



The Illinois Department of Corrections

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Regular Board Meeting of the Adult Advisory Board
 Wednesday, June 26th, 2024 - 10:00 am to 2:00pm
 Location: Sheridan Correctional Center 4017 East 2603 Road, Sheridan, IL 60551

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mb5cd4d4d345debcad4377586a87c675b>

Join by meeting number
 Meeting number (access code): 2630 536 1619
 Meeting password: B7sM8ZV5MY6

Join by phone
 +1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

Committee Member	Present	Telephone	Absent	
Illinois Department of Corrections Staff:				
Acting Director – Latoya Hughes	X			
Assistant Director – Alyssa Williams	X			
Confidential Assistant to Director – Shelith Hansbro	X			
Chief of Programs – Jennifer Parrack	X			
Chief Inspector – Areda Johnson			X	
Chief of Public Safety – Ernest Cato	X			
Chief of Compliance – Michael Crum		X		
Chief of Operations – Justin Hammers		X		
Deputy Director Region 1 – Christine Brannon-Dortch	X			
Deputy Director Region 2 – Angela Locke	X			
Deputy Director Region 3 – Kim Smith			X	
Chief of Administration – Jared Brunk			X	
Policy Advisor to Director – Sophia Manuel	X			
Public Information Officer – Naomi Puzzello		X		
Planning & Research – Sharon Shipinski			X	
Chief of Parole – Jason Garnett		X		
Chief of Women and Family Services – Melinda Eddy	X			
Staff Development and Training Manager – Steve Ryan		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.

Manager of IGR – Marvin Williams		X		
Medical Director – Dr. Steven Bowman			X	
Chief of Mental Health – Dr. Melvin Hinton			X	
Chief of Investigations and Intelligence – Edward Escamilla	X			
Agency Procurement Officer – Jacenta Wilson	X			
Assistant Warden of Programs – Felecia Portwood	X			
Board Members:				
David Olson – Loyola University	X			
Jenny Vollen-Katz – Executive Director of John Howard Association		X		
Nneka Jones-Tapia – Executive Director of Chicago Beyond		X		
Marlon Chamberlain – Heartland Alliance			X	
Sadie Joseph – North Lawndale Employment Network			X	
Richard Watson – Sheriff, St. Clair County		X		
Xavier Williams			X	
John Crivellone – Cook County Public Defender’s Office		X		
Alexis Mansfield – Women’s Justice Institute, Member of the Public			X	
Illinois Coalition for Higher Education in Prison - Lejia Johnson	X			
Attorney in Private Practice - Reena Sikdar	X			
Guest:				
Gwyn Troyer – John Howard, Member of the Public		X		
Damon Petrich – Loyola University – Member of the Public	X			
Jeremy Gorner – Chicago Tribune, Member of the Public		X		
Ashton Hoselton – Policy and Research Director with the Education Justice Project – Member of the Public		X		

Chairman’s Remarks

Shelith Hansbro opens the meeting and Board Chairman starts the meeting, roll call was verified, minutes and agenda were unable to be approved due to quorum of members not being physically present.

IDOC Director’s Report

Director Hughes:

I wanted to report out on three pieces of legislation that will impact the Department of Corrections for this last legislative cycle. The first being the lactation bill HB4819 which directs the Department to provide lactation rooms at each facility that employs nursing mothers. The Department currently has already been implementing this at some of our facilities and will be added to our other facilities to ensure we are in compliance with this bill. In addition, the emergent adult education bill, Senate bill 426, which allows the Department of Juvenile Justice to create an emergent adult program for those that are 18 to 21 years of age who have been committed to the Department of Corrections. The program will range from therapy to vocational training to educational training. This is something the Department will be working with the

Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice to ensure we are compliance as the bill goes into effect. Lastly, there is a bill related to pregnant mothers within the Illinois Department of Corrections, specifically related to how they are restrained, that is HB 5431. This bill codified some of the practices that were already in place for the Department in the way that pregnant prisoners are restrained to ensure that it includes some of the time frame in which the women are in their postpartum phase to be very responsive to their needs. There may be other pieces of legislation come through as we enter Veto Session. The Department will ensure that we keep the board and others updated as it relates to those pieces of legislation that impact the department.

AAB Chair's Report

Dave Olson:

