



The Illinois Department of Corrections

1301 Concordia Court, P.O. Box 19277 • Springfield, IL 62794-9277 • (217) 558-2200 TDD: (800) 526-0844

Regular Board Meeting of the Adult Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda

Thursday – September 29th

10:00 – 12:15pm

Location: Via Webex/Teleconference

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m2d5cd4917f557d8f9852ac7b65ca2e91>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2462 996 6054

Meeting password: 3wFniRwJs78

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-312-535-8110](tel:+1-312-535-8110).,[24629966054##](tel:+1-312-535-8110) United States Toll (Chicago)

[+1-415-655-0002](tel:+1-415-655-0002).,[24629966054 ##](tel:+1-415-655-0002) US Toll

Committee Member	Present	Telephone	Absent	
Illinois Department of Corrections Staff:				
Director - Rob Jeffreys			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 Programs- Jennifer Parrack	X			
Chief Compliance Officer - Jason Hall	X			
Chief of Operations - Justin Hammers	X			
Chief Operating Officer – Jared Brunk			X	
Chief Margarita Mendoza – Women’s Division	X			
Dr. Sharon Shipinski – Planning & Research	X			
Policy Advisor to Director- James Pagano			X	
Public Information Officer - Naomi Puzzello			X	
Chief Legal Counsel – Robert Fanning	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.

Chief of Mental Health – Dr. Hinton		X		
Chief Medical Director - Dr. Bowman	X			
Dr. Sharon Shipinski – Planning & Research	X			
Board Members:				
David Olson – Loyola	X			
Richard Watson - Sheriff – St. Clair County	X			
Nneka Jones - Tapia – Executive Director of Chicago Beyond	X			
Guest:				
Gwynn Troyer – John Howard Association	X			

Chairperson Remarks:

Ms. Hansbro did Roll Call and Mr. Olson opened the meeting and requested those attending, state their name and what department, agency and advocacy group they represented.

Approval of the minutes from March and June meetings were provided to members prior to meeting. Having no questions or concerns, Mr. Olson made a motion to approve and seconded by Sheriff Watson.

Mr. Olson so moved to approve the minutes and seconded by Sheriff Watson.

Director’s Remarks:

Assistant Director Williams updated members on her personal mission to visit each facility, her goal is to include operations, programs, fiscal, correctional industries, mental health, medical, dietary, restrictive housing and commissary. I am receiving input from staff and individuals in custody on medical, mental health, clinical and vocational staff.

I am finding we really need an executive presence, showing them our support, it is so difficult with staff morale, our lack of incentives at this point; so, I felt it was very important for us to get out and visit each facility.

The Department wants to focus on its continued enhancement of our policies. We just had a couple more facilities get ACA accreditation and Jason Hall will give us further updates. We are working with outside partners, such as National Institute of Corrections and Bureau of Justice to start reviewing our policies and help us going forward. Restrictive housing policies and practices will be our first, followed by behavior management units and residential treatment units. We want to make sure we are optimizing services for our individuals in custody.

Executive Staff Updates:

Operations:

Chief Hammers updated members on our Covid numbers, we currently have 115 individuals in custody with 2 hotspots at Illinois River (20) and Sheridan (35), 19 facilities on medical quarantine, 9 partial and 1 full lockdown. 9 facilities have some type of visitation or suspended model. We have no staff or individuals in custody in outside hospitals and showing 78% staff vaccinated and 71% individuals in custody.

Question: Mr. Olson asked what is the current process or protocol when receiving individuals from the counties in terms of commitments? Is there still a quarantine period, are individuals being admitted as soon as they are sentenced or is there a backlog?

Currently we have no backlog with intakes. It is harder for counties to do some of the testing that we require, so we test the individuals when they come from county and are quarantined. Once waiting period is over, we test prior to transferring and if negative there is no 14-day waiting period at the facility they go to.

Sheriff Watson noted from experience the process has gotten better and thanked us for a job well done.

