

**Board of Pardons & Parole and Department of Corrections
October 10, 2013 - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Copper King Convention Center
4655 Harrison Avenue
Butte, Montana 59701**

The meeting was chaired by Mike McKee; Chairman, BOPP

Board members in attendance: Darryl Dupuis, Pete Lawrenson, Coleen Magera, Margaret Bowman and Mary Kay Puckett.

Board staff in attendance: Fern Johnson, Julie Thomas, Meaghan Shone, Christine Slaughter, Timothy Allred and Mike Webster

Department of Corrections staff attendance: Mike Batista, Loraine Wodnik, Leroy Kirkegard, Colleen Ambrose, Ben Reed, Pam Bunke and Ron Alsbury.

Public Comment: Craig Thomas

I. Introductions

Old Business:

(Last meeting May, 2012) Approved minutes as distributed.

Current status regarding Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to the Board not being involved with criminally convicted youth. It simply adds more flexibility to release the youth, to the youth court or to discharge the youth. ***Ben Reed would like to present this item at the next meeting.***

2. Reentry update

Pam Bunke gave an update and explained the many layers of the Reentry Programs. Housing, employment, relationships, and education are being targeted to ensure the most successful and safest plan when someone is released. Pam will send out a list of reentry PO's to the Board. Inmates are encouraged to start a reentry plan when they come into MSP to make the process go more smoothly when presented to the Board. The Board is encouraged to make a recommendation regarding reentry when making a parole disposition if felt it is appropriate. Warden Kirkegard gave an update on the reentry programs within MSP. Board staff, Meaghan Shone suggested that a RPO within the institution and having a MSP staff/IPPO at pre-parole school would be helpful. Director Batista spoke of the Statewide Reentry Task Force. Updates will be given as made available.

3. New Business

Director – Mike Batista: Update on what the DOC is doing. There has been some reorganizing within Central Office and there is hope of increasing legal staff, reorganizing medical services and clinical services under one administrator and changing the oversight of contracts. Montana DOC personnel met with a Criminal Justice Initiative Working Group in South Dakota. The work group reviewed extensive analyses of state criminal justice data including prison, parole, probation, and sen-

tencing information; discussed the programs, policies, and practices of the criminal justice system; examined practices proven to reduce recidivism; and assessed policy options for South Dakota. Director Batista discussed moving in that direction with the Pew Center or similar agency regarding collection of Montana data and new measurement tools. Montana really needs to look at data and make sure we are doing the best we can with the resources available. From a population stand point, Montana is okay through the biennium. Other states have overcrowding issues, which Montana currently does not have and that may be because Montana has a lot of community correction options. The fact that we have this administrative process for DOC commits, we are better able to manage our population.

Mary Kay Puckett gave comments regarding national data predictors. Christine Slaughter advised that the Board has their own risk assessment tool and suggested we look at combining with DOC's new assessment tool. We see a large number of offenders go through the system a number of times. Pam Bunke indicated that about half of the officers are currently trained on the MORAS. It is the intention to use this assessment tool for pre-adjudication phase through prison and into the supervision phases.

Director Batista gave an update on the mental health study.

Legal: The Board has one law suit active against its staff (though not against Board members) Cameron McBryde regarding religious rights and treatment.

Legislation: Ideas should be submitted by April / May of 2014 and then drafted around September. Need to think about any proposed changes. Discussed that the 2013 session mandates the Parole Board to have one (1) new mental health professional as a board member.

MSP Updates: Warden Kirkegard – The prison is putting together new programs. (Thinking of Change) MSP will clarify and give a list to the Board of the new programs at the prison. Chairman McKee asked if there was anything that hasn't been addressed that the Board of Pardons can do to help with the hearings at the prison. The Board is grateful for all the prison does to assist in the parole hearing process and made note that the prison staff has always been accommodating. The warden stated that we are overcoming some of the problems from when he first started.

WATCH Knights Program: Pam Bunke informed the Board that the WATCH Knights was intended for only DUI's cases to go there to begin with and DUI cases are being placed first. Pam Bunke needs to be contacted prior to anyone not serving a DUI sentence going to WATCH. WATCH East wants more beds and currently does not have a Knights program. Helena Prerelease does not have any mental health beds.

Female Boot Camp: Pam Bunke stated that as of November 1, 2013, females will be allowed to go through boot camp, housed at TSCTC. At this time, they are allowing four beds for the women. There must be 2 female inmates at all times. It will be the same program and the women will be side by side with the men. Aftercare program will be the same in Great Falls for the women.

Program Affordability: Fern Johnson asked for feedback about affordability of the programs like SCRAM, GPS, 24/7 and the consistency statewide. Pam, we stated DOC has no control over it as it is private contractors. Regarding GPS, DOC utilizes the program but has the offender pay the company directly. If they don't pay then the department gets a bill the next month. We do not control the SCRAM unit. If you have the offender on the SCRAM unit they have to pay for it. Alternatives hold the contract on SCRAM. The Board was told that many of the private companies want the

money up front. Pam Bunke will check into the money issues and will report back to the Board.

IT: Issues in ACCESS and OMIS conversion. Many violent offenders or sex offenders in ACCESS but didn't carry over OMIS. Mark Johnson is aware and working on the problem. It is skewing the statistics requested by the Law & Justice Committee. Electric reports may start as soon as the first of 2014.

BOPP Law & Justice Study: There were a number of people from DOC including Pam Bunke and the Board would like to thank them for taking the time and explaining the DOC/BOPP collaboration that goes on for every offender that enters and leaves the facilities. Currently there have been a limited number of legislators come to the Parole hearings. Chairman McKee stated he felt the Legislators need to see what all is involved in conducting parole hearings.

Approximately 200 people who have parole are still in the institutions. However, most have a parole upon completion of some program or have parole to detainer, etc. It also must be considered that this number is on- going each month as some leave and new paroles are given.

In hopes of getting more sex offenders into PRC, it was suggested that prerelease directors should come to some hearings to better understand the type of offenders the Board refers to PRC. Tim Allred asked if anyone advocating for Arson going to prerelease and it was noted that it was an insurance/high risk issue.

A new prerelease center in Kalispell is off the board at this time.

Public comment: None

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is tentatively set for April 9, 2014 with DOC hosting.