



The Illinois Department of Corrections

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Regular Board Meeting of the Adult Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

9:30 am to 11:30 am

Location: Via Webex/Teleconference

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m39f5a3eabcf03594e07772af45a56fbb>

Join by meeting number

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Committee Member – June 27, 2023	Present	Virtual	Absent	
Illinois Department of Corrections Staff:				
Acting Director – Latoya Hughes	X			
Acting Assistant Director – Alyssa Williams	X			
Chief of Staff – Latoya Hughes	X			
Confidential Assistant to Director – Shelith Hansbro	X			
Chief of Parole – Jason Garnett	X			
Chief of Legal – Robert Fanning			X	
Chief of Programs- Jennifer Parrack	X			
Chief Compliance Officer – Jason Hall			X	
Chief of Operations – Justin Hammers	X			
Chief Inspector – Areda Johnson	X			
Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs – Michael Lane			X	
Chief of Investigation & Intel – Edward Escamilla			X	
Deputy Region 1 – Christine Brannon – Dortch	X			
Deputy Director Region 2 – Angela Locke	X			

Mission: To serve justice in Illinois and increase public safety by promoting positive change for those in custody, operating successful reentry programs, and reducing victimization.

Deputy Director Region 3 – Kim Smith	X			
Acting Chief Women & Family Services – Margarita Mendoza			X	
Public Information Officer – Naomi Puzzello		X		
Planning & Research – Sharon Shipinski		X		
Chief Operating Officer – Jared Brunk			X	
Chief of Medical – Dr. Bowman			X	
Warden Case	X			
Women & Family Services – Errica Weatherspoon	X			
Board Members:				
David Olson – Loyola	X			
Richard Watson - Sheriff – St. Clair County			X	
Nneka Jones-Tapia – Executive Director of Chicago Beyond	X			
Marion Chamberlain – Heartland Alliance			X	
David Olson – Loyola				
Richard Watson - Sheriff – St. Clair County			X	
Jenny Vollen-Katz		X		
Sadie Joseph			X	
Xavier Williams			X	
John Crivellone			X	
Jenny Vollen-Katz		X		
Guest:				
Willette Benford	X			
Midwest Books to Prisoners – Michelle Alfano		X		

Chairperson Remarks:

Ms. Hansbro opened the meeting, then members and IDOC staff introduce themselves and welcomed new members: Jenny Vollen-Katz from the John Howard Association, Sofia Manuel, Policy Advisor, and Areda Johnson, IDOC’s Chief Inspector. March 2023 minutes will be held for approval. A quick explanation of what purpose of the Advisory Board does was given: The Advisory Board’s role is advisory and should be viewed as a resource for the Department while adding some insight and recommendations from the different communities. New business was discussed: Get a better understanding of the impacts of the changes to Illinois law and the Safe-T-Act.

Director's Remarks:

Acting Director Hughes welcomed the new Advisory Board members and briefly explained that the Department impacts a variety of people, and that it's important to have the perspective of diverse individuals with the same goals as the Department. Acting Director Hughes updated the members on the report from CGL that was commissioned by Director Jeffreys prior to his leaving. CGL is a company that participates in facility master plan assessments. The report was finalized, and the master plan went over an assessment of all IDOC facilities and looked at the infrastructure of the Department's facilities. The Department has over 2 billion dollars in deferred maintenance, and IDOC staff is actively reviewing the master plan that was set for some of the recommendations made by CGL but is also taking into consideration some of the plans for the Department moving forward. This allows us to look at the future of what IDOC should and could be to help push the Department forward.

Director Hughes also updated the members on how the Department is moving forward with IT infrastructure upgrades. This is not only required for the safety and security of the facilities so that the Department can have operating systems that properly function, but this will also allow us to provide an increase of programming for our Individuals that we serve through a technological platform. This infrastructure will also allow us to provide the opportunity to have electronic health records, which is a requirement of Lippert. We are actively in the procurement process to ensure that we have an electronic health record system that allows the Department to move forward. These initiatives will impact the mass population of individuals in our custody and will address some of the things from our past couple of meetings.

Executive Staff Updates:**Jennifer Parrack – Chief of Programs:**

Chief Parrack highlighted the risk assessment that was implemented, which assess people based on their risk level and identify their needs for programming to be placed in their reentry plan to go home. Working to improve the implementation of EPSC, which can be a struggle because it's hard not knowing an exact date of when someone is going home due to how quickly it can change based on an individual's level of programming.

