

**Department of Corrections Advisory Board
Women's Issues Sub-Committee Meeting
1301 Concordia Court – Springfield, IL
10/22/09**

Present: James Gannon, Chair – Advisory Board
Pat Hartshorn – Advisory Board
Keith Lape – Advisory Board
Dave Olson – Advisory Board
Shaena Fazal – Advisory Board
Jesus Reyes – Advisory Board
Ken Berry – Advisory Board
Donald Young – Advisory Board
Cory Foster, Sr. Policy Advisor – IDOC
Jim Reinhart, Chief of Staff – IDOC
Deb Denning, WFS Coordinator – IDOC
Eddie Jones, Southern Region Deputy Director – IDOC

Participated via phone:

Angela Rudolph – Advisory Board
Malcolm Young – Advisory Board
Ed Huntley, Chief Legal Counsel – IDOC

Introductions

The meeting began @ approximately 12:30pm.

There was no need for re-introductions as everyone that attended the Department of Corrections Advisory Board Meeting stayed for the Women's Issues Sub-Committee Meeting.

Reappointment

Keith Lape was the only Advisory Board member currently serving on the Women's Issues Sub-Committee as the other two previous Board members were not re-appointed to the Department of Corrections Advisory Board. Therefore, it was decided that all Department of Corrections Advisory Board members will participate in this Women's Issues Sub-Committee Meeting. A Sub-Committee consisting of @ least three Board members will be appointed @ the first meeting of the new year.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 24, 2009, meeting were approved w/one change being noted Keith Lape was listed as the Chair; but William Warnell was actually the Chair of the Sub-Committee.

Staff Report

- Discussion

Eddie Jones is now the Deputy Director over the women's facilities.

Deb Denning, Women and Family Services Coordinator, provided a brief summary. The current female population is 2,534. There are seven different facilities that women can go to:

1. Dwight – different security levels w/Reception & Classification Center
2. Decatur – medium security
3. Lincoln – medium security
4. Kanakee MSU – work camp
5. Fox Valley ATC – Adult Transition Center
6. Women's Treatment Center in Chicago – IDOC has 7 beds for to be used for women on work release status; but needing drug treatment. Women can keep their children w/them (up to the age of 4 years old).
7. Dixon Springs IIP – Boot Camp for men and women.

Some of the programs offered in the women's facilities are: family reunification, summer camp, video visiting, storybook program, Mom's & Babies Program (@ Decatur).

The recidivism rate for women is 43%. The average of female offenders coming into the Department is 36 years old. 62% of the female population are minority, w/no GED and heavily involved in drugs. 72% of the female population have mental health diagnosis w/50% of the female population being on some type of psychotropic medication. 72% of the female population admit to sexual abuse @ the time of incarceration; which increases to 90% after the women are made aware of what sexual abuse really is.

Drug treatment is available at all of the women's facilities, as well as ABE and GED.

The Department has worked very hard @ trying to prevent custodial sexual misconduct by providing training to staff. Cameras have been installed in all of the women's facilities.

The women's facilities have dropped 250 beds w/in one year. The MGT push program has affected the numbers drastically.

Chief Reinhart discussed a cost savings measure. The Closure Act would affect two facilities – Kanakee MSU (population – 82) would save \$4 million and Jessie "Ma" Houston ATC. The staff and inmates from JMH ATC would be able to transfer to Westside ATC.

- Identify Priorities

A listing of priority issues was distributed to all in attendance for review and discussion.

There is currently no sex offender treatment programs offered in the women's facilities. Alyssa Williams has done some research and there is very little programming available. A national search w/regards to sex offender treatment programs will be done. Female offenders currently receive individual counseling, but they really need some type of a treatment program.

Miscellaneous

A question was raised regarding waiting lists for educational programs. The following information was provided:

- Decatur – no waiting list for ABE or GED due to the population being reduced.
- Dwight – ABE – 15; GED – 32
- Lincoln – ABE – 40; GED 49

The main concern is w/vocational programs.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting date will be January 25, 2010 @ 11:30am in Springfield; following the Department of Corrections Advisory Board meeting. A Chairman, as well as a Committee, will be appointed @ that time. The meetings dates for the rest of the year will be set @ this time as well.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned @ 1:05pm.