

Tennessee Community Resource Board
Riverbend Maximum Security Institute
October 21, 2016

Members:

Mario Allen	(A)	Tom Hallquist	(A)
Malinda Davenport Crisp, PhD	(P)	Carole McDonald	(P)
Philip Fairchild	(P)	Rev. Michael Rickenbaker	(P)
J.R. Davis	(P)	Paul Hensley	(P)
Drew Wright	(P)	Lee Ragsdale	(A)
Rep. William Lamberth	(P)	Dametraus L. Jagers	(A)
Vinessa J. Brown	(A)	Jacqueline Clay	(A)
Thurston S. Smith	(P) Conference call in		

Representatives from TDOC:

Deborah Thompson, TPFW, Director of Volunteer Services	(P)
Eric Qualls, Director of Reentry	(P)
Helen Ford, Parole Board	(P)

Guests:

Rev. Brian Darnell, Chaplain, RMSI
Rev. Darnell opened in prayer.

Welcome: Chairman Michael Rickenbaker welcomed all and asked everyone to introduce himself or herself.

Minutes: Eric Qualls commented on the July minutes. He requested that we contact him with any questions or concerns that need addressing so that he will personally take action any problem that comes to his awareness. Phil Fairchild made a motion that the minutes of the July meeting be accepted. Chair Rickenbaker seconded the motion. The motion carried. There was a question brought up about the original intent of the establishment of the TCRB as an Advisory Board which somewhere shifted to become a Resource Board. The comment was made that strong local boards can and should be a source of stability, direction and decision making for the TCRB and vice versa.

TCRB/LCRB Relationships and Goals: Chair Rickenbaker opened discussion on clarifying the role of LCRB & TCRB. Secretary Davenport Crisp commented that the line of communication is vague as well between volunteers and the TCRB, that volunteers may not know the existence and function of the TCRB. It would be important for each facility to be made better aware. Chair Rickenbaker stated that there is no LCRB in rural areas specifically Hardeman County. Mr. Qualls stated he will provide facility Chaplains with TCRB information that they can give to Volunteers. Deborah Thompson stated she will send TCRB members a list

of the LCRB chairs. JR Davis suggested a mini-conference possibly even a video conference of sorts to bring all LCRB chairs and TCRB members together regionally or statewide . We agreed that this event needs a Taskforce to work with Chaplains at each facility to create an agenda and plan this event in 2017.

Evidence Based Programming: Mr. Qualls referenced Governor Haslam's Public Safety Act which Ensuring Offenders are Properly Evaluated. This legislation would make a “validated risk and needs assessment,” designed by the Department of Correction, part of an offender’s presentence report and an item the judge must consider when sentencing a defendant. The legislation would require the department to conduct an updated validated risk and needs assessment at least annually for each offender under the department’s supervision. See more at: <http://share.tn.gov/sos/acts/109/pub/pc0906.pdf>.

Mr. Qualls stated that the Public Safety Act will bring a higher degree of accountability to the system. He explained evidence based programming (the Vera Institute was referenced) which will help to reduce recidivism. Some programs will be improved, some replaced. There was a reference to NIC and other open source programs for volunteers even to resource if need be.

Phil Fairchild suggested there be a menu of evidence based programs to offer volunteers and opportunities to retrain volunteers to be able to serve in other capacities such as in community corrections where they are needed. Deborah Thompson offered that volunteers are trained by Chaplains, however will not be supervised by the Chaplains; rather the volunteers will be distributed between other departments such as education, substance abuse or mental health in order that they be better utilized. Chaplains will continue to supervise those involved in religious services and some faith based programs. With the goal of "seamless supervision," some volunteers will be moved to community supervision. Volunteers will be targeted and sent surveys to identify their individual skill-sets and expertise in order to restructure and move them to better serve inmates. The Public Safety Act changes will ensure that the needs of inmates are assessed and reassessed over time. The tools and measures are dynamic, explained Deborah Thompson.

Sunset Hearings Recommendations: Michael Rickenbaker inquired about the Sunset Hearings held by the Operations Committee on June 15, 2016 from 8:30am-11am. In discussing the replacement for the vacancies on the TCRB, there was a motion to approve the recommendation of Commissioner to appoint Drew Wright from the Governor's office was submitted by Chair Rickenbaker. Secretary Davenport Crisp seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously..

