

STATE COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2008

The Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

1:10 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

APPROVED

I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Alfred Butzbaugh, John Phillips, Bernard Parker (1:15 p.m.), Charles Brown, Dennis Schrantz, Brigette Officer, Dennis McMurray, Stuart Dunnings (1:15 p.m.), and Larry Inman.

ABSENT: Inez Brown, Louis Dean, Carl Solden and George Zulakis.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Larry Inman indicated that at the request of Ken Brzozowski under agenda item VIII, Consent Calendar Items are Midyear Review and Residential Services and at this time he would like to add training. This change was made.

Motion made by Charles Brown, supported by Dennis Schrantz, to approve the agenda as presented with changes.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

III. BOARD MEMBER'S RE-APPOINTMENTS

Larry Inman advised that John Phillips, Louis Dean, George Zulakis, and Carl Solden are Board members that are up for re-appointment and those appointments are pending in the Governor's Office.

IV. APPROVAL OF August 16, 2007 MINUTES:

Motion made by Brigette Officer and supported by Charles Brown, to approve the August 16, 2007 Minutes as written.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

V. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brzozowski gave a presentation on Prison Commitment data thru the Calendar year 2007. The data shows a continued trend with more dispositions being shown statewide, and the dispositions have increased about 1.4% which was about 800 more dispositions, with fewer actual prison commitments. This success is partially attributed to the work that the CCAB managers do and the programs they are running that are diverting offenders from prison.

Administrator Brzozowski advised that the overall dispositions to prison are at 20.7% which is approximately 400 less offenders to prison. This year the focus was placed on Group II offenses and the actual dispositions decreased in the Group II category. The overall numbers for intakes for the first quarter of this calendar year has observed an 11% drop in intake.

Administrator Brzozowski indicated that when reviewing the rates, and comparing the straddle cell commitment rates there are some counties that appear to be way above the state rate of 35%. Administrator Brzozowski advised that even though percentage rates may be high, many times cases need to be reviewed to determine what actually is causing the high rates. Administrator Brzozowski took a look at some cases in OMNI and found that many of the straddle cells were Group I crimes and about 1/3 of the cases were OUIL 3rd offenders that had an extensive OUIL history or on probation when the crime occurred.

Deputy Director Schrantz asked if there was any explanation as to the increase in dispositions, and asked if it could be spikes in crime, and asked if anyone had any ideas as to why the increase is happening in some communities and not in others. Mr. Dunnings and Mr. Phillips indicated they felt the economy was a big influence on dispositions. Mr. Phillips indicated that property crimes seem to be skyrocketing and Charles Brown indicated that they are seeing a big increase in juvenile crime being bound over to adult court because of the severity and violence of the crime. Dean Ross the Muskegon County Sheriff added that they have seen an increased effort in felony non-child support convictions, sex offender registry violators and sex offender violations.

Deputy Director Schrantz indicated that the same issue was discussed by the legislature, and one of the discussions had to do with the relationship between prison and crime and most of the research showed that there is some relationship between crime reduction and imprisonment but only about 25% and the representation that dollar for dollar research is showing that there is actually a better correlation dollar for dollar impact on crime with more law enforcement.

Mr. Parker asked that even if there might be a spike in crime what is the difference between Michigan and Ohio and some of the other Midwestern states that do not have the incarceration rates that Michigan has and do the states with less incarceration rates have more programs or are their judges less likely to place offenders in prison.

Administrator Brzozowski continued with a brief discussion on residential services. He indicated that the main goal this past year was to increase efficiencies and reduce the lapsed dollars and statistics indicate there will be 1/3 less lapsed dollars then last year.

Deputy Schrantz advised that working with offenders that have a pattern of violence may need to be reviewed at some point if this organization wants to move forward, and also stated that there isn't much of a difference between a violent and nonviolent offender, some may have a nonviolent crime with a violent history and others a violent crime with a nonviolent history, the issue is really about risk assessment and management of that risk.

Administrator Brzozowski continued with information regarding the comprehensive plans and services and indicated that the current utilization and programs statewide are relatively stable from last year and currently we fund approximately 240 programs and most have jail credits. Data shows that through the midyear CCABs have reported over 350,000 jail beds saved and with the dollars saved, jail crowding is being eliminated.

