

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Governor's Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force
Monday, December 03, 2007
Room 1B, LOB

Members Present: Ana G. Alfaro, Brian Austin, Maureen Price-Boreland, William Carbone, Judge Patrick Carroll(for Judge Barbara Quinn), Linda Cimino, Eric Crawford, , John Danaher, Robert Farr, Thomas Flaherty, Mary Galvin, Lisa Holden, Kevin Kane, James Kenny ,Thomas Kirk, Theresa Lantz, Lisa MacDonald, MaryAnne O'Neill, Karen Goodrow (for Susan Storey), Judge Thomas West

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m., by Lisa Holden, Co-chair

First to Present: Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Department of Correction, (DOC)

Commissioner Lantz discussed programs that are offered to the inmates while incarcerated. She also spoke of some challenges that prisons have today and what is entailed in the release process.

Staff members Joseph O'Keefe and Donna Cupka spoke about the release process and how they prepare the inmates for this day. There is extensive planning for release, whether it is setting up for housing, employment or medical provisions, all of these things are taken into consideration before the final release to make the transition back into the community a little easier. Mr. O'Keefe stated the longer the incarceration the higher recidivism rate appeared to be. When inmates were released with some supervision this showed a lower recidivism rate.

Ms. Cupka stated at the end of the inmates sentence they would all be trained in how to use the 211 phone line for information on any programs that are offered with their transition back into the community.

Ms. Lantz (DOC), spoke of programs while being incarcerated. Throughout the prison population in Connecticut there are at least 12,000 inmates in G.E.D. programs. Roughly 1,000 will achieve their G.E.D's within fifteen months of their sentence.

Commissioner Lantz spoke of her challenges in prisons today. Some include info technology; data information sharing is not at its best and there should be a new platform for better communications put into place. She would like to have the community involved in working with (DOC), she could not emphasize enough that community safety comes first.

Identification is a major issue; this is work in progress. Birth Certificate copies can be very expensive for every inmate. Currently (DOC) is working with the Department of Motor Vehicle where they will come into the prisons facilities and make secondary identification cards for the inmates.

Research and evaluation is a concern, the data can be collected but there is not enough staff to do the analysis.

Second to Present: Maureen Price-Boreland, Esq. Executive Director Community Partners in Action.

Ms. Boreland spoke in detail of the goals of effective prison reentry. Some that included safer communities, reduced recidivism, and reduced incarceration cost to the state. She also feels the premise and the need for community programs/services. Approximately 96% of those incarcerated will return to the community. The period following release is a critical transition point for offenders. Ms. Boreland spoke of managing re-entry so that fewer crimes are committed enhancing public safety. Issues with re-integration include men and women who are re-entering with low levels of education and vocational skills. Many with health related issues to include mental health and substance abuse. Most are returning to concentrated communities which are already deprived of resources and ill equipped to meet the challenges of this population. (Five towns reflect 50% of the incarcerated population Bridgeport, New Britain, New Haven, Waterbury, Hartford). Please see PowerPoint attached.

Third to Present: Dr. Howard Zonana, Madelon Baranoski PhD, Dr. Michael Norko and Dr. Alec Buchanan PhD, Yale University Law & Psychiatry Division.

Dr. Zonana and associates spoke of Actuarial Instruments in Risk Assessment. Discussions included behavioral problems such as antisocial disorders, conduct disorder, and Actuarial Standard measures on inmates. Some of the advantages include identifying groups most likely to re-offend, Assessing criminality as a style, providing standard data base for programs and time evaluation. Some limitations are training and fidelity check, accuracy for any individual assessment, accuracy related to time of follow up. Assessing criminality and antisocial personality, measures pertinent to re-offense. Please see PowerPoint attached

Announcements: Lisa Holden Co-chair announced that Dr. Thomas Kirk, Department of Mental Health and Addiction PowerPoint presentation has been postponed.

Lisa Holden, Co-chair informed committee that Thomas White will present on December 10, 2007 due to time constraints.

**Next Meetings: December 10, 2007, Rm. 1B, LOB, 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m.
December 19, 2007, Rm. 1B, LOB, 1:00p.m.-5:00 p.m.**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Avarista
Office of Policy and Management