There have been several changes within the Safe-T-Act. IDOC and the PRB struggled with turnaround time, it's hard to get an individual assessed and out the door in the same day. This caused changes in class 3 and class 4 convictions, which now requires a 6-month MSR term and 45-day discharge review by the PRB unless they have a concurrent conviction that is not a class 3 or 4, and exclusionary convictions. The clinical and records process was discussed, along with how IDOC works with the PRB prior to an individual's release.

The Correctional Assessment Specialists' responsibilities was also discussed, Chief Parrack stated this area has been staffed very well within the facilities, however we struggle with keeping them staffed in IDOC Parole offices. Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS) was discussed, and it was noted that the Department is required by statute to share with PRB on that 45-day discharge review.

Individuals who score low on the ORAS have minimal programming, counselors will work with them, however, they will not get programming if they don't have the identified need for it. We feel as if they should focus on education, vocational services, job assignments and reentry. High risk individuals are not potentially getting more time than low risk individuals due to their scoring, but the information from

the ORAS is in place to help guide what the appropriate opportunities are and move the individuals through what they need. This assessment evens out the process of what each individual needs to assist them in their rehabilitation. There is no hard policy on whether there must be a specific amount of time left in an individual's sentence before they can complete a program, but we tend to prioritize people going closest to home into our programming. However, some facilities try to pull 1 or 2 individuals who have longer time on their sentence each time they run a program. Resource wise, we don't have the staff or the ability to program everyone that needs programming, so we end up prioritizing the people closest to going home.

Jason Garnett – Chief of Parole:

RRD stands for getting individuals off parole early, and if we succeed with what we're supposed to do on the inside, there is a higher chance that the PRB will vote for them to come off parole. Parole does a risk assessment as well, it's based off the LSI, which is used for an individual's risk of reoffending, not their needs. We also put them on supervision levels based off their risks and not their crimes, which is how it used to be done.

The RRD denial rate is going up and steadily climbing, with a quarter of the cases being presented to the PRB being denied, and the highest rate being sex offenders. We have 18,500 individuals on Parole, with District 1 currently has 911 sex offenders in Chicago the area. Doubled in 1 year. Caseload from 25-30, some are up to 80. The sex offender population has gone up due to the Murphy Lawsuit and Stone Lawsuit, which requires us to get these individuals out of the facility because they are doing dead time due to not having a host site to go to. Chief Parrack stated that last fall, they looked at around 150 individuals that were 30-days past their MSR date and began implementing contracts and expanded beds where they could within the registry requirements. Today, there are under 15 people that sit 30-days past their MSR date, and this is because beds are completely full. However, we are working every day to try and get them released. This has in turn, doubled caseloads for Parole Agents. 45-day submissions are currently at 13% approval rate; It was at 87% in April 2023, and is currently at 92.4% in May 2023.

GPS monitoring is going up due to the release of sex offenders, and this is statutorily mandatory. Our population is at 12.35% that's on some type of EM, which is one of our highest rates and will continue to go up due to the release of sex offenders. There are 3% of people on EM, which is not statutorily required. Someone inquired if someone is charged with murder and who is considered a model individual in IDOC's eyes, as they come out of IDOC custody, are they still automatically places on EM? Chief Garnett stated that it's up to the PRB, along with the amount of time on EM. Chief Parrack stated that in 2020, a policy change to the board order was made that took away the ability for Correctional Counselors to recommend EM unless it was statutorily required. Chief Garnett states that this is a big issue, and another policy change issue is that we put people on EM and give them 12 hours of movement.

Confidential Assistant to Director – Shelith Hansbro

Informs everyone that Denise Sturm is retiring and that going forward, any inquiries should be sent to her. She also states that an email account has been set up for every member because they must complete the same trainings that IDOC employees are required to take.

Board Discussion/Inquiries:

None

New Business:

None

Public Comments:

Michelle Alfano, represents Midwest Books to Prisoners. She states that she is discouraged by the treatment she received because she drove to the location and was told she could not join in person due to not having a background check and was told she could join by phone. She says that the public does not seem welcomed and would appreciate if someone could reach out to her and figure out the protocol for attending the meeting in September. She gave her phone number to whoever will reach out to her.

Adjournment:

David Olson made a motion to adjourn, and a consensus was made, meeting adjourned.