

IDOC Adult Advisory Board Minutes

Monday, January 22nd, 2018

Video Conference – Springfield & JRTC

10:30am – 12:00pm

Attendance Chicago: David Olson, Phil Whittington, Edna R. Lee, Carlos Quezada-Gomez, Katrina Burlett, Dr. Melvin Hinton

Attendance in Springfield: John Baldwin, Rich Stempinski, Carolyn Gurski, Keith Lape, Sharon Shipinski, Lindsay Poeschel, Richard Watson

Guests Springfield: Deborah Helrigal

Call in: Anita Bazile-Sawyer

- I. David Olson called the meeting to order at 10:32 am
- II. Approval of the October meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes. Minutes approved. Nominations for Advisory Board and Women's Subcommittee chairpersons. Motion to nominate Phil Whittington as new Advisory Board Chair. Motion seconded. All in favor, no opposed. Motion to nominate Edna R. Lee as new vice-chair of Advisory Board and Chair of Women's Subcommittee Chair. All in favor, no opposed.
- III. Director's Report – Tracey Williams is on leave of absence until further notice. Any needs going forward are to be directed to Lindsay Poeschel. Biggest issue since last board meeting: HOK firm bridging documents. 30% completion of a design build program that we are working on in the next 6 months for 200-bed in-patient treatment facility. 25 of those beds purely for medical, built on land we currently own. Our goal is to be occupied sometime in 2021, long time in the future but fastest construction for IDOC. Stateville CC, Menard CC, and Pontiac CC are down in staff assaults. Logan CC, Pontiac CC & Dixon CC: 75% of the staff assaults at these facilities are from SMI offenders. A 200-bed medical operation has been submitted to the Governor's office for approval, looking to be located in Cook County's medical district, this project TBD. No remedy given at latest Rasha hearing, we've had short-term success but need long-term. Joliet and Elgin will help to establish long-term success. 2018 more robust in helping staff deal with issues at work/home, Desert Waters program trains to deal with that, continues our ongoing effort to help staff help themselves.

Dr. Hinton regarding staff assaults: In the event there is need for a cell-extraction, a de-escalation team trained in verbal judo will be sent before the extraction to deescalate the situation. Ideally we will have a de-escalation team at every facility. This will help combat the staff assault issue.

Whittington: How is Verbal Judo different than what health professionals are doing?

Hinton: It involves a number of different staff members instead of just mental health staff. It is a much more structured process with evidence-based practices and the ability to deescalate a situation 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

- IV. Population Trends in IDOC, Sharon Shipinski - Gave overview on population trends based on data which included total admissions, parole violators, expansion in sentence credits and length of stay. Further detailed documents and hand-outs are attached.
- V. Mental Health Services, Dr. Hinton - Total population numbers are going down, but we are not seeing that in the mental health population. Psychiatry is a need for us, as is nationwide. Since last update to healthcare contract, out of 72 positions they are currently 40% filled. Tried and made adjustments to resources. Areas of Telehealth and Telepsychiatry are less than 50% filled. DOC allocated 34 PhD-level psychologists, currently 16 positions are filled. Population versus professionals we have in place continues to be a struggle. Vendors report recruitment efforts to help. Vendor good in providing data, but have not been able to bring us closer to allocation. There are a number of serious backlog areas as well. Staffing, recruitment and retention are issues. Department has asked for an aggressive plan to fill these needs.
- VI. Kewanee Programs/Services, Director Baldwin – We continue to make progress at Kewanee. There are 138 people there right now, will increase to 300-350 in the next three months. We are working with Harvard on who gets admitted. Max capacity for Kewanee is 600, trying to keep it 300-350. Lake Land College involved/interested in offering training in different trades like welding, trucking, solar population, etc. All would be outside the institution. This would provide real job opportunities for people to decrease the chances of coming back to us. Murphysboro facility which focuses on low-risk, low-need people opens today. It is a minimum security facility with 120-200 max capacity. Suggested next Advisory Board meeting be held at Kewanee.
- VII. Education/Programs, Rich Stempinski – Education/Programming is going well. On target for same amount of GED numbers as last year. Vocational waitlist is down and doing well. Working on staffing which continues to be down, (lowest in a few years) and we are waiting on positions posted to be filled. Librarian staff is needed and is a priority for us. Program sentence credit; currently opening 2000 PSE contracts, will be close to 3000 new contracts. We are continuing to evaluate our programs and look for expansion.
- VIII. SSC, Carolyn Gurski - New statute has very little changes. New name is Earned Discretionary Sentence Credit. Jim Austin created new risk assessment tool used. ISP information creates a risk assessment value to determine SSC days, etc. New system does require description of denial.

- IX. Earned Time Eligibility, Anita Bazile-Sawyer – EPSC group met weekly to examine what programs defined by law, coordinated a workgroup, formulated general categories for all existing programs, develop tiers, etc. to form. We are paying close attention to cognitive/behavioral programs to reduce recidivism over time. Process of categorizing will occur between now and mid-February to set criteria for 3 tiers. Targeting evidence based group therapy. Received quote on electronic medical record – same system that Cook Co. uses.
- X. Status of Changes recommended by State Commission, Davis Olson – Discussed reclassifying inmate automated system, security classification and automated risk assessment. Loyola University is working with ICJIA to support strategic planning. Five jurisdictions have seen reduced arrests over last few years. Pleased with the new commission report. Have started GRI, still on ins count, put on electronic monitoring with wrap-around services. Hopefully have very positive results.
- XI. Transition to Women’s Subcommittee Meeting – Governor Rauner visited Logan last Tuesday and toured the facility. Training staff in 5-step program focusing on how to deal with female offenders. Guest Deborah Helregal, former inmate at Logan CC, gave a summary to the group on her experiences at Logan.
- XII. Motion to adjourn. There was a 2nd. No discussion or opposition. Motion carries. Meeting concluded at 12:51pm.