



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
Tuesday, September 24th, 2024 - 10:00 am to 11:30 am
Location: Via Webex/Teleconference

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m3bd24ef9ab80b25baffda7b91cec280b>

Join by meeting number
Meeting number (access code): 2631 962 7531
Meeting password: t3UP5Vmp33U

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 Women and Family Services – Melinda Eddy			X	
Staff Development and Training Manager – Steve Ryan		X		
Manager of IGR – Marvin Williams		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.

Medical Director – Dr. Steven Bowman			X	
Chief of Mental Health – Dr. Melvin Hinton			X	
Chief of Investigations and Intelligence – Edward Escamilla		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				
Attorney in Private Practice - Reena Sikdar		X		
Guest:				
Gwyn Troyer – John Howard, Member of the Public		X		
Lucy Einstein – Loyola University – Member of the Public		X		
Ashton Hoselton – Policy and Research Director with the Education Justice Project – Member of the Public		X		

Chairperson Remarks:

Ms. Hansbro begins the meeting and Board Chairmain Mr. Olson starts the meeting, roll call was verified. Minutes from June’s meeting is unable to be approved due to the meeting being virtual. Meeting minutes will be approved at our next meeting. Agenda for today’s meeting were called for a vote. Agenda for today’s meeting was approved.

IDOC Director’s Report

Director Hughes:

In accordance with the preliminary injunction granted in the Dhaba case, the department has been underway with transferring individuals in custody from Stateville proper to other facilities within our system. The preliminary injunction requires that we do so by September 30th and we are on task to ensure that we have complied with the preliminary injunction by September 30th. With regards to Stateville, the Department continues to work with CDB as it relates to land and environmental assessments of the land at Stateville to ensure that the land is appropriate for the building of a new facility. We look forward to in future re engage with our stakeholders to gather their feedback to take into consideration as to what the new facility design would look like. The Department is also actively negotiating the contract for a vendor to provide tablets to the individuals in custody free of charge.

AAB Chair's Report

Dave Olson:

The Center for Criminal Justice completed a report looking at the one year after the implementation of the Pre-Trial Fairness Act. We will be reviewing, once there is sufficient time for cases to move through the courts, is the degree to which the changes in pre-trial detention impact admissions to IDOC and the length of stay in IDOC. Currently, our focus is primarily on the impact the Act has had on hearings, jail populations, and pre-trial supervision. Another one of our involvements is we were given the opportunity to spend a morning and speak with the students in the policy study group at Danville Correctional Center. The students are looking at the policy and truth and sentencing, and one of the things we are starting to look at is almost half of all the people in the Department are subject to truth and sentencing currently, which will limit the number of credits they can receive. We have also collaborated with the Department to develop a survey for the individuals in custody at Logan and Stateville. The survey was to solicit their input on what types of physical features and programmatic features they would like to see at a new facility. We are hoping to have those surveys collected and analyzed soon for the Department and the Advisory Board. The Center is continuing to work on our project the Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network; our work is with parole office in five sites across the state assisting to develop materials to help better educate behavior health in communities, but also about what parole is and what it is not. We have also been awarded a grant to work with the Women's Justice Institute to provide research that supports the ongoing planning and system improvement efforts for Women in DOC.

Board Member Updates

Alexis Mansfield:

The Women's Justice Institute is also creating another survey with the Center for Criminal Justice regarding the impact of domestic violence and traumatic brain injuries on women in DOC. We have also completed the first family fun day at Logan Correctional Center in August. It was a massive success, we had over a hundred participants for the day, and it was also our first time being able to include DCFS involved families as well. We look forward to more of those opportunities for family bonding. There is a lot of programming coming up, as October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, including Look at Me, the 4th Annual Performance of the Domestic Violence Play at Logan will be on October 23rd. We also have the Poetry Slam that we are hoping will happen from Decatur, Fox Valley, and Cook County Jail, that will take place on October 30th from noon to 2pm.

New Business

Status of Movement of Individuals from Stateville and Closing of the Facility

Justin Hammers:

Currently to date, there are 397 individuals that have either been transferred to a new facility or paroled from Stateville. We look to have all transferred completed to meet the deadline of September 30th. We will be leaving approximately 24 individuals who will be assigned to the infirmary unit at Stateville.

Sadie Joseph:

With regards to the 24 individuals assigned to the infirmary at Stateville, what is the reason those individuals in custody are staying in Stateville?

Justin Hammers:

The 24 individuals have been identified by our Office of Health Services to remain at Stateville for continuation of care and dialysis. We look to transfer those individuals in the future if possible.

Dave Olson:

Has there been a specific facility or a limited number of facilities that most of the individuals have been transferred to or has it been widespread throughout the state?

Justin Hammers:

We have a couple of our facilities that have received a higher number of individuals than others. We did try make it as widespread as best as we could, but we did have facilities like Sheridan and Illinois River, they received a higher number of individuals based on the programming.

State Fiscal Year 2024 Individuals in Custody

Dave Olson:

Next item on the agenda is to get an overview and insight on the report that Dr. Sharon Shipinski's office completes into the basic information, characteristics, and number of individuals in custody at the end of this most recent fiscal year. The link to this report is on the agenda.

Sharon Shipinski:

Our office completes a robust volume of documents, numbers, and data sets and with that information, we create a fact sheet, and we place them online to make them available for the public and the academic world for those to be able to have to get a feel for and work with some of our numbers in DOC. Within our website you can locate these reports under the reports tab, there is a drop down that will then show you various live links to available reports.