I wanted to provide an update on things that Loyola is involved in that is of interest to the Department. One of the things we are collaborating with the Department on is a survey that they intend to distribute to individuals in custody at Logan and Stateville to solicit feedback and ideas on what a new facility should include and look like. Once we collect the surveys and summarize the information generated it will provide a good point of discussion for a future advisory board meeting in terms of what individuals in custody are reporting. We also recently released a report looking at the sentencing to prison of individuals charged with illegal possession of a firearm. The most interesting part of the report is that is the only category of crime for which there has been an increase in admissions to prison. Admissions to everything else, either remains stable with respect to admission for violent crime. I will provide the link to that report to all advisory board members. Another item we are working on is a report looking at recidivism of people who are released from prison, the Department regularly monitors recidivism rates looking at return to prison. What we are looking at is people arrested after they get out of prison, whether or not they come back to prison. A key take away is most people released from prison do not get arrest for a violent crime, which is counter to public perception. Another take away is we looked at the impact that COVID had on arrests and what we found was people released during the period of mitigation for COVID were less likely to be arrested than people released prior to that. The report reflects the impact that changes in policing had on recidivism and that ultimately has an impact on how many people come back to the Department of Corrections. Another thing I wanted to mention was the recent change to Illinois law that shortened the length of time people are on mandatory supervised release, essentially cutting in half the amount of time that people are supervised, so we are creating a report to analyze what the potential impact of that law changing might be. I will provide the board a link to that report once its published. Another item is we are also putting together a data dashboard that will allow people to look at how many people are sentenced to prison in Illinois, but also how many people are sentenced to probation. The data dashboard will allow you to look at each county or each circuit, by gender, and felony class; this will illustrate how many people are going to prison versus probation.

New Business

Providing Treatment at the Sheridan Correctional Center

Felecia Portwood:

Sheridan Correctional Center is an all-male facility, and we house medium security individuals in custody. Currently we have around 1,200 individuals in custody, but we are able to house a total capacity of 2000 individuals here. We have a total of 13 housing units with 2 being under repair. Our individuals in custody throughout the campus is kind of a dorm setting and we try to house them two individuals per cell. We are known for our programming and Sheridan is one of the top facilities in the nation that offers substance

abuse programming. Outside of programming, we offer health and mental health treatment, as well as education and ICI programming, there is also music classes, vocational classes that our individuals can also attend.

Damon Petrich, Loyola University: The Impact of Treatment Provided at the Sheridan Correctional Center on Recidivism

Please see PowerPoint Presentation

Dave Olson:

When we originally did the research on Sheridan, we didn't have access to information we needed with regards to treatments among all people in the Department, so we were not able to identify people that had similar substance abuse treatment needs as the people at Sheridan. Also, the methodology that Damon described is score matching, at the time the research was started was relatively new and wasn't being used. So, its recognized as a much more robust and sophisticated methodology. Moving forward the most important thing is using a more stringent methodology and really making sure that you are comparing people that went to Sheridan with people that needed treatment that didn't. The results are still the same, we are still seeing a reduction in recidivism. An important and interesting issue that Damon found and what we have found previously is people who didn't access aftercare or fail in it were more likely to do the same today. Another thing we are working on kind of developing more is trying to identify those who do not access aftercare and who fails in aftercare and what kind of things predict that. One of the things we found consistency is the difficulty of access or availability to aftercare in rural communities. Another thing we found was that people who had shorter lengths of mandatory release were less likely to access and complete aftercare than those who had longer.

Director Hughes:

I think it will be interesting to see as MOUD develops inside the department and expands what the data shows as people are being released and if they are being more successful as it relates to after care or a continuing of care.

Dave Olson:

The challenge when you are providing therapeutic intervention within a facility, the individual can focus on it, and not have anything else they must worry about, and once they are released from the facility, the individual now must figure out housing, transportation, and other world issues, so after care is less on their mind.

Measuring the Quality of Prison Life (MQPL) within IDOC

Jenny Vollen-Katz:

Measuring the Quality of Prison Life is a survey instrument, and in collaboration with the Department, the John Howard Association has completed several different kinds of surveys for individuals in custody in IDOC and staff that work in the facilities over the years. The MQPL surveys are climate and cultural focused, but the questions are about the impact, experience, and perceptions with conditions of confinement and the treatment they receive inside the facility and the relationships between individuals who are incarcerated with each other and people who are incarcerated with staff who work in the facilities. The MQPL is a less targets and less specific, but it has some of the same questions and it is what we used to guide our original survey pre COVID. The survey is more about people's experiences and perceptions with relationships, and not about physical infrastructure, programming opportunities, and things along those lines. The survey is more about how the individuals are feeling about the environment

they live in along with the relationships they have with the individuals they live and work with. We received over 8,000 responses and we have taken the results we received and partnered with Dave at Loyola who helped with the data analytics of the survey to create a dashboard with these results, which Dave will walk us through. In addition to the quantitative results, and the ability to compare different things via the dashboard, we have also transcribed all of the comments in marginalia in all of the surveys we received that had comments in marginalia. We have made both those transcriptions available but also top issue to survey comment reports, which are available online. The top issue survey comment reports are a way of looking at how people are feeling differently based on their comments. We used a bunch of different analytics to determine issue frequency by word choice, and there was scientific methodology that is explained at the beginning of every report. Knowing and understanding this information allows for reforms to be put in place that will address the issues that people have, and they will also shine a light on things that are working or training that are effective.

Dave Olson:

Please see MQPL Survey Results attachment.

Shelith Hansbro:

Throughout the year, the Department along with John Howard walk the facilities, and give John Howard the opportunity to review our practices, our policies, and our procedures at that facility we are touring. Another thing I want to point out is we do have quarterly meeting if with John Howard where we discuss issues pointed out during their visits and we also have the opportunity to respond if there are certain areas that don't align with what the Department believes is happening in the facilities.