Question: Mr. Olson asked what is the policy with our outside vendors who are working within our facilities?

Our vendors are mandated that everyone be vaccinated, some of our bigger vendors have acknowledged by affidavit that everyone is vaccinated or have stated there is an exemption. It is on our vendors to provide and the same with our visitors. We still require everyone to mask.

Planning and Research:

Dr. Shipinski provided information on admissions, highlighting types of admissions, as well as exits and types of exits. Focusing on population, short and long-term trends and measurements. (Slides were provided)

Looking at 2018 we see Covid really hit all the institutions and jails, we saw a drop in admissions during March April and May, we kept our numbers low during Covid, but our numbers are on the uptake and will soon be normalizing, we will probably not get back to numbers we saw in 2018-2019, but intake operations are returning to normal.

Types:

Our new offense violators are on parole and come back in on a new mitt, it's a steady number, but very low number.

Technical violators remain steady, we don't anticipate a change, but court admissions are the ones driving our population intake. So, court admissions are driving our population.

Admissions by class:

We are looking at what sort of people are coming into the department and a large percentage is murder. Our class X's and class 1's is about 12%, it gets interesting when we look at class 2, 3 and 4. We are seeing an increase in class 2 and 3, with class 4 decreasing. Grouping them together higher level versus lower level, both are steady, but ¾ are class 2, 3 or 4 and are staying for a shorter period and being release on parole.

Exits:

Prior to Covid range from 1800-2000, then Covid hit, and we were searching for ways to get people out. We have gone back to around 1400-1550, this is due to general release dates, good credit time earned, we are not predicting the numbers will go back to pre-covid anytime soon.

The different types of exits were mostly due to parole and MSR, then we court ordered release, or a few died during this period. The chart shows we are exiting fewer to parole than last year. There was a special group exited due to severe medical conditions through our medical furlough program, which was under the Governor's orders, then PBR took over the project.

We had 48 individuals we have tracked since March 2020 who were released due to medical issues, only 8 have returned, which is 16%. Tracking medical releases will continue and will be closely tracked, there was a peak during Covid.

Gate violators:

This group are individuals who are unable to obtain approved host site, on an average about 76 per month in 2021 and decreased to 69 in 2022. A huge effort has been made to identify new and different options for hard to place individuals. The department is focusing a huge effort on identifying new and different options for hard to place individuals. The departments efforts over time have been to decrease the number of gate violators and our numbers will continue to decrease if the exit numbers exceed the admissions numbers. Another area we regularly check are people hooked to radio frequency or GPS monitoring. In 2019 we had 8%, we are now

down to 2 ½%, these numbers are driven by statutory requirements and are elevated a bit at this time.

Classes:

Class X is the biggest driver, about 1/3 are Class X/Murder and the lower class is Class 4 at 6%, which is what we like to see, short stay, this benefits everyone. Class 3 is about 7-8% and Class 2 is about 18%, so 2/3 of our population in prison are class 1 or higher.

Classes by type starting with January 2020 to current, 47% is made up of new court admissions, 25% is made up of technical violators, this includes our gate violators, which is at 2% from county and 23% from jail, we consider these Covid admissions since they were held in jail for a significant number of days prior to coming to us, hopefully we will see a decrease over time.

MSR releases we struggle with due to security level, host sifers or other conditions set by the board. Our female population has about a dozen we are trying to release, but the numbers remain low. We want to see these numbers go down in terms of them being held past their MSR date, progress is being made.

With law changes in the last several years it has allowed us to award more credit time and through the help of Chief Williams and Parrack, progress is moving forward.

Our last group is IIT (boot camp) graduates and those who drop out of the programs, we are working to reconfigure programs and introducing new ones. We will continue to track dropout rate and anticipate our numbers increasing with more programming. We currently have 20 participants in boot camp at Murphysboro.

Questions:

Jones-Tapia asked if numbers could be provided for those technical violators and provide the numbers for the type of people returning?

