

**Department of Corrections Advisory Board  
Illinois Department of Corrections  
1301 Concordia Court  
Springfield, IL**

**January 25, 2010  
10:00am**

**MINUTES**

Present:                   Shaena Fazal, Board Member                   Joe Rose, IDOC  
                                  Pat Hartshorn, Board Member                  David Eldridge, IDOC  
                                  Keith Lape, Board Member                    Jim Reinhart, IDOC  
                                  David Olson, Board Member                  Michael McCotter, IDOC  
                                  Angela Rudolph, Board Member               Januari Smith, IDOC  
                                  Donald Young, Board Member                Shelith Hansbro, IDOC  
                                  Deb Denning, IDOC                           Dede Short, IDOC  
                                  Cory Foster, IDOC                            Lisa Weitekamp, IDOC  
                                  Director Randle, IDOC                      Lori Killam, IDOC  
                                  Ed Huntley, IDOC

Participated via phone:  
Malcolm Young, Board Member  
Steve Karr, IDOC  
Sharon Shipinski, IDOC

**Introductions**

Everyone in attendance were welcomed and introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 22, 2009, meeting were accepted and approved.

**Election of Officers**

Patrick Hartshorn was nominated to be the Chairman of the Department of Corrections Advisory Board. There were no additional nominations. The nomination of Mr. Hartshorn was moved and seconded and all Board members were in favor. Therefore, Patrick Hartshorn is the Chairman of the Department of Corrections Advisory Board for 2010.

Chairman Hartshorn announced that he would like to appoint Keith Lape as Vice Chairman of the Department of Corrections Advisory Board.

**Briefing**

- **Participation in Education, Substance Abuse Training, Mental Health Training & Recidivism**

IDOC's data base system was uploaded in 1989 by Arthur Anderson. The system was designed as a security-oriented instrument to monitor inmates that are currently incarcerated in an IDOC facility and inmates on parole; as opposed to tracking information on an aggregate level such as recidivism for inmates that have participated in particular programming, etc.

David Olson, current member of the Department of Corrections Advisory Board, has been working on a project with Sheridan and Southwestern Illinois Correctional Centers for the past five years. Mr. Olson is working under a contract with the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.

The current recidivism rate for the Illinois Department of Corrections is 51.3%. This rate is based on the FY '06 exits. The information was tracked for a three-year period based on offenders in the community that are technical violators (24%) and new offenses (27.3%).

Director Randle announced that w/in the next few years, there will be an agreed upon set of data and criteria developed nationally so that all states can compare their statistics/information equally.

Mr. Lape discussed a past recidivism study that was done through MacMurray College pertaining to offenders that had completed a curriculum. A suggestion was made that the Department should look @ recidivism for offenders in special programming. Steve Karr indicated that there would be 2 dilemmas – 1) the study should be a 3-year study; and 2) the Department is not equipped based on technology and infrastructure.

The Department has received bids ranging from \$5 million to \$30 million to upgrade the IT infrastructure. The Department is currently doing their data collection manually.

Chairman Hartshorn expressed to Steve Karr that he applauds him for taking the long view and using a 3-year window w/regard to recidivism.

- **Electronic Home Detention Program**

The Electronic Home Detention Program was developed by Director Randle, as well as the Governor's administration. Electronic home detention is designed for an offender serving one year or less on their sentence.

Based on Statutes, 18,000 offenders were possibly eligible for home electronic detention. However, the Illinois Department of Corrections added additional criteria. Based on IDOC's additional criteria, approximately 1,000 offenders were identified as eligible for electronic home detention. Upon further review, 233 offenders were actually released based on the criteria set forth for the electronic home detention program. These files are manually reviewed by facility personnel and then forwarded to the Transfer Coordinator's Office for further review and recommendation.