Update on the Process and Timing for the Temporary Closure of Stateville and Logan

AD Williams:

The Department has completed our COGFA process. With regards to the COGFA process, there is a commission of representatives and senators that listened to testimony relative to the facility closure. The Department had three hearings, two of which were public, one in Will County to accommodate the individual from Stateville and the other in Lincoln to accommodate individuals from Logan County. Both hearings were widely attending by any of the staff and the community members as well as the executive team for the Department. In the process of those meetings, the Director and the executive team will go and provide testimony and then we will answer questions from the commission, and then we sit down, and then the witnesses come up and provide comments and testimony as well. After the hearings, the commission is supposed to come back and provide a recommendation. The commission did not have enough board members to vote on a recommendation, so no recommendation was provided to the Department. With the COGFA, the recommendation is not binding, but a recommendation is normally provided. The Department did receive some opinions from the three COGFA members that participated in each one of the hearings. With no recommendation, we are proceeding with certain things that we must do, one being a land survey at Stateville. The Department wants to see what areas of Stateville grounds that the Department currently owns that are feasible to build on as well as do we have enough space allowable for building. The decision on Logan has not been made, as part of the land survey, we are still contemplating Will County as a potential location for Logan. It is our intention to occupy Logan for as long as we can. With regards to Stateville, it is not feasible for us at this point to have the individuals remain at Stateville, with that we are going through the process of reviewing all of our health services evaluations to make sure the individuals will have all of their appointments, making sure we place the individuals in facilities that can meet their health care needs. The Department is also talking with our programmatic providers and our educational providers to see where they would want to be temporarily

located, some providers have chosen their locations, others are a bit up in the air as to where they want to be located.

Old Business

None

Public Comment

None

Board Open Discussion

Shelith Hansbro:

Friendly reminder to everyone, please ensure your trainings are completed by the end of the year. I will meet with the two newest members of the advisory board to discuss training. Steve Ryan is our training manager, and he will help you get set up to complete your mandatory trainings by the end of the year and in terms of expenses, we can work with you as well in terms of getting an expense report turned in.

Adjournment

There is no quorum to call for a motion for adjournment.

Subcommittee on Women

Update on Logan Correctional Center Rebuild

Nneka Tapia-Jones:

The Sub Committee on Woman want to start by thinking how the board can be supportive and to hear updates on Logan Correctional Centers rebuild, specifically how we can be supportive of the Department and including any key statistics on the population at Logan.

Director Hughes:

The Department has begun stakeholder discussions with various groups to gather feedback and information related to what we should be considering as we look at these rebuilds. The subcommittee can be supportive to the Department by continuing to be a part of the stakeholder discussions as well as also discussing with the subcommittee on some of the things that are being talked about in those stakeholder conversations to be able to help move forward those initiatives will be helpful to the Department.

Emotional Wellness Implementation Plan Updates

Nneka Tapia-Jones:

The subcommittee would like a better understanding of who at Logan is impacted with regards to the rebuild with regards to types of issues and what the women are saying, and any type of data you can provide us.

Director Hughes:

As part of the rebuild process, the Department will be reaching out to all women at Logan gathering their feedback and what they would like to see in a rebuild. We also have had conversations with subgroups of women at Logan, just as we have had with the men at Stateville. Once we gather that information, I think it is important to share it with the subgroup so that we can use effectively in moving this process forward.

Dave Olson:

The Advisory Board Members sent some links to resources on the Departments website. One of the resources available is a fact sheet for women that are in custody with basic information about numbers, their demographics, and the offenses for which they were incarcerated. The Department updates the fact sheet quarterly and makes it public.

Nneka Tapia-Jones:

For the next agenda item, we would like an update on the implementation plan that we started at the end of our last quarter, as well as an update from some of the administrators there on policies, the peer support programming, and the facility wellness programming at both Logan and Decatur.

Melinda Eddy:

With regards to Logan and the Women's division, we are getting ready to launch a peer program called WISE, and it's about a two-year program. It will be the first program that we are launching using community stakeholders as well. We will be having our first discussion on Friday to go over the time frame and laying out the program. We are launching this program first at Logan and then hoping to go to Decatur as well.

Shelith Hansbro:

With regards to staff wellness, the Department is continuing to discuss what should and should not go into policy and procedures regarding the facilities staff wellness program, as well as having discussions with our staff wellness administrator. We want to ensure we are very careful as to what policy and procedures we put in place. As it relates to the Warden manuals, we are wanting to ensure that our Warden's manuals reflect the work that we are doing in terms of staff wellness.

New Business

Melinda Eddy:

With regards to Logan, we are getting ready to submit our first program proposal for our first peer education program. The first step is ensuring we have the Chief of Programs blessing on this, and we should be able to have that in the next week or two.

Shelith Hansbro:

With regards to Decatur, we have a domestic violence program proposal that we are working on where Dove will come in and provide training for the women at Decatur and Logan. I think at our next meeting we will have more areas of discussion as we have been touring facilities and looking at additional options for Decatur.

Adjournment

Nneka Tapia-Jones adjourned.