Dr. Shipinski indicted these would be any of the rules of Basic 16, if you violate the conditions set, it would typically be a new arrest, something that's not super low level. They come back on a new arrest, even if not a conviction yet. Such as, leaving state without permission, cutting your monitor or refusing to be monitored, losing a host site, fighting with a spouse, there are many factors which would cause them to come back.

Jones-Tapia, I understand the guidelines, but my general sentiment would be to look at specific reasons people are violating and discuss why and find solutions and try to minimize these.

Olson: We have started a study and we are looking at why they are coming back, what is the reason for the violation, and we found there are two groups, those who are violated at the gate because they have no host site, primarily individuals who are required to register as sex

offenders, housing is very limited in this area. The other is domestic battery and under state law, parole is required to issue a warrant and return them. Recently we are seeing a large volume of illegal firearm possession. There are few incidents where they are returned on a technical violation, like a missed appointment or not complying with treatment.

Chief Garnett: We watch technical violations and most of them who come back have been diverted more than once, so we try to minimize these and with host sites we still try to find a place, even if it is a paid placement.

Policy & Directives:

Chief Hall department supervises audit process, both internally and externally for IDOC, Jail and Detention Standards, Policy and Directives unit and Environmental Health compliance. The external audits are based off fiscal calendar year, which started in July and runs through June 2023. We are back in the facilities working with the office correctional medicine to ensure we are following and meeting our policies and determining where improvement is needed. We are partnering with the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare practices, with focus on our healthcare and mental health practices, focusing on Dixon, Pontiac and Joliet.

Secondly, we are working with ACA accreditations in all our facilities, we just finished Big Muddy River and had a 100% compliance on mandatory and 99% on non-mandatory. The audits are very in-depth and will help us understand where our insufficient and where improvement is needed.

Thirdly, we are reviewing over 400 policies, making sure they are current, once reviewed they will be posted on our website.

Lastly, PREA compliance where we are working with facilities and training supervisors and administrative staff to better understand these allegations and track them better. We track inmate on inmate sexual harassment, inmate on inmate abuse and staff misconduct. The more training provided can help decrease these incidents from occurring. Security protocols are improving with the addition of camera and mirrors being placed in those blind areas.

Questions:

Jones-Tapia: I want to be sure the process for reporting is working for individuals incarcerated, the number going down is not a blip, but actual decrease in incidents.

Hall: Our focus is more training, working with the federal government and John Howard Association reporting process has helped identify the actual allegations and this has led to a decrease. We are working to improve, its not perfect, we have one person handling 34 facilities and 1 compliance person. We are working to get more staff which will enable us to better investigate.

Jones-Tapia: What checks, and balance exist to support improvement?

Hall: We have contractual staff in healthcare. Medical is insufficiently staffed which was evident these past few weeks for audit at Big Muddy River. Unfortunately, the national trend in the medical field was decimated due to Covid and its is hard hiring them back. Medical personnel can make twice as much becoming a traveling nurse/physician.

Jones-Tapia: We as a group need to keep on eye on this, just last week there was federal hearing about provisions on the medical care.

New Business:

Ms. Hansbro: We are still waiting to hear back in terms of the process for applicants who are interested in applying and participating on the board. If you know of individuals whoa re interested, they need apply through the Governors Office of Appointments and Commissions. We have a contact person in the office and have a meeting scheduled with her, her name is Natalie Pine. Secondly, we are working on securing badge/state IDs for members.

I have reached out regarding the open meeting training which all board members are required to have, I have reached out to our training unit, and they will provide a presentation/training at our next meeting.

Public Comments:

Gwynn Troyer, JHA thanked the members for the opportunity to join and thanked Dr. Shipinski for information and staff for providing updates.

Adjournment:

Mr. Olson made a motion to bring meeting to an end and Sheriff Watson made a motion to adjourn and Ms. Jones-Tapia seconded the motion.