

REENTRY COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

February 25, 2019

Present: Tim Hansen, Toni Bissen – Co Chairmans, Wendell Murakawa, Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, Deputy Director of Corrections (Dep-C), Kimmy Takata, Gary Yabuta, Noriko Namiki, Robert Merce

Attendees: Reentry Office: Monica Lortz, Shaye Kamada, Albert Diaz, Juliet Sadama-Uemura, Garret Takahashi

Absent: Nolan Espinda, Director

MEMBER	TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Tim Hansen, Co-Chmn.	Introduction of Membership and Staff of the Reentry Coordination Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting called to order.
	Announcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AG on standby for any questions
	Approval of Minutes from December 7, 2018 meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No changes made; motion made to approve minutes; seconded = approved.
	Director's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director is absent; Dep-C Maesaka-Hirata to present Director's report to Commission.
Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C	Ethnic Breakdown of Facility Programs - Handout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chart handout displays program completion breakdown by ethnicity;• Reports that handout shows inmates who identify as Native Hawaiian (but is also inclusive of all inmates) that are participating in facility programs [i.e.: general education (GED)] but that the programs inmates who identify as native

<p>Bob Merce, Commission Member</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>		<p>Hawaiian are participating in, are not necessarily defined as being “Native Hawaiian” in content;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that the handout also shows those inmates who identify as Native Hawaiian appear to be participating in High School Equivalency Testing in larger numbers than inmates identified as non-Native Hawaiians; • Reports that the difficulty is in getting practitioners to remain once they are admitted; reports that practitioners come in, but usually end up quitting due to outside obligations or lack of participants; reports that facility staff are unfamiliar and not certified to take over once the instructor leaves; • <u>Commission</u> – Comment made on the difficulty inmates face when they commit to participate in programs but the class they are attending is cancelled; case in point: Mindfulness Meditation class; • <u>Response</u>- PSD is aware of the situation and are working on a contract to provide that class at WCCC, but the current contract right now only allows for the class to be held at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC), Halawa Correctional Facility (HCF) and Waiava Correctional Facility (WCF); the difficulty is that the class is operating under a Grant-In-Aide (GIA) and there are rules attached as to what is allowed; PSD will instruct its
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<p>Bob Merce, Commission Member</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>		<p>Program division to review the details of the GIA before moving forward;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission- Details another issue concerning an individual who conducts cultural programs at the Arizona facility but contacted a member of the Commission to address; reports that this individual makes plans to hold classes but then the class gets cancelled; as a result, relayed that the instructor would like to meet with the Director; • Response – Informs the Commission that the department is aware of this instructor and is sympathetic of his need to coordinate his outside obligations with those services he conducts at the facility level; however, suggests to the Commission that it would be a better practice if this or any other individual that approaches a commission member to discuss an issue concerning the department and its facilities, approach the department directly and not go through commission members to field their issues;
<p>Tim Hansen, Co-Chmn.</p>	<p>Legislation Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Askes the Deputy Director if there is anything the Commission should be aware of regarding legislative proposals being presented this session;
<p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>	<p>Reentry Bills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that there are several bills in the current session that relate to reentry efforts and the expansion of new programs; • Reports that requests are being made to start a program called “Try Think” (HB670)

