

**Minutes of the Illinois Department of Corrections
Adult Advisory Board Meeting**

Women's Issues Sub-Committee Meeting

Monday, October 25, 2010

12:45 p.m. – 1:17 p.m.

At the following public sites:

Decatur Correctional Center

Board members in attendance: Shaena Fazal, William Patrick Hartshorn, Keith Lape, David Olson, Jesus Reyes, Gladys Taylor

Non-board members in attendance: Deborah Blair, Jaclyn O'Day, Deb Denning, Shelith Hansbro, Kimberly Smith, Cory Foster, Sharyn Elman, Sara Sullivan, Steve Karr, Mark Pradun, Bob Eifert, Patricia Murphy

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting was made by Jesus Reyes and seconded by Dave Olson.

DVD was shown to all in attendance of the Moms & Babies Program.

Shelith Hansbro, Warden, Decatur Correctional Center

- Welcomed all in attendance to the Decatur Correctional Center
- Warden Hansbro gave a brief overview of the Moms & Babies Program at the Decatur Correctional Center.
 - May, 2010 was the third anniversary of the Moms & Babies Program
 - The program currently has five moms and one pregnant mom who is due in November
 - We have had 28 participants in the Moms & Babies Program
 - We have had 23 offenders give birth
 - We have had one offender actually return to IDOC with no new charges, technically violated
 - We have seen really good results with this program
 - Bonding with baby
 - Support system
- Unique program because the women utilize supportive services within the community, such as Decatur Memorial Hospital, CHIC, WIC – Macon County Health Department
- Reunification – we allow children to visit with their mother as long as the guardian brings them to the facility
- This program is innovative. We want to continue and expand this program. It is exciting.
- Caregivers – they are paid just as any other prison job
- Volunteers – we have so many knocking on the doors. Volunteers and community members have inundated up with donations such as baby clothes, toys, furniture, diapers, etc.
- Moms & Babies has received \$300,000 from the Second Chance Grant. Stay tuned and we will have more updates on this.

- One work release center for women and there are certain criteria to be met to live with baby.
- Dwight Correctional Center has approximately 68 births a year. Those babies are turned over to someone else's custody. It has been hard to find candidates for this program.
- Illinois State University conducted a study on the Reunification Unit but no documentation has been provided to the facility.
- Recidivism rate 36 ½ - arrest trends have changed for women
- This is a budget neutral program.
- PRU works very hard for these women, hoping she will get the picture that she need treatment.
- When you look at the gender, there are many more coming back with a new offense rather than being violated.
- Effective because we can do some intervention case by case.
- Keep both mother and child off the state welfare system and promote them to be productive citizens.

John MacIntosh stated that he has 16 years security experience and has been at this facility since it opened in 2000. Mr. MacIntosh stated that when they first opened the Reunification Unit and the child saw their mommy, he said it melted his heart. This helped to develop a passion in me for this program, Moms & Babies. Incarcerated mothers bonding with their child; we have all been blessed to experience this and watch the potential growth. It is in the living proof to watch it happen.

Warden Hansbro distributed a copy of the pamphlet of the Moms & Babies Program to all in attendance.

Open Discussion

Sara Sullivan announced that she has travel expense forms available if anyone needed one.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Jesus Reyes and seconded by Dave Olson at 1:17 p.m.