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California Rehabilitation Oversight Board

**BIANNUAL REPORT
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Inspector General is charged with independent oversight of California's correctional system. Its mission is to safeguard the integrity of the state's correctional system—in effect, to act as the eyes and ears of the public in overseeing the state's prisons and juvenile correctional facilities. This mission was broadened on May 3, 2007, with the signing of Assembly Bill 900, the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007. Among the many provisions of Assembly Bill 900 is the establishment of the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board within the Office of the Inspector General, to be chaired by the Inspector General.

The 11-member board is made up of state and local law enforcement, education, treatment, and rehabilitation professionals. The board is charged with regularly examining the various inmate and parolee mental health, substance abuse, educational, and employment programs operated by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The board will report its findings on the effectiveness of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's adult offender treatment efforts to the Governor and the Legislature no less than biannually (January 15 and July 15). The board will also report on gaps and levels of offender participation in rehabilitation services and ultimately make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for improvements to offender rehabilitation and treatment programs.

On June 19, 2007, the board held its first meeting and effectively launched its efforts to ensure California has a sound rehabilitation model and provides effective services to the state's adult offenders, thereby making California a safer place for all our citizens.

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board is committed to ensuring that its decision making process is transparent to the public. Meeting notices and agendas, along with the board's reports and other pertinent documents will be posted on the Office of the Inspector General's Web site at: www.oig.ca.gov and public participation in the process is greatly encouraged.

This first biannual report of the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board will serve as a foundation for the future work of the board. On behalf of the board members and support staff of the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board, I invite you to review this report and provide us with your feedback.

— **MATTHEW L. CATE, INSPECTOR GENERAL**
CHAIRMAN, CALIFORNIA REHABILITATION OVERSIGHT BOARD

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA REHABILITATION OVERSIGHT BOARD

Assembly Bill 900 added California Penal Code sections 6140 and 6141, establishing California Rehabilitation Oversight Board within the Office of the Inspector General. The board comprises the following 11 members:

- (a) The Inspector General, who shall serve as chair
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- (c) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, or his or her designee
- (d) The Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, or his or her designee
- (e) The Director of the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, or his or her designee
- (f) The Director of Mental Health, or his or her designee
- (g) A faculty member of the University of California who has expertise in rehabilitation of criminal offenders, appointed by the President of the University of California
- (h) A faculty member of the California State University, who has expertise in rehabilitation of criminal offenders, appointed by the Chancellor of the California State University
- (i) A county sheriff, appointed by the Governor
- (j) A county chief probation officer, appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules
- (k) A local government official who provides mental health, substance abuse, or educational services to criminal offenders, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board must meet at least quarterly, and regularly examine the various mental health, substance abuse, educational, and employment programs for inmates and parolees operated by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The board must report to the Governor and the Legislature biannually, on January 15 and July 15, and may submit other reports during the year if it finds they are necessary. The reports must include, but are not limited to, findings on the following:

- the effectiveness of treatment efforts;
- the rehabilitation needs of offenders;
- gaps in rehabilitation services in the department; and
- levels of offender participation and offender success in the programs.

Assembly Bill 900 also requires the board to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature with respect to modifications, additions, and eliminations of rehabilitation and treatment programs.

BOARD WILL UTILIZE THE WORK PRODUCT OF THE EXPERT PANEL ON RECIDIVISM REDUCTION

California Penal Code section 6141 specifically requires the board to use the work products developed for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation as a result of the provisions of the 2006 Budget Act, including Provision 18 of Item 5225-001-0001. This provision of the 2006 Budget Act states the following:

Of the funds appropriated in this item, \$900,000 shall be used to contract with correctional program experts to complete comprehensive evaluations of all adult prison and parole programs designed to reduce recidivism, including education, rehabilitation and treatment, and parole programs, for both male and female inmates and parolees. This evaluation shall include an inventory of existing programs, including program capacity, as well as an assessment of whether each of these programs is likely to have a significant impact on recidivism for those participants. This evaluation shall also include an estimate of the number of inmates or parolees not currently participating in these programs who would be likely to benefit from participation. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall submit to the chairpersons and vice chairpersons of the committees in both houses of the Legislature that consider the state budget and to the Legislative Analyst's Office a report detailing the findings of the evaluation by June 30, 2007.

