

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING

Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N Lincoln Blvd., Room 104
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 1:00 p.m.

1. Opening and Roll Call

Ted Logan, Chair

A regular meeting of the Oklahoma Board of Corrections was held at the Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City, on March 17, 2011. The meeting convened at 1:03 p.m., Chairman Logan presiding and welcoming those in attendance. Members of the board in attendance were:

David Henneke	Ted Logan	Matthew McBee	Linda Neal
Earnest Ware	Gerald Wright		

Mr. Rainey was absent during roll call, but joined the meeting during Agenda Item #6, Budget Update.

2. Comments

**Mike Thompson, Cabinet Secretary
Safety and Security**

Mr. Thompson was unable to attend the meeting due to another commitment.

3. Old Business

Ted Logan, Chair

None noted.

4. Approval of February 16, 2011, Board Meeting Minutes

Ted Logan, Chair

Chairman Logan sought a motion for approval of the minutes of the February 16, 2011, meeting of the Oklahoma Board of Corrections.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Henneke and seconded by Mr. Ware. Results of roll call: Mr. Henneke – yes; Mr. Logan – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Rainey – absent; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – yes.

5. Director's Comments

Justin Jones, Director

Director Jones welcomed everyone in attendance and provided the following information:

- Dr. Michael Connelly and Deputy Director Laura Pitman met with Integris Health on February 15, 2011, to discuss urban gardens, farmers markets, and utilizing female offenders for community projects in the Oklahoma County area. Integris Health has identified property to plant a simple community garden to which the female offenders would be assigned. A follow-up site-visit to the Oklahoma Food Bank farm is scheduled for March 10, 2011.
- For the fall 2010 semester, there were 29 offenders enrolled at Rose State College and 26 offenders enrolled at Seminole State College who made the Dean's Honor Roll while housed at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center. Rose State College staff also informed the superintendent's office that there are over forty students enrolled and attending their college who were previously in the program while incarcerated.
- Finance and Accounting will be participating in the site visits on the canteen privatization RFP March 21 -23, 2011.
- The offender e-messaging system was initiated this month at three locations (MBCC, JHCC, and Union City CCC). After the pilot period and development of standard procedures has been completed, the system will roll out to all other locations. The purpose of the system is to reduce the amount of paper mail received at the locations. It also provides for alerts based on key words and phrases.
- Deputy Director Holloway attended the National Second Chance Grantee Conference in Washington D.C., which was a requirement by the grant. During his welcome, the Honorable James Cole, Deputy Attorney

General, U.S. Department of Justice, highlighted SAFER Oklahoma, the agency's re-entry program funded under the Second Chance Act.

- Mike Carr, Northwest District Supervisor, is partnering with Associated Treatment Services, the YWCA, and the District Attorney's Office to implement a 52-Week Certified Batterers' Program for offenders in that area.
- The Fugitive Unit apprehended eight (8) DOC fugitives within the last thirty days that were listed on the agency website. The unit also assisted Probation and Parole with the apprehension of six (6) offenders and the United States Marshal's Task Force with nine (9) arrests. Starting Monday, March 7, 2011, the Tulsa agent assisted the Marshal's office in a fugitive sweep for unregistered sex offenders residing in northeast Oklahoma.
- As of March 1, 2011, the Intelligence Unit has registered 1,708 offenders as Security Threat Group (STG) members. Twenty-four offenders were added in February after reception at Lexington Assessment and Reception Center (LARC), with information from local law enforcement agencies on their activities as a threat group.

6. Budget Update

**Tom James, Chief Financial Officer
Finance and Accounting**

Mr. James provided the FY 2011 Fiscal Expenditure Trending Report as of February 28, 2011. Based on eight months of expenditure data a surplus of \$1.6 million exists for FY 2011. This surplus compares to a \$300,000 deficit last month. The report, however, does not take into account changes in staffing or offender population that may occur through the course of the fiscal year.

Director Jones stated that the payroll surplus was created to help generate funds to pay for deficits in medical and contract beds. The surplus factors in the remaining one-day-a-month furloughs for all DOC employees. He reminded attendees that this is strictly a trending surplus and offender population growth between now and June 2011 can alter the outcome.

In response to a question from Mr. McBee regarding contract bed deficits, Mr. James stated that the deficit is currently \$4.6 million, which will more than likely increase. Mr. James also responded that at this time, we still have a surplus but we are at the bottom of where our offenders are going to be and that should head up. Director Jones stated the trending deficit in contract beds is somewhat lower than what it would have cost to pay for the net growth of 721 last year. To phase in our net growth last year was approximately \$5.7 million and that was the reason for requesting a supplemental, which we did not receive. It is expected, then, that we would have a trend upward in contract beds almost equal to the net growth if we had funneled that growth from last year.