The Governor's Office suspended the electronic home detention program on December 16, 2009. The program has been suspended until the Illinois Department of Corrections appoints a Chief of Public Safety Officer and can have a comprehensive review. Michael McCotter was appointed as the Department's Chief Public Safety Officer effective January 19, 2010. Mr. McCotter will be the Director's designee to actually review this process and ensure we are achieving the goals of the Department and administration. A checklist will be developed based on the old statute, as well as the new statute and DOC's current process. Once the Transfer Coordinator's Office review and provides their recommendation, the file and checklist will then be reviewed by Mr. McCotter.

Before an offender is released on electronic home monitoring, a Parole Agent is sent out to the residence the offender will be paroled to and conducts an on-site inspection. These offenders have to be in a home that can be supported during the duration of the electronic home monitoring. There must be a phone (land line; not cellular) and there cannot be any drugs, alcohol, weapons, etc. The resident willing to accept the offender has to also be willing to comply with the rules. The

offenders and residence are subject to unannounced searches. Residents, as well as the offenders, must comply.

Malcolm Young expressed his concern that the Department needs to deal w/a larger number of offenders in order to save money. Mr. Young was wondering if the Department could expand the number of offenders released to electronic home monitoring by making individual "exceptions" based on input from the facility personnel. Mr. Young doesn't feel that the small number of offenders eligible will help w/controlling costs, management, etc. Mr. Young prepared a memo that was shared w/everyone in attendance regarding Corrections Board support for cost-reducing managed release.

Parole has a case management system and 24/7 staffing through Protocol Marketing/AMS which interacts electronically w/Behavioral Interventions (BI), the company that provides the electronic monitoring equipment. Electronic monitoring compliance messages are forwarded to agents and supervisors via the automated case management system in the event of a strap tamper, equipment malfunction, loss of power or escape. When an escape or other event is verified by the AMS operator, the parole supervisor is notified (during work hours) or the appropriate chain of command is notified (during non-working hours). Within minutes a warrant is issued and the Director is notified of the escape. The cost for the electronic monitoring bracelet is approximately \$2 per day per offender.

- **MGT Push Program/Public Safety Act (Senate Bill 1013)**

The MGT Push Program was implemented September 11, 2009, and ended December 14, 2009.

1,745 offenders were placed in the accelerated release program. "61-day wonders" are a huge drain on the Department of Corrections. The Department was trying to reduce their stay from 61 days to 10-15 days. Currently, the 61-day wonders have a significant financial impact on the Department based on the fact that they have to stay in the Department for 60 days before they are eligible for MGT/SMGT. These offenders are brought into a Reception & Classification Center and housed there until such time they are transferred out of R&C to the facility they will be housed @ the remainder of their incarceration. They only end up staying @ their parent facility for a short time and then the Department has to spend money on a bus ticket to send them back home.

Michael McCotter, Chief Public Safety Officer, will also review requests for MGT/SMGT. The Department is currently not awarding any MGT/SMGT; but should hopefully begin reviewing the awards of time in the near future.

Shaena Fazal asked what the Advisory Board's role could be w/regard to this process. Director Randle replied that the Advisory Board could play a huge role. The Board members could write letters to their legislators expressing their feelings or they could speak to judges, sheriff's etc. The Board members can play a role both as a group and individually.

Chief Reinhart advised the Board that once the Department's budget has been crafted, it will be shared w/the Board. The Board members can then go to their legislators, etc. Cory Foster briefly discussed an annual report that the Board can prepare to be shared w/the General Assembly. The Board can memorialize statements through the report.

- **Crime Reduction Act (Senate Bill 1289)**

The Crime Reduction Act became law January 1, 2010. The Crime Reduction Act of 2009 is a major component of a comprehensive movement to overhaul the criminal justice system in Illinois; particularly as it relates to low-level, non-violent offenders. The goal is to reduce recidivism by creating an Adult Redeploy program (modeled after the Juvenile Redeploy program), and by emphasizing diversion of offenders (versus imprisonment) and focusing resources into communities to fund treatment programs for offenders.