Membership and Bylaws: Eight of the nine vacancies of the TCRB have been filled. The appointments were made by Commissioner Parker and Chief Montgomery per TCA 41-10-105. There was discussion about the loss of members due to mission drift and lack of movement, the need for diversity and targeting specific fields of expertise. Michael referred to the Bylaws where the once nominated, the candidate shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the next scheduled meeting of the Board, then the persons nominated shall be recommended to the Commissioner of TDOC for appointment. All appointments made by the Commissioner and

Chairman of the Board of Parole, do not have to be elected by majority vote of the committee per TCA 41-10-105. In reference to revision of Bylaws, where TCRB has requested the TDOC review and make recommendations to the TCRB about making the Bylaws up-to-date, Mr. Qualls reported that they had received the Bylaws, that adjustments had been made and were submitted by email to the Board. To fill the Senate vacancy, it was suggested that House Rep. Lamberth assist in locating a candidate/nominee.

TCRB Policy and Bylaws: TDOC has reviewed the TCRB By-laws and made suggestions. There was a decision to discuss and approve the revision of the Bylaws to our next board meeting. There was a question about procedure referenced in the House Bill. Chair Rickenbaker wanted to ensure we are reading from the most recent, current version of the House Bill. Drew Wright stated he would verify the most current version for our use. Deborah Thompson as per a recommendation during the Sunset Hearing reported that TDOC is creating a page on the State website for the TCRB which will post our meeting minutes.

Community Corrections: TDOC reported that there is a need for a LCRB per TCA 41-10-105 to form as an organized volunteer presence and support to staff in the local field offices. TDOC stated they will be preparing the volunteers, offering training on how to be a support in field services. They need help with programming. There are 60,000 people on supervision in Tennessee. It was mentioned that the local Boards need to be submitting their reports to the State TCRB.

LCRBs: Who is responsible for getting reports from the LCRBs? Some LCRBs do not take notes or write reports. Discussion was held about who should chair the LCRB? There is concern over there not being leadership in some facilities from the Chaplain and some concern over when Chaplains provide too much leadership (i.e. they chair the Board). Mr. Qualls stated and all agreed that the Chaplain and the Chair should work in concert, that the Chaplain needs to be active.

Grand Division Reports

East Tennessee: Philip Fairchild stated both boards at Bledsoe and Morgan County are strong. He made the recommendation that stronger LCRBs help mentor and guide weaker LCRBs.

Middle Tennessee: Carole McDonald stated that the TPW LCRB is working on Christmas programming. Malinda Davenport Crisp reported on the Deberry LCRB preparations for Christmas are going well. Strong support by Warden Holloway. JR Davis gave report on RMSI that things are running quite smoothly there with their new Chaplain Rev. Brian Darnell.

West Tennessee: Mario Allen was not present to give the report. Paul Hensley reported that there is a new Hispanic outreach in West TN. There are approximately 25 at the facility. He states that they are starting a church service and basic education.

Take One: There is continued growth, matching happening. They have started another recruitment push for getting more faith based organizations and churches signed up across the state. The badges for TCRB members issue was discussed. The review committee at TDOC has approved having color coded badges for TCRB members and the decision is now sent to the next stage, the IT department where there are changes that have to be made in the main computer system. The IT department is currently making improvements to the database system-wide.

Community Supervision: Moving into community supervision field offices is a goal in process. The need is to identify who the individuals who will need services and programs. This is a creation of a whole new structure.

Board of Parole: Rita Jorgensen was replaced by Helen Ford as the TCRB liaison. She reported that the Parole Board staff is being trained on the Public Safety Act. and the use of the new assessment tools. The goal again is seamless supervision.

TREC: It was reported that TREC is being reconstituted across the State with the next meeting is Oct 28th from 10am-12:00pm (CST). Video conferencing is utilized. Correctional Administrators from across the state are heading up TEC. Shaundra Davis in Middle TN, Sara Hodges in East TN, and April Buckner in West TN.

Board Membership: Carole McDonald (Middle) is rolling off the board at the end of the year and Phil Fairchild submitted his letter of recommendation for his resignation. There was a motion to replace Carole McDonald with Joan Evist whose resume and application has already been submitted to the board in July. Chair Rickenbaker moved to approve forwarding Mrs. Evrist's application to Commissioner Parker. JR Davis seconded the motion. Secretary Davenport Crisp will email the documents to Deborah Thompson who will submit them to the Commissioner. Deborah Thompson also reminded members to submit their travel vouchers to her before the end of the year if they want to be reimbursed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28am.

Next Steps:

- Drew Wright will research most current version of House Bill in reference to TCRB.
- Deborah Thompson will email Joan Evrist application to Commissioner Parker.
- There will need to be a new TCRB rep for East TN to replace Phil Fairchild.
- TCRB to submit a list of concerns/issues/grievances regarding TDOC to Mr. Qualls as they occur.

Next meeting: Friday, January 20, 2017, 9-11:30am (CST) at RMSI, Nashville, TN.