In compliance with this provision of the 2006 Budget Act, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation established the "Expert Panel on Recidivism Reduction." This panel, comprised of nationwide practitioners, consultants, and researchers, is charged with evaluating the department's approach to providing inmate programming and treatment. The panel will make recommendations on programs that show promise and should be expanded, as well as on programs that are ineffective and should be discontinued. Through these efforts, the department states that it hopes to propose a balanced, cost-effective, and evidence-based approach to increasing programming levels within adult institutions. The panel held its first meeting in December 2006 and is comprised of the following:

- Marisela Montes, Chief Deputy Secretary, Adult Programs (Chair)
- Joan Petersilia, Ph.D. Director, Center for Evidence-Based Corrections, UC, Irvine (Co-chair)
- James F. Austin, Ph.D. of JFA Associates
- Jeffery A. Beard, Ph.D., Director, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections
- Barbara Bloom, Ph.D., Professor Criminal Justice, California State University, Sonoma
- Mark Carey of the Mark Carey Group
- Elyse Clawson, Executive Director, Crime and Justice Institute
- James H. Gomez, Director (Ret.) California Department of Corrections
- Marty Horn, Commissioner, Department of Corrections, New York City
- Kermit Humphries, Reentry Specialist, National Institute of Corrections
- Steve Ickes, Deputy Director, Arizona Department of Corrections
- Michael Jacobson, Ph.D., President, VERA Institute of Justice
- Barry Krisberg, Ph.D., President, National Council on Crime and Delinquency
- Joe Lehman, Secretary (Ret.) Washington State Department of Corrections
- Mimi Silbert, Ph.D., President and CEO, Delancey Street Foundation
- Faye Taxman, Ph.D., Professor at Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs
- Reggie Wilkinson, Ed.D., Director (Ret.) Ohio Department of Corrections

The scope of the panel's work includes the following two goals:

Goal 1: To complete comprehensive evaluations of all adult prison and parole programs designed to reduce recidivism, including education, rehabilitation and treatment, and parole programs, for both male and female inmates and parolees. This evaluation includes:

- An inventory of existing programs, including program capacity, as well as an assessment of whether each of these programs is likely to have a significant impact on recidivism for those participants.
- An estimate of the number of inmates or parolees not currently participating in these programs who would be likely to benefit from participation.

Goal 2: To design a program model for evidence-based offender rehabilitation that will greatly improve the parole success of California's adult offenders.

FIRST YEAR BUDGET AND STAFFING

As noted above, Assembly Bill 900 established the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board within the Office of the Inspector General with the Inspector General as the Chair. To coordinate the activities of the board, the 2007-08 Governor's budget includes one deputy inspector general, senior position, one half-time deputy inspector general position, and one half-time associate governmental program analyst position. In addition, the budget includes \$125,000 in funding for supporting the meetings and contracting with experts, when needed.

Since the establishment of the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board, Office of the Inspector General staff have been actively working to become familiar with the mandates of the board, request funding, locate meeting sites, research public notice requirements, and schedule the first board meeting.

CALIFORNIA REHABILITATION OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETINGS

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board held its first meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2007. The board members in attendance at this inaugural meeting were Matthew Cate, Inspector General, James Tilton, Secretary, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Debra Jones, Administrator, Adult Education Programs (Designee for Superintendent of Public Instruction), José Millan, Vice Chancellor, California Community Colleges (Designee for Chancellor, California Community Colleges) Renée Zito, Director, State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, Stephen Mayberg, Director of Mental Health, Susan Turner, Professor, University of California, Irvine, (appointee by President of the University of California), and Loren Buddress, Chief Probation Officer (appointee by Senate Committee on Rules).

The first meeting included introductions of the board members, a discussion of Assembly Bill 900 (the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services Act of 2007), a presentation by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Expert Panel on Recidivism Reduction previewing its report on California's rehabilitation oversight model, and public comment. In addition, the board approved release of this report, which satisfies the board's reporting requirements found in California Penal Code section 6141.

Additional information on the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board and all public notices and agendas for meetings may be viewed and downloaded from the Office of the Inspector General's website at www.oig.ca.gov.

CALIFORNIA REHABILITATION OVERSIGHT BOARD FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Over the next several months the California Rehabilitation Oversight Board will review relevant literature and take testimony on topics related to the rehabilitation and treatment efforts of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. In addition, the board will review the work product of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Expert Panel on Recidivism Reduction, and the rehabilitation efforts of the department itself. The board will report any substantive conclusions to the Governor and the Legislature.

The board will continue to meet at least quarterly as mandated by law and will work with the various appointing powers to ensure that board vacancies are filled.

The California Rehabilitation Oversight Board will release its first substantive report on January 15, 2008.