

California Sex Offender Management Board
February 21, 2008, 9:00 AM
Prison Industries

Minutes:

Introduction/Updates

- Members of the Board check in:
 - Quorum is present
 - Suzanne Brown-McBride (Chair)
 - Tom Tobin (Vice-chair)
 - Gerry Blasingame
 - Michael Johnson
 - Pamela King
 - Sophia McBeth-Childs
 - Judge Peter Espinoza
 - Dave Runnels
- Absent members
 - Catherine Duggan
 - Janet Gaard
 - Shirley Poe
 - Jerry Powers
 - Brenda Epperly-Ellis

Suzanne Brown-McBride Discusses the Final Report:

- It was an enormous undertaking done in very quick amount of time, and tackled issues not brought up by the legislature as well as ones that were.
- Report highlighted:
 - That the value of board is in evaluating evidence-based practices and recommendations
 - That victims are the central issue and starting point of any sex offender management discussion
 - An attempted breakdown of the numbers and distribution of sex offenders as well as identification of where such numbers is difficult to ascertain
 - Housing challenges, which have always been daunting but which are now exacerbated by current policy
 - Proposition 83 has made substantial changes and it would be a mistake to not address it, but it would have been a mistake also to simply dwell on those issues, given that the majority of sex offenders in California are not even held to the tenants of this law (because their offenses predate it, for example).
- It represents the foundation of the Board's future work—points out gaps in system but does not yet make recommendations.
- Members who could not be here today have approved Report.
- Suzanne Brown-McBride asks if members are ready to send out Report.
 - All are in favor, no one opposes
- Report will be available online at CASOMB and CDCR websites.

Minutes

- Corrections made

- Motion made to approve minutes as amended made by Michael Johnson; motion seconded by Tom Tobin and approved by Board.

State Updates

- Data sheet passed out (by Dave Runnels) shows the increase in number of transients since the passage of Jessica's Law but not much of an increase in the number of 290's in violation. Thus, it appears that California sex offenders are attempting to comply with the spirit of law, not failing to register and going missing entirely as the trend has been in other states.
- There is active GPS program expansion based on Jessica's Law—all high risk sex offenders will be on active GPS by the end of April.
- Discussion about how different ordinances in different cities create competing jurisdictional and retroactivity conflicts.
- Discussion about the false alarm problems with GPS.
 - For example, parolees that move more are more likely to bump equipment and set off alarms.
 - In Orange County, the average lifespan of GPS equipment used to be two months before you start getting a lot of false positives. Currently, the lifespan is around six months due to companies making improvements to the equipment and people improving its installation.
- Discussion over gaps in GPS laws.
 - There is a need to look at underlying policies and determine their validity before making recommendations on how to fix it.
 - There is debate over whether making recommendations to fix a flawed law is desirable or whether it suggests tacit support for what may ultimately be unconstitutional.
- CDCR continues to move forward with bidding for a treatment process for sex offenders in CA. This is one of the most significant treatment initiatives in California. Any provider who wants to bid must bid on entire parole region, each of which are geographically huge. So the challenge is whether anyone is prepared to cover such a huge geographical region

Lessons Learned for Next Report:

- Deadlines were too tight—three months from first draft to final—and problems of trying to get research contractors on board wasted time.
- Needed more collaboration to avoid disjointed efforts instead of achieving the synergy created by the collaboration of diverse expertise.
- The Bagley-Keene Act creates tremendous challenges, such as preventing meaningful between-meeting communications.

Future Agenda:

- Research—two types that CSUS can do
 - Good literature synthesis
 - Original research
- Issues—what should we attend to in next few months?
 - Adam Walsh Act
 - Was considered but no one in the legislature has introduced bill to adopt it, so the issue does not seem pressing until someone does.
 - GPS and post-supervision monitoring issues, including whether it is constitutional.

- Problems around credentialing and standards for treatment being consistently applied in California.
- (Dashboard) Indicators
 - How are we evaluating the health of the system we have?
 - Transient numbers?
 - Should determine a series of indicators that we can or should be able to track over time. Maybe 15 or so, as a communications tool for Board's work.
- Tiering
 - Issue of leveling
 - In California, we essentially have high risk sex offenders, and everyone else. Don't have any other way of talking about gradations of offenders.
- Duration of supervision
- Cost-effectiveness
- Institutional/Prison Treatment
- Collaboration, cross-cutting issues
- Civil commitment
- Statewide data collection system across disciplines
- Housing
- Supervision
- Best Practices
- Containment model
- How do we prioritize these? Four issues considered more critical:
 - Housing
 - GPS
 - Adam Walsh
 - Treatment providers
- For next month, will make a game plan

Next meeting will take place at 9:00 A.M., Thursday, March 20, 2008.