Administrator Brzozowski advised that the Fiscal Year 2009 application has been sent out to the CCAB managers and that the document is due back to the Office of Community Corrections on May 30th. Administrator Brzozowski also indicated that training was offered to new CCAB managers regarding the 2009 application.

Charles Brown had one comment and that he agreed that the beds are really helping out but we are not eliminating over crowding we are just reducing it. The counties are at higher numbers then they have ever been.

VI. BUDGET UPDATE

Deputy Director Schrantz presented a great deal of information to the Board regarding the state budget and touched on the following issues:

- State budget office summary of the governor's recommendation for the budget with focus on improved efficiencies and improved policies in all departments.
- The MDOC represents 20% of the entire state budget, and the corrections budget has surpassed two billion dollars.
- This department has reduced its spending by ½ billion dollars.
- In the justice arena the administration this year took a different tack and this issue was addressed by the Governor in her budget message where she asked the legislature to work with her to come up with justice policies.
- Took advantage of the national effort to assist states in doing the work and entered into an agreement with the Counsel of State Governments, which has received funding from charitable trust funds which allows them to work with 14 states in the country on justice policies. One of the first benchmarks was to look at the governor's budget recommendation which was a cut of 50 million dollars.
- With every one dollar achieved through justice reforms we would hope to achieve two in efficiencies. The department must evaluate how we do classification/reclassification, and what the security levels are in each prison. The security levels dictate the staffing patterns, which in turn drive the personnel cost, which is 85 % of our total prison costs.
- The Department is examining health care costs and particularly the cost of mentally ill prisoners.
- The policies that are being reviewed have to do with looking at communities that may have a higher number of probation violators going to prison, looking at parole technical female violators, expansion of GPS tether, polygraph testing, and expanding a very successful Special Alternative Incarceration Program (SAI) that would allow a very limited number of prisoners in their second prison term to be engaged in that program.
- Remodeling the entire boot-camp program to be totally engaged in the reentry process where there is a 26% improvement in prison failures.

The following questions were asked by Board Members and Mr. Schrantz replied:

- Q: How many unfunded beds are in the prison system?
A: Due to the closing of 13 facilities there are many unfunded beds in the prison system.
- Q: What discussions are there regarding truth in sentencing?
A: There will be no recommendations for changes regarding truth in sentencing.
- Q: Is there any correlation between the 11,000 prisoners that are serving their second prison sentence and the 11,000 that came out of MPRI program?
A: No, we have had about 8,000 engaged in the MPRI program.

Mr. Inman asked if there were any more questions:

Mr. Parker indicated he didn't have a question but a comment that was in regards to the MDOC budget for Community Corrections. He stated that there has not been an increase in three or four years in the budget and it has been very difficult to do anything innovative or different because the money barely allows the counties to maintain what they are currently doing. Mr. Parker asked if there was something that the Board could do about making a statement or acting as advocates for the need of increased funding.

Mr. Inman agreed and advised that the counties are feeling strained as to the allocations received but are also grateful because this is one of the few grant programs that doesn't require matching

funds. Mr. Inman indicated that this might be an opportune time to request additional funding and asked what issues other members had.

Both Mr. Phillips and Ms. Officer both stated that a major concern is with those incarcerated that have mental health issues, and Ms. Officer felt that mental health was the main problem that needed to be addressed and that a large portion of criminals have mental health issues. Mr. McMurray asked if the Department tracked mental illness.

Deputy Director Schrantz advised that mental illness was tracked at intake and assessments show about 24% of those coming into the prison system have mental health history and about 14% have serious persistent mental health problems.

Based on the issues raised there was discussion about forming a committee to take a look at possible special funding for special populations and successful programs. It was determined that it was too late to present a request for the 2009 budget but if a well thought out plan based on the different perspectives of members and the proposal was very specific in nature it could be targeted for the 2010 budget.

Mr. Inman indicated that this issue should be added to the agenda for the August Board meeting and a committee could be formed to come up with three to five items that may be targeted for the 2010 budget.

VII. MPRI Update

LeAnn Duran presented an update on the implementation on the MPRI model which included.