		<p>which works with teenagers and showed to have worked very well in a correctional setting; states that the department sees the “push” coming from the community to target the adults;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports that PSD has yet to review the “Try Think” curriculum or who runs it; further explains the difficulty put onto the department when asked to garner support for or comment on a program that hasn’t been reviewed yet; this includes making sure the department is asking the “right” questions;• States that PSD wants to make it clear to the Commission that PSD does not turn away programs or the people that run them; that the department does not have a problem when the community proposes new services or programming; states that that the department just wants to make sure before moving forward so prevent the duplication of;• States that the department does take action whenever issues are brought to its attention, that’s why is it so important to be contacted directly-so that issues can be addressed swiftly;• Informs the Commission that currently, there is a bill stating that PSD should only allow programs in the facility curriculum that has been proven to be effective through evidence-based practices and that if not, the program in question should be
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		<p>removed; however, if the department adhered to the letter of the law, most if not all cultural programs, being anecdotal would be removed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• States that is why it is so important that the department balances what is stated as law against what has shown to be beneficial; that if the department only offers programs that are evidence based, the inmates could potentially miss out on the cultural programs that could prove to be more beneficial because the inmates could relate to it better;• Reports that PSD is trying to be sensitive to inmates needs when developing new programs; that programs are inmate-driven so if inmates ask for something, RCO investigates the viability and sustainability, making sure that there is an interest first before initiating;• Reports that the “flip” side of program development is its sustainability; for example: calls for meditation classes are made and maybe 2-3 inmates show up initially; then the next week the number of participants drops to 1; the week after that, no one shows up; this results in the program being terminated because nobody is interested and doesn’t show up; when asked, reports that the department cannot force an inmate to attend any type of programming; that it is all voluntary and that courts are the only entity that can
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		<p>mandate anything regarding programming for inmates;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports that the department also has to balance laws (SLH 149) when developing programs; for example, SLH 149 states that anyone under 21 who hasn't gotten their GED, is required to participate in educational programs however, inmates can refuse to comply and the department has no recourse; its all voluntary;• Reports that inmates maxing out sometimes chose not to participate in any recommended programming because they feel they don't have the capacity, especially regarding educational classes, to successfully complete the course;• Reports that there are some sex offenders that refuse to attend recommended sex offender programs because they continue to deny their guilt;• Reports that there currently, there is a bill looking at Crime Victim Compensation to pay for mental health services; there is also strong support for a bill to purchase the Federal Detention Center (FDC);• The land is owned by the state but was condemned to enable the Federal government to build the Federal Detention Center (FDC) there; the agreement was that the Feds would run it for 30 years, then the building would be returned to the state;• Reports that by contract, PSD can house up to 500 inmates at FDC but it would cost
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<p>Bob Merce, Commission Member</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>		<p>the State \$120/day versus the \$76/day it costs to house an inmate in Arizona; according to the count two days ago, the building's capacity is 1200 but the count was 393;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission – asks: are inmates who are sentenced misdemeanors and sentenced felon probationers, covered by Medicaid at the time of release and is the coverage 100%? • Response – Medicaid is a federal program and inmates can't get coverage prior to release; the department works with Med Quest to provide initial medical coverage until Medicaid "kicks in" (if they qualify); but there are always cases where 100% coverage is not possible immediately upon release; the same goes for if the inmate was on SNAP, or Candid funds before incarceration; • Reports that regarding Social Security benefits/checks: SSA stops distribution of benefit checks to the inmate while incarcerated; upon release, the department notifies SSA to begin the paperwork to restart/initiate new benefit coverage; the paperwork can begin prior, but the SSA will not begin to process a request until the inmate has been released; then it takes time until a decision is reached on whether or not the inmate qualifies;
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<p>Bob Merce, Commission Member Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission – asks: as to what percentage of population would qualify for Social Security benefits? • Response - PSD will need to look into that as that is not being tracked currently; but with population, the inmate may now be eligible, so the application would be considered “new”; or you have inmates who were collecting prior to being incarcerated, and its just a matter of updating their information and re-activating their account; in any case, inmates currently taking medications, are provided a two-week supply, upon release;
<p>Tim Hansen, Co-Chmn. Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C Bob Merce, Commission Member Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>	<p>PSD Housing Project Projection items (CIP) – Directors report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission requests a list of CIP items going through the Legislature that needs funding; • Response - PSD has already acquired funding for the various expansion projects planned for all the CCC’s, including WCCC; • Commission- Reports that there are about 303 probation violators with substance abuse issue currently incarcerated at OCCC; asks if PSD closes OCCC, would the department still need to build a new jail to accommodate these violators at \$380,000/a bed? • Response – If Judiciary could build their own facility to house all the HOPE Probation violators, then PSD could partner with DOH to monitor and wouldn’t have to erect an additional 300-bed facility; but right now, PSD is unable to provide an