Identification and Discussion of Major IDOC Initiatives for State Fiscal Year 2025

Shelith Hansbro:

The Department has been working on increasing technology for our individuals in custody for education and programming with the means of communication devices, we are currently working on the vendor contract currently. The Department has also been applying for several grants to fund the wiring of classrooms for internet, purchasing computers, and educational software, so we are able to increase our capacity at our facilities. We are also in the process of moving towards digital tape, which should reduce and improve our waitlists for programming.

AD Williams:

With regards to the tablets, we are working with a company called IC Solutions and we are at the final stages of the contract. We are anticipating rolling out that contract October 1st. IC Solutions has completed site surveys of all of our facilities to determine what type of infrastructure is needed along with wireless access points. IC Solutions anticipants installation of all the infrastructure to be completed by May, also as we go from facility to facility, the tablets will be provided to all individuals in custody. With the tablets, there are multitudes of things they can provide that our current tablets do not. The tablets will have the Priya module, a grievance module, LexisNexis, and education modules. There is also the ability if we choose to utilize the tablet for mail scanning as well.

Sadie Joseph:

With regards to transferring individuals in custody being moved out of Logan Correctional Center and transferred to another facility will the individuals still have a technology available to them?

AD Williams:

The Department is anticipating the individuals at Logan to be there if the facility allows it for another five years, so we are putting the infrastructure into Logan as well. When the new facility is built for the women, it will already have the infrastructure in place as part of the design process.

Alexis Mansfield:

As you mentioned if the Department chooses to utilize the mail scanning component, will there be a discussion about that if the Department is considering utilizing that component?

AD Williams:

The Department is having ongoing conversations with multiple entities regarding utilizing the mail component.

Alexis Mansfield:

Will the tablet provide court access and video visits for the individuals in custody?

AD Williams:

The Department is hoping the wireless access points will be placed that the individuals in custody will be able to have a more private video visits than the current tablets or the kiosks would allow. The tablet will also have phone call options and things like that. For court access, we don't think that it is feasible for privacy settings.

Alexis Mansfield:

Will the tablet have printing capabilities?

AD Williams:

The Department hasn't had a conversation regarding a printing option, so we will investigate that as an option.

Shelith Hansbro:

Decatur Correctional Center is looking at additional life skills efforts which would possibly include a day release program. The Department has sent several staff members up to Kewanee Life Skills and Re-Entry Center to look into how the facility is operated. As well as looking into policies and met with different staff members including our union, who has been supportive of these efforts. We are looking forward to keeping the board updated on what it will look like, and we have community partners that will assist us. We currently working on figuring it in house and then we will bring those back in terms of where we go moving forward. There are a lot of warehousing and manufacturing type of jobs close to the facility, and we believe that will build off the curriculum that they are receiving through the ICI program at Decatur. Onto our next initiative, the Department is expanding our medications for opioid use disorder program across all facilities. We have had technical assistance from SAMSHA. There is also potential opioid settlement funds and we have signed an intergovernmental agreement with DHS to be able to receive some of those funds as well. The Department has a team working on these efforts and have traveled together to research some fund opportunities for the Department. We have begun the administration of MOUD in some of our facilities as well.

Sophia Manuel:

In our women's facility the Department has piloted MOUD beginning last summer. We are offering all three types of MOUD, and we are continuing with individuals who come into the facility on MOUD, as well as initiating if they have opioid use disorder and are interested in MOUD. We are now in the process of taking what we have learned in our women's facilities with regards to MOUD into our men's facilities. Last month, a working policy was issued to our medical staff stating that if an individual comes into your facility on MOUD, the Department is to continue MOUD. In the future, the Department hopes to grow the project to starting to initiate men who come into our facilities with opioid use disorder to join MOUD if they would like too.

Dave Olson:

Does the Department know how many individuals are coming into the Department on MOUD?

Sophia Manuel:

The Department has around 60 to a hundred individuals on who are on MOUD, with majority being women. The number is low on the men's side due to majority of the county jails are tapering individuals off MOUD before they send them to IDOC, which will be changing next month when we go public about our update regarding the MOUD in our men's facilities.

Shelith Hansbro:

The Department will also be kicking off a resume database created by NYU called OnBoard. This will provide a platform with vetted employers that can post available jobs and announcements, as well as our individuals in custody can post their resumes. It will be a wonderful resource for our individuals as they re-enter our communities. Another item of focus is with the support from the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Department has an opportunity to increase post release housing resources and with that the Department has hired senior policy advisor Richard Rowe, and he will be leading the Department in the initiatives regarding housing, as that has been an issue for the Department when we have released our individuals in custody back into our communities. We are looking forward to how we will be able to expand our resources out into the community and housing has been a commodity and we want to ensure we are doing all we can to assure that our individuals in custody have safe and affordable housing when they go home. A couple other things worth mentioning is the Department is working with the vendor on building an electronic medical record. We are continuing to increase vocational training opportunities such as adding mobile welding labs in two facilities, beginning CDL simulator trainings at five of our facilities, and our industry programs are changing at Western and Illinois River.

Current Staffing Opportunities at IDOC; Number of Vacant Positions, by Position Types

Justin Hammers:

One of the areas the Department has struggled to fill is our correctional officer vacancies throughout the state. We have made some headway through active and thorough recruitment and hiring events all throughout the state. The Department has also explored opportunities with the Union and potentially doing a regional type training as well.

Dave Olson:

Are there any other titles or position types that the Department is seeing a deficit in?

Justin Hammers:

The Department continues to see challenges in hiring medical and mental health positions.

Old Business

Shelith Hansbro:

Reminder about our mandatory training, Steve Ryan is on the call and if you have any questions, please let Steve or I know, also new members if you have not been added to OneNet, please let me know so Steve and I can get you added. We must have our mandatory trainings completed by the end of the year.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment:

Sadie Joseph made a motion to adjourn and Jenny Vollen-Katz seconded, meeting adjourned