The trending report indicated the agency was at 69.2% FTE under the funded rate as of February 28, 2011. When questioned by Mr. Henneke if this amount was just correctional officers or did it include all employees, Director Jones replied that it applied to all DOC positions. The correctional officer position is approximately 68% under the funded rate at this time. Also, Director Jones stated, when you look at the trending reports before budget reductions last year, our carryover was about ½ of a percentage point and we are anticipating the same for FY 2011, which is almost unheard of in government. However, DOC should begin seeing some financial benefits from the retirement buyouts and we should see an increase if we stay at the current FTE funding level. Mr. Henneke also queried how Oklahoma DOC compares to other states in reference to the ratio of officers to offenders. Director Jones stated it is sometimes difficult to compare 50 different prison systems, but he believed that Oklahoma would be in the top three of the number of offenders per officer, if not number one.

Mr. Henneke commented that his worries and concerns are that DOC is at the lowest percentage staffing rate it has ever been with more offenders than have ever been in our custody. Although fiscally speaking our budget dollars are working out, there is still a price we are paying for that. That price is being paid by the correctional officers every day. Correctional officers are stressed because of working overtime, their families are stressed because of the overtime, and then on top of that, they are furloughed and lose money in their paychecks. Mr. Henneke further stated "although the dollars may be working out as the year ends up, it is still costing us and I'm very fearful...that something bad or drastic will happen."

Director Jones also expressed concern that we have all the ingredients for disaster to occur. Although there was a “sigh of relief” that employees would not be furloughed three (3) days a month, we have correctional officers working double shifts to cover the low staffing levels; the agency is down 35-40 probation and parole officers from this time last year because we cannot replace those employees due to the retirement buyouts; programs that train and educate offenders have been cut, which leads to offender idleness; and mental health and substance abuse programs, including residential beds in the community, have been cut, limiting the number of offenders that can receive assistance before and after discharge.

In reference to offender idleness, Mr. Henneke stated that the changes with OCI is going to further affect the offenders by reducing the number of facility jobs at which offenders can work. Director Jones stated that Mr. Evans and his staff are working on various options to extract the funds from OCI now that the bill is on its way to Governor Fallin in an effort to minimize the damage to OCI. Director Jones believes that extracting the funds will not eliminate correctional industries, but it will cut back on the products that are produced by OCI.

As Budget Committee Chair, Mr. Rainey recommended the Board members review the March 15, 2011, Budget Committee meeting minutes included in their packets. Mr. Rainey opined that the sentencing reforms, the issues that have been discussed, the cannibalization of OCI, the reduction and shrinkage of programs, and the agency’s frontline of correctional officers and those that support them, continue to be and remain at dangerous levels. Mr. Rainey stated the current situation is very concerning and alarming for Board members as well as for those that work within the agency. Mr. Rainey feels that the bottom line is preventing crime and saving money, however that is not by building new prisons or passing bond issues, it is just by staying where we are and not going backwards. Mr. Rainey said he and at least one other board member witnessed the culmination and resolution of a 28-year federal court oversight that told the agency how to run its prisons and forced the legislature to fund our prisons adequately and appropriately. Mr. Rainey fears a return to the “sins of the past,” but feels we are migrating towards that direction.

Earlier that day, according to Mr. Rainey, the Board members provided information from the MGT audit to legislators, which was commissioned by the legislature, to remind them of ten (10) key points from the audit. The audit, which found that we were one of the most cost-effective correctional systems in the nation, made some very definitive conclusions. However, Mr. Rainey feels the audit continues to “collect dust” and is not being read or visited by legislators. The audit has some very sound measures to prevent crime and save money.

7. Population Report

**Ed Evans, Associate Director
Field Operations**

The population update as of March 7, 2011, is as follows:

Total System Offender Population = 25,287	County Jails with Contracts = 458
Total Incarcerated Population = 24,186	County Jail Offender Backup = 1,404
DOC Facilities = 17,746	Halfway Houses = 1,256
Private Prisons = 4,726	Probation Supervision Offenders = 22,855
Total System Population = 51,548	Parole Supervision Offenders = 3,406

Mr. Wright asked for clarification of the number of maximum and medium security offenders at private prisons. Mr. Evans replied that there are approximately 360 maximum security offenders, but the majority are classified as medium and a few are minimum security. Mr. Wright then queried where we would house those offenders if they were returned to state facilities from private prisons, to which Mr. Evans responded that at this time, there is no room to house them. Mr. Evans further stated that in his opinion, we would have to rely on nontraditional spaces, such as gymnasiums or tents, to house the population. Mr. Wright queried if this was the thing to do with medium security offenders and Mr. Evans replied that he did not think that was an option for any offender population and he would never recommend that as a solution as it creates a management security problem and unnecessary risk.

