Committee meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the Adult Advisory Board Meeting @ Centralia on August 24, 2009.

Reappointment Process

All Board members were previously sent information regarding the reappointment process. With the current budget issues the State is facing, very few Boards/ Commissions have had appointments made.

The current members of the Adult Advisory Board are urged to reapply and IDOC will support these members being reappointed.

Chief Reinhart and Director Randle are committed to ensuring the Adult Advisory Board is more productive/active.

The Board should be comprised of 11 members. There are currently 5 members; leaving 6 vacancies. Board members should encourage anyone that might be interested in being on the Board to apply. There needs to be diversification on the Board as far as women and minorities. There is currently no one on the Board representing Southern Illinois.

Peoria ATC – James Graham, Supervisor

James Graham, Supervisor of Peoria ATC, provided an overview of the Center.

There are 8 Adult Transition Centers in Illinois (7 for men and 1 for women).

Peoria ATC has 200 beds and has an average population of 194-195 residents. Offenders can apply for work release w/30 months left in their sentence. Offenders come to the ATC w/anywhere from 24 months to 3 months left in their sentence. Once @ the ATC, they go through a level system w/regard to privileges (passes, etc.).

Maintenance dollars received dropped from FY'08 to FY'09. The current employment rate is only 75% (approximately 110 full-time and 44-45 part-time).

The majority of the disciplinary tickets that are written are for cell phones, smoking, drinking and unauthorized movement.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a very important need for the Department. Due to budget issues, the Department is only able to do emergency repairs.

A listing of maintenance issues and estimated costs were distributed. Also distributed was a listing of Repair & Maintenance projects, as well as their status.

Budget

There was no budget or staffing plan in place to discuss.

The Department of Corrections needs to make \$125 million in cuts to help w/the State's \$9.2 billion deficit.

An overview of the Illinois Department of Corrections FY10 Budget Reinstitution of Early Release Program for Low Level and Nonviolent Drug Offenders was distributed and discussed.

Additional Remarks

Chief Reinhart advised that the Director has been reviewing the Department's management staff and will be restructuring executive staff in the near future.

Mr. Lape expressed his appreciation to the Department's staff for their attendance at the meeting. All of the Board members agreed that this meeting has been one of the better meetings.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am.