- Mission – prisoners will have tools necessary to succeed.
- Reduce crime – retool and enhance what we are doing on the inside so better prepared when the inmate comes home.
- Planning and working with all agencies.
- Update on evidence based practice, for greatest impact need to target high/moderately high risk offenders.
- Goals – promote public safety, reduce the number of victims, increase success of former prisoners, and reduce the cost associated with crime.
- Consistently see a 26% improvement on return to prison rate.
- Currently implementing the MPRI model in every community in the state.
- In addition to the standard process there are special projects for prisoners with special needs. There is also a mental health reentry project for prisoners with severe and persistent mental illness.
- Launching a special project for medically fragile prisoners with very extensive health care needs.
- For the Fiscal Year 2009 looking at a special project for the youth that are in the facilities and developing special reentry process to meet the special needs of that population.

The following questions were asked by Board Members and Ms. Duran replied:

- Q: Are the people that have been re-arrested but don't return to the department as parolees, are they included in the success rate?
A: That is the return to prison rate.

Mr. Brown advised that a 26% success rate gives a wrong message because we are not really getting a 26% success rate. If the MDOC wants everyone to get on board it needs to be done as a team effort. Deputy Director Schrantz indicated the numbers are honest numbers but they don't tell the whole story. Recidivism can be measured several ways, by re-arrest, reconviction, those that

are convicted of new crimes that go to jail, or the simplest way is what the Department does and is based on whether a person has failed and returned to prison. The reentry initiative has said from the beginning that the first thing we can measure is the statistic of how many are failing to the point where they return to prison. The purpose of reentry is safer neighborhoods but we are not measuring a reduction in crime only if that crime sends someone back to prison. The counties are being financially hit by arrest, pretrial, and on convictions when sentenced to jail. The Department is moving in the direction to engage the law enforcement community more meaningfully than what we have in the past. We have got to do a better job in county jail reimbursement, and the issues should be more about public safety instead of just housing people in the jails.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

Midyear Reviews from Muskegon County:

An overview was given by Administrator Brzozowski and he explained that Muskegon was asked to attend so that they could share what Muskegon County is doing and what direction they are heading towards.

A brief history was given by Vern Nash on the changes that Muskegon County has been going through and that a different approach has been taken as far as the budget impact and how the community makes the corrections program work to benefit the community. Mr. Nash advised that the vision for Muskegon County is not just to look at the jail but to take a look at the quality of life for the residents of Muskegon County. Mr. Nash also covered how the CCAB needs to take a look at accountability not just with the criminals but also how does the County prevent recidivism, the resources are currently being used in the jail system, and indicated that it was especially important to cover this issue when approaching the community for additional funds. The CCAB have also invited several staff back to the board that haven't been involved for a period of time and have found that judges are even getting more creative in how they are sentencing.

The County received federal funds to implement a new system for screening and assessment, which will give the County a complete background for those coming into the jail which is similar to the MPRI program. Targets have not changed and they are still straddle cell offenders that are headed to prison. Mostly there has been a change in the philosophy with a vision for the quality of life and that this is not just a community of corrections program but a community of corrections concept.

County Commissioner Schneider advised that a Criminal Justice Coordinating Counsel has been put in place, with participation from all venues in the criminal justice system, which has been lacking in prior years.

Deputy Director Schrantz congratulated the County for a very honest assessment and working toward a goal that is bigger and broader than the CCAB.

Residential Services:

Bill DeBoer the Executive Director of KPEP along with Jim Edwards and Dick Creyts presented information regarding residential services and the American Corrections Association accreditation process.

Information was provided in regards to the costs/funding of residential services, programs, how residents are assessed and what a daily schedule would look like for a resident. Additional information was shared on accreditation, the cost, the process, and the benefits of being accredited.

Area Training:

Barb Hankey the President of the Michigan Association of Community Corrections Advisory Board, provided information in regards to training that will be offered at the judicial symposium in May. The

opening session was going to be presented by the pre-trial institute and there would also be a presentation in regards to evidence based sentencing.

The MACCAB in conjunction with the OCC has collaborated to bring those two speakers on May 20th to the Lansing Center. This will be a very practical and useful training.

IX. STATE BOARD PRIORITIES:

Administrator Brzozowski proposed revisions to the State Board's priorities that would eliminated parole violators as a target population since this group may now be targeted by local MPRI steering committees and part of the local MPRI comprehensive planning process.

Larry Inman asked if there were any questions and hearing none accepted a motion to approve by Bernard Parker with support by Stuart Dunnings.

VOTE – Passed unanimously

X. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

XI. OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

XIII. ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.