Director Jones then stated that the MGT audit was critical of the agency for housing medium-security offenders in open bay dormitories, even if it is done out of necessity. He believes we are one of the few correctional agencies that houses offenders in dormitory-style settings. He stated that it is a tribute to our staff that this type of housing has worked well for the agency. To answer Mr. Wright’s question, Director Jones stated the agency would make a bad situation worse by putting more offenders into this type of housing, endangering not just our staff but other offenders as well. If additional budget reductions are taken in FY 2012, this may limit the number of private prisons beds we can contract

for housing offenders. If this occurs, the Board may have to review all options for housing offenders, including triple-celling at medium-security facilities and housing medium and maximum security offenders in spaces knowing that it goes against best practices. At that point, it would not be long before we had federal court oversight.

Mr. McBee requested information on the parole process and paroles that were pending Governor Fallin's approval, but Mr. Evans did not have this information. Director Jones stated that Mr. Hines has staff that is tracking the parole process and the information will be forwarded at a later date.

8. Approval of Board Resolution

Justin Jones, Director

▪ **Pam Ramsey, Executive Assistant**

Director Jones requested Ms. Ramsey approach the podium to receive her resolution. Ms. Neal read the following Resolution for Ms. Ramsey:

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Board of Corrections received with deep regret the news of the well-deserved retirement of Pamler Ramsey; and

WHEREAS, Pamler Ramsey began her employment with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in 1982 as a Clerk Typist II in the Office of the Director, quickly progressing through the secretarial ranks serving in several administrative capacities to include Secretary II, Executive Secretary, and Executive Assistant; and

WHEREAS, Pamler Ramsey has served as the longest tenured assistant in the Office of the Director for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, serving 21 of her 23 years with the agency under six directors, with superior performance in managing the Office of the Director to its fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, throughout the career of Pamler Ramsey, she has been consistently recognized as an exceptional public servant for her compassion toward others, loyalty, initiative, hard work, dependability, competence, professionalism, and commitment to excellence and to the department's mission; and

WHEREAS, Pamler Ramsey concluded her highly respected service in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, culminating 29 years of devoted and exemplary service to the state of Oklahoma:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Oklahoma Board of Corrections does hereby acknowledge the outstanding service of Pamler Ramsey to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections and state of Oklahoma and extends to her sincere congratulations for making a mark in the history of the agency. Best wishes for a satisfying retirement and success in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this 17th day of March, 2011.

Ms. Ramsey thanked the Board for the resolution and shared that she misses her DOC family but is adjusting to the changes that retirement has brought to her life.

Chairman Logan sought a motion for approval of the Board Resolution for Pam Ramsey.

Motion: Moved by Rainey and seconded by Henneke. Results of roll call: Mr. Henneke – yes; Mr. Logan – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Rainey – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – yes.

9. Approval of Board Resolution

Leo Brown, Coordinator

▪ **National Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 10-16, 2011)**

Religious and Volunteer Services

Mr. Brown expressed his pride in speaking in regards to National Volunteer Week. National Volunteer Week is a time set aside to show appreciation to one of America's most valuable resources – volunteers – and to call the public's attention to all they do to improve our communities. This year's National Volunteer Appreciation Week will be celebrated April 10 through April 16. National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since 1974 has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Additionally, governors, mayors, and other elected public officials make statements or sign proclamations in support of this week. Mr. Brown stated that volunteerism is a powerful force within the agency and is even exemplified by the volunteer service that the Board members themselves provide. In 2010, the agency had 1,103 volunteers complete training, most of which were new volunteers. Currently,

there are over 4,000 active volunteers and last year they donated over 150,000 hours of service. The monetary value of their services is over \$2.6 million, which is calculated using an average dollar value of volunteer service hours provided by the independent sector, a well-recognized leadership forum for charities, foundations, and corporations.

