

Adult Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, October 19, 2015
Illinois Department of Corrections
Executive Conference Room

Attendance: Director Baldwin, Gladys Taylor, Laura Kunard, Keith Lape, Edna Lee, David Olson, Gladys Taylor, Richard Watson, Phillip Whittington, Sharon Shipinski, Bow Bowen, Larry Wargel, Echo Beekman
Phone Attendance: Tracey Williams, Kendric Berry, Dr. Melvin Hinton

10:30 am – Welcome by Dr. Lape

Introductions & Roll Call by Dr. Lape

Director Baldwin - Changed the department's mission statement. Expectation is for every employee to know it and share it. Director is committed to making sure the IDOC treat offenders and staff with respect and integrity. RASHO – going to court 1/5/16. Director has long history with mental health in Corrections, especially in Iowa. There is a trend and concern for numbers of mentally ill offenders. They come to corrections because there are no viable alternatives in the community. We must establish ways to handle this population. Train staff on how to handle this population and we will get there. Considering partnering with NAMBE toward training IDOC staff. 2 day training. Proven successful in Indiana and Iowa. Goal is for increasing staff awareness and providing tools in 2016 to deal with the mentally ill. No matter what happens with RASHO, we will still move forward with this plan. Director will provide the board with information to show NAMBE's success stories recently.

Moving forward with O360. IDOC needs to be a data focused operation and pushed down to line staff. Data is needed to make better decisions. IOWA has an extremely robust system, created by line staff. This initiative should allow line staff to view the information and make better decisions department wide. Ex: not putting offenders in programs that do not work. We need to reduce recidivism and this is a great start. First wardens meeting tomorrow at 10:30 am. Previous meetings not held frequently but looking to make some changes in this area. The Director plans to spend more time viewing other IDOC practices, ie. hiring, training, etc. If offender works at ICI and earns GED, recidivism rate is 8%. The Director provided a few background facts on his career in Corrections. The Director is happy to be with the Department.

David Olson – questioned what the Director's expectation of the role of the Board.

Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2015 – The Board approved the minutes from the last meeting.

Dr. Melvin Hinton - Mental Health – Reemphasized what the Director mentioned in viewing data to make better decision about this population.
Overall IDOC population is decreasing. Projected decrease 38%.
Mental Health is staying the same. 24.7% of the overall population. This is uncommon when compared to other states.
Healthiest folks leave, don't return or just don't come into our system. Yet there are still folks who have mental health do come into our system. The more staff we have the lower the ratios and the better the evaluations become.
24.7% - MH Caseload
23.6% - Male (higher than female population)

We continue to have emphasis on O360 upgrades our fiscal plan and staffing focus.

We continue to strengthen relationships with other state agencies to aid in this challenges like NAMBE & IDHS. IDOC has now added a MH trainer who will also work with the training academy so that there is more input in the training components for the department.

Will be adding a Chief of Psychiatry who will raise/elevate the psychiatric component of the department.

There is less community support to address the mentally ill to address a question raised about an increase in mentally ill. There has s also an increase in trauma that is coming into our system.

A recommendation was made by Sheriff Watson to increase vocational training, ie. Brick laying. The Director responded that basic literacy is a must as many of the vocational training requires basic literacy skills.

Echo Beckman-Programs/Vocation/Challenges – There are some changes going on within the Department.

IDOC offering 18 different programs.

Adult Basic Education – Mandatory/ Voluntary ABE 2324 compete as of FY 15

GED – 6,000 participants, 69 passing – last year implemented new computer programs.

There were issues with the contracts, computer startups which impacted the numbers.

15 scheduled to text next month. Currently now moving forward.

Practice tests are provided. 3 different criteria used to ensure success rate.

Vacancies of staff: down 8 teachers, 2 librarians and 1 paralegal but the Department is staffed well at the moment. The department is still in talks to expand the educational program.

Gladyse Taylor says that there is a cost element to testing as well.

The department is trying to tie in an element to track the success rates of GED graduates with job success rates. Goal of O360 is to share data with community based programs and other agencies to see success rates with offenders who have gone through the department's programming and their success rates.

The new version test takes about 3 hours to complete.

Dr. Shipinski – Employment information entered into the system.

Just partnered with IDES to share employment information to encourage growth and job activity.

Jared Brunk - FY '16 updates - We have no budget, IDOC cannot pay any of the vendors no matter what funding source. Many vendors are not providing service but the department has been successful at finding alternatives.

Future Dates 2016

Open Discussion/ Wrap Up