The first Board meeting will be held in mid-February. This is collaborative w/DHS w/DOC acting as the lead agency. A formal RFP packet will be developed.

### **Annual Meeting Schedule – 2010**

The following meeting schedule for 2010 was accepted:

- April 26, 2010
- July 26, 2010
- October 25, 2010

All meetings will be held in Springfield; unless a facility tour/visit is deemed necessary prior to the meeting date. If a facility tour/visit is necessary, the tour will be held prior to the meeting. The meeting will be held @ a public location, rather than the facility in order to accommodate anyone from the public that may wish to attend.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business brought up for discussion.

### **New Business**

- **Video Visitation Program**

House Bill 1995 (Public Act 96-0869) came into effect January 1, 2010. This requires the Department to expand their video visitation. Currently, Decatur Correctional Center is the only site providing video visitation. Offenders are able to visit w/their families via video.

IDOC Personnel recently visited a women's facility in Rockville, Indiana to observe their video visitation program. This particular facility was similar to Dwight Correctional Center. The facility is a Reception & Classification Center for women and also houses minimum through maximum security women. The facility in Rockville has kiosks set up in the Housing Units that have computers equipped w/webcams. The offenders, or their families, schedule times to visit. The family members purchase webcams for their computers; which enables the offenders to be able to visit w/their families through the use of webcams. The video visitations cost \$10 for a 30-minute visit. The offender's family pays for the visits.

The offenders in Rockville are also able to utilize an e-mail system (facebook, etc.). Offenders can send a request to family and/or friends to be accepted and then they have the opportunity to correspond via e-mail. This program is closely monitored (key words are flagged, etc.). Any type of suspicious activity can be sent to Intel for review, if needed. Offenders or family members pay for the cost of the e-mailing system.

IDOC will expand their video visitation program through a pilot project first. The facilities they are considering for use are: Tamms, Danville and one of the female facilities. The sites have not been decided on for sure and a recommendation has not be sent to Director Randle yet.

- **Second Chance RFP**

The Second Chance RFP was released last month. The following are the choices:

1. Green Transitional Job Proposal
2. Illinois Extension
3. Chicago Urban League
4. Safer Foundation

The Department of Corrections will be applying as the lead agency. The Department still needs to decide which strategy and what Department. The Department is interested in governing w/a not-for-profit agency.

Pat Hartshorn suggested wind farms as this might be a job opportunity that would not focus on an individual's background. If a facility had a program to train an offender in the mechanics of wind farms, this could possibly be a good job opportunity for offenders paroled/released from the Department.

- **Questions from Donald Young, Advisory Board Member**

Mr. Young indicated that he is often asked why the staff transfers have been stopped. In light of the hiring w/in the Department, there are still no transfers being made. Chief Reinhart addressed this issue. The Department entered into an agreement w/AFSCME regarding transfers. We are treating transfers as vacancies that could impact laid off staff. The Department, as well as CMS Labor, is continually working w/AFSCME. Mr. Young asked if the Department could provide a list of staff on the transfer list. Chief Huntley indicated that the Department is not @ liberty to share this information. Mr. Young was, however, provided w/ a list of transfers that had taken place in calendar year 2009.

Mr. Young also brought up 12-hour shifts for Majors. Chief Reinhart indicated this was negotiated w/the ISEA Laborers Union. At this time, management, as well as the Union, has changed their minds. However, there are approximately 6 facilities that would like to continue the program. At some point, we will have to come to a conclusion whether the program saves money, if the staff like the program and want to continue.

Mr. Young has also been asked if he could bring up the issue of 10-hour work shifts w/the Department. Therefore, Mr. Young brought this issue to Chief Reinhart's attention. Chief Reinhart indicated that this has been previously brought up w/AFSCME and was discouraged by AFSCME.

### **Public Comments/Open Discussion**

There was no public attendance @ this meeting.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned @ 1:00pm.