Mr. Brown stated that especially in these economic times when budget cuts have led to fewer resources, the service and programs our volunteers provide are critical. However, the dollar figure of their contributions only begins to tell their story. Today, without a doubt, their greatest contribution is in the rehabilitation of offenders. The vast majority of the agency's volunteers come from the faith-based community, providing religious services and faith-based programs. Whether it is driving hundreds of miles to provide a worship service or picking up offenders at community corrections to bring them to their religious meeting, volunteers are filling an important need. While studies are somewhat ambiguous regarding the impact of religion on recidivism directly, many successful ex-offenders have traced their transformation to a faith decision made while incarcerated. Obviously, preaching and religious teaching is something that cannot be provided by staff and therefore must be provided by our volunteers, which they do in amazing numbers and with great diversity.

According to Mr. Brown, an increasing number of our volunteers are providing faith-based programs. Programs that address criminogenic needs from a faith perspective, such as substance abuse, anger management, and family relationships. Programs, such as AA and NA, have hundreds of volunteers that help offenders deal with addictive behaviors. Programs like New Life Behavior, New Directions, and I Can address thinking and behavioral patterns that need to be changed for the offender to be successful. The Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, Long Distance Dads and other family relationship programs can help offenders restore and maintain marriage and family relationships that lead to a successful reentry for the offender as well as healthier families and fewer generational incarcerations. A growing number of volunteer organizations are working with offenders in reentry. Organizations like Genesis One, Oxford House, Hand Up, Living Faith, etc., are providing housing, mentoring, job skills and placement, and other programs needed to help offenders successfully reenter our communities. Many of these same volunteers are now partners in the female offender diversion programs underway in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Mr. Brown stated these are just a very few of the services and programs offered through our volunteers. Services, programs, and faith groups are far too numerous to name individually; but individually, each one is making a contribution to our agency. Mr. Brown introduced and thanked several volunteers in attendance: John Easley, Genesis One; Donna Thompson, Fairview Baptist Church and the Oklahoma Baptist State Convention; Tony Fish, Muskogee Creek Nation Reintegration Program; Bob and Paula Reuben, Advisory Council on Volunteer Services and Programs; Tawana Flood, Senior State Representative for Celebrate Recovery Inside; and Nancy Brock, Liaison for Episcopal Church and Lutheran Church and also member of the agency's Advisory Council on Volunteer Services and Programs. Mr. Brown then read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, millions of volunteers work in their communities across our nation and throughout our state utilizing their time and their talents daily to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Corrections is privileged to have thousands of men and women who tirelessly give of themselves to provide much needed programmatic and occupational services in facilities, districts and units across the great state of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, these volunteers are dedicated to serving as positive role models for the offender population, leading offenders toward pro-social behavior while incarcerated, supporting offenders in reentry, and providing much needed resources that assist the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in fulfilling its mission in a professional manner; and

WHEREAS, April 10-16, 2011, is National Volunteer Week and a most appropriate time to recognize these volunteers for demonstrating, on a daily basis, the true spirit of giving:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Oklahoma Board of Corrections does hereby announce and proclaim to all, its recognition and sincere appreciation of Oklahoma Department of Corrections volunteers and the invaluable services they provide.

ADOPTED this 17th day of March, 2011.

Chairman Logan sought a motion for approval of the Board Resolution for National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Motion: Moved by Henneke and seconded by Rainey. Results of roll call: Mr. Henneke – yes; Mr. Logan – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Rainey – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – yes.

10. Legislative Initiative Update

Neville Massie, Executive Assistant

Ms. Massie prefaced her update by stating this was a deadline week for the legislature and the House remains in session. Bills will pass out of the House of origin and hopefully next week there will be a reduced number. Ms. Massie then provided the following information:

- HB 1388 – OCI bill by Representative Paul Roan, passed 92-0 this morning. Ms. Massie expressed appreciation for everyone’s efforts earlier that morning in letting House members know that this was an important bill.
- HB 1673 – Private Prison bill by Representative Billy.
- HB 1799 – Master Lease Program by Representative Tibbs, is on the agenda for the House and remains to be seen if it will be heard on this date.
- HB 1820 – Fiscal Impact Statement bill was heard and passed out of committee, but was not placed on the House floor agenda, so it is dead for the session.
- HB 1999 – Death Penalty bill by Representative Sullivan, assigned to Judiciary Committee.
- HB 2131 – Representative Steele’s bill which includes Community Sentencing, expansion of GPS, and Governor’s role in the parole process has been assigned to Public Safety and was passed on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. It is on its way to the Senate.
- SB 137 – Achievement Credits by Senator Ford, passed Tuesday, March 15, 2011, from the full Senate.
- SB 180 – Offender Medical bill by Senator Paddock, passed on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, and is on its way to the House.
- SB 238 – Delayed Sentencing bill by Senator Anderson, did not get a hearing on the Senate side.

Ms. Massie stated the only bill that is outstanding this week is HB 1799, which will hopefully be heard on this date. Additional bills that bear mentioning:

- HB 1208 - Bill impacting agency board has been amended to be governor-appointed to boards and is on general order in the House. It remains to be seen if it will get a hearing.
- SB 606 – similar to HB 1208, it has the Governor appointing all agency directors with Senate confirmation, and has passed out of the Senate and is on its way to the House.
- There were also 4-5 bills regarding state agency legislative liaisons positions but all have died.
- The IT consolidation bill was heard on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, in the House.
- The agency consolidation bills, which do not affect the ODOC, are still active.

In reference to SB 606, Mr. Wright questioned Ms. Massie regarding information that ODOC would be excluded from this bill. Ms. Massie stated she was not aware of any exclusion, but would reaffirm the intent of the bill and advise Mr. Wright of her findings. Director Jones requested additional information on HB 1820, which would have required an impact statement if any legislation was passed that would increase prison capacity or have a cost relation to corrections. Ms. Massie stated that it did pass out of committee, but the questions that were raised were in reference to loopholes in the bill.

Mr. Wright stated that the sentencing bill, which was the Board’s initiative, did not get heard in committee. He also stated that HB 2131, by Speaker Steele, did not have an emergency clause which would prolong any relief that we might have received by passage of the bill. Without the emergency clause, the bill will not be effective until November 1, 2011, meaning that any relief provided by the changes would not be realized until FY 2012. Mr. Wright queried if there were any bills on the agenda that were passed that would give ODOC some relief, to which Ms. Massie responded that she was not aware of any.

Mr. Rainey commended Ms. Massie for supporting, organizing and keeping the Board focused in their efforts when meeting with legislators.

11. Program Updates

- Weed and Seed Program
- Project Safe Neighborhoods

Nate Brown, Team Supervisor
Kristy Phillips, Assistant District Supervisor
Central District Community Corrections

Mr. Nate Brown thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide information on programs being offered in Community Corrections. Central District supervises 5,500 probationers, parolees, and inmates under the direction of District Supervisor Karen White. There are currently 102 employees, 75 of which are Probation and Parole Officers (PPO) who supervise a variety of specialized caseloads in addition to their regular PPO functions. Mr. Brown currently supervises the GPS program, a specialty course program, and now the Weed and Seed Program.

According to Mr. Brown, gang members are a growing population within the probationers and parolees and also within the agency. In an effort to address this problem, Central District built a gang caseload and a single officer is supervising 60 probationers and parolees who would not normally fall under a specialized caseload, such as GPS. The PPO also works closely with the Gang Task Force in Oklahoma City. Although it is a new caseload, it has had positive outcomes. They have one gang member on the caseload that is currently having his gang tattoos removed at his own expense, which is quite painful and can be quite expensive. They have started a clothing exchange program so gang members can replace their clothing for more traditional garments that do not reflect gang activity.

The Weed and Seed Program in Oklahoma City has been in operation since 1993, covering two areas – Northeast Oklahoma City and South Oklahoma City. Weed and Seed serves to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Oklahoma City Police Department is the head affiliate of the program, but there are several entities that collaborate including the District Attorney's Office, the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, and DOC. Historically, Weed and Seed serves to enhance offender services by facilitating supervision with support from the community. The innovative and comprehensive anti-gang initiative component of this program was started in 2005 by the U. S. Department of Justice and targeted to known high-risk areas nationwide, including Oklahoma City. Because of the success of that program, they modified it to encompass adult offenders; to specifically target those offenders coming out of ODOC incarceration or county jail. It also targets those that are at risk for gang involvement, not just gang members.

Community Corrections and Central District's involvement began in the latter part of 2010 when Oklahoma City Police Department approached Central District about entering into a collaborative agreement. A \$219,000 grant was offered to assist Northeast Oklahoma City Police Department's target of the northeast side with Weed and Seed efforts. The goal of this particular grant was to reduce recidivism in the target area while bolstering services in the community. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed for a comprehensive anti-gang initiative project and Project #2008-2G-2005 commenced on September 1, 2010, and will expire on August 31, 2011, or when funds have been depleted, whichever occurs first. In return for utilization of the grant, ODOC agrees to contract with various service providers and receive grant reimbursement; be the primary resource for assessment; develop individualized treatment plans; and assist in the collection of data. There is not a limit on the number of participants, but there is a cap of \$3,360 per participant; even if the agency utilizes every possible resource for every offender, that cap will not be reached.

In order to qualify for the program, the offender must meet certain criteria:

1. They must be an identified gang member or at-risk for gang involvement, such as family or friends active in gangs.
2. They must have a tie to one of the target zones in Oklahoma City. The offender has to reside, work, have family in one of the zones, or have gang affiliation within one of the zones to receive grant assistance.

The grant provides several services to the offenders, such as: up to 3 months of housing costs during which the offender is only liable for toiletries and food; GPS supervision fees, an equivalent of \$185 per month, is provided for up to 8 months; bus passes to accommodate their transportation needs; family reunification assistance; community mentoring; and drug testing. Due to the importance of GPS supervision fee coverage by the grant, they are working closely with the GPS Coordinator to identify offenders before they are eligible in order to prepare them for acceptance into the program. When questioned, Mr. Brown stated the program currently has 30 offenders referred to the program,

but only 20 on active participation. Although the program has only been active for a short time, Mr. Brown stated they have had a good response from those participating in the program.

Ms. Phillips greeted the Board members and Director Jones before providing information on Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN). PSN is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun violence by networking with existing local programs to target gun crimes and providing these programs with additional tools. The goal is to take a hard line approach to gun criminals through every available means in an effort to make our streets and communities safer. Since its inception in 2001, the federal government has funded approximately \$2 billion to this project. The funds have been used to hire federal and state prosecutors, investigators, provide training to law enforcement, and support gun and gang violence prevention strategies. PSN seeks to achieve heightened coordination among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with an emphasis on intelligence gathering, more aggressive prosecutions, and an enhanced accountability to performance measures. The projects are led by the US Attorneys in each of the 94 federal judicial districts across the nation.

Ms. Phillips stated that the US Attorney's Office is collaborating on this initiative with ODOC, Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, Midwest City Police Department, the District Attorney's Council, and District Attorney David Prater's office. The task force has recently developed a probation and parole education program. This program is designed to:

1. Provide information to probationers and parolees about the coordinated efforts between federal and local law enforcement to prosecute crimes;
2. Educate them of the legal consequences of weapon possession after a conviction; and
3. Assist and inspire them to seek reentry services.

Fort Worth, Texas, has a current program similar to PSN. Since its inception in 2003, they report a 55% decrease in federal gun convictions. The Western District PSN task force will conduct their first meeting on March 24, 2011, at the Oklahoma County Jury Assembly Room and in the future will be held every third Thursday each month. The program will allow federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to greet and address the attendees, providing information to the attendees about their involvement with the program. PSN expects approximately 130 Oklahoma parolees to participate in this program, but hopefully within the next month they hope to also begin including those offenders sentenced in Oklahoma County. The task force is working to develop research partnerships with the University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University. Statistical data will be formulated through the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office to gauge the progress of PSN.

12. Committee Reports

Committee Chairs

- **Budget – Chair Robert Rainey, Members Ged Wright and David Henneke**
No report.
- **Female Offender – Chair Linda Neal, Members Matthew McBee and Ted Logan**
No report.
- **Public Policy (formerly Legislative) – Chair Ged Wright, Members David Henneke and Earnest Ware**
No report.
- **Population/Private Prisons – Chair Earnest Ware, Members David Henneke and Robert Rainey**
No report.
- **Public Affairs/State Boards Interface – Chair David Henneke, Members Matthew McBee and Linda Neal**
Attempting to schedule a meeting with Governor Fallin before March 31, 2011, to discuss ODOC issues.
- **Executive – Chair Ted Logan, Members Matthew McBee and Earnest Ware**
No report.

13. New Business (“Any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting.” 25 O.S. § 311)

Ted Logan, Chair

None.

14. Announcements

Ted Logan, Chair

None.

15. Adjournment

Ted Logan, Chair

Chairman Logan sought a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Moved by Henneke and seconded by Rainey. Results of roll call: Mr. Henneke – yes; Mr. Logan – yes; Mr. McBee – yes; Ms. Neal – yes; Mr. Rainey – yes; Mr. Ware – yes; Mr. Wright – yes.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

I hereby certify that these minutes were duly approved by the Board on the 26th day of April, 2011, in which a quorum was present and voting.

Approved by:



Linda Neal, Secretary of the Board

April 26, 2011

Date

Submitted by:



Kimberley Owen, Minutes Clerk