		answer as to if PSD will need to build an additional facility to accommodate the probation violators;
Tim Hansen Co-Chmn.	Reentry Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next topic on the Agenda
Monica Lortz, CPDO	SAVIN position, vacant position and program updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that hoping to fill the last vacancy, a program development position, in a month or so; the difficulty to fill has been because the position is temporary; the person currently in that position has been detached and until she takes another permanent position, can't provide a permanent post; • SAVIN Coordinator position has been filled (Garret Takahashi); • New contract for clean and sober housing has been approved, providing housing for females (Aiea); males (McCully); and for males/females (Big Island)
Toni Bissen, Co-Chmn. Garret Takahashi, SAVIN Coordinator with the RCO	SAVIN Coordinator for PSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Commission</u> – what is your background of Reentry? • <u>Response</u> - Originally began in 2010 with the Justice Reinvention Initiative (JRI); left for about 6 years and now returned; • Previously a probation officer and a HOPE probation counselor; most recently, managed a substance abuse program for Hawaii Care
Tim Hansen, Co-Chmn.	Act 56: The Civil ID update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests updates on the Act 56 (Civil ID)
Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports that connecting internet lines have been laid at HCF; State and City lines will be crossing together;

<p>Monica Lortz, CPDO</p> <p>Toni Bissen, Co-Chmn.</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata Dep C</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans are for PSD to use a mobile laptop that can be transported to different facilities; • IT Division at PSD will need to review the software; waiting approval on the cost (HlePRO required), adding to the delay; • Talked with Chris Young who is the administrator of the Hawaii Criminal Justice Center (HCJDC) as HCJDC maintains files on inmate's identity and are the agency actually verifying the inmate's identify with the FBI; • DEP-C needs to work with HCJDC in order for them to get them to agree to partner with PSD, in working together with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to enable cards to be issued prior to release; • <u>Commission</u> - Asks if other states are doing the verification of inmate's identities same way or do they have a separate system? • <u>Response</u> - Unlike Hawaii, other states run their jails and prisons separately and so procedures will vary. Locally, each island is structured differently; and smaller facilities like MCCC, can coordinate services with the community to assist inmates prior to release in obtaining a SS card; • PSD's hope is that the civil ID will take effect in June with a process taking about 6-8 weeks to process after application is submitted;
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<p>Toni Bissen Co-Chmn.</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p> <p>Toni Bissen Co-Chmn. Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C Toni Bissen Co-Chmn. Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application will still require a 2-person verification; • One camera will be with PSD and another at DOT; facility staff will verify the inmate's identity, but DOT will have final authority to issue ID; • PSD computer will only take the inmate's picture; DOT will issue the actual card; • PSD will then take possession/hold the card until inmate is released; IDs will be valid for 8 years; so if inmate returns to custody, ID will be held until inmate is again released; • Commission– asks that should anyone ask any member of the Commission, can we say the process will be ready by August? • Response – August is PSD's target date but it's not a guarantee; so suggest waiting until an actual date is given; • Commission–Asks, then how's about stating September or October as the effective date? • Response – That will be fine; • Commission– It was stated earlier that the machine/pilot project will start at Halawa and will be mobile; does that mean that services will be available at WCCC too? • Response – It's a pilot program and PSD wants to make sure everything works well between both agencies and work out the "bugs" before moving the project to other
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<p>Toni Bissen Co-Chmn. Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p> <p>Toni Bissen Co-Chmn.</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C</p>		<p>facilities such as WCCC; so it'll probably be a while longer;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Commission</u>– Will it come to the neighbor islands? • <u>Response</u> – Neighbor islands again, coordinate with outside service providers to obtain duplicate vital documents, so no, there are no plans right now to move the program to the outer islands; • <u>Commission</u>– So you're saying the neighbor islands, as far as getting their IDs, everyone is getting them? • <u>Response</u> – Yes, they have a good system but its mainly due to the fact that the island population is small in comparison to Oahu;
<p>Tim Hansen, Co-Chmn.</p>	<p>Next Agenda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Reentry Plan
<p>Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP C</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much Mahalo goes to Albert Diaz of the Reentry office who helped design this plan • <u>Commission</u> – asks are we only measuring success by recidivism or are there other values to look at? • <u>Response</u> – Last year a bill came out SB2816 Act 212, regarding program performance measures that the reentry office has already begun to make efforts to address;
<p>Tim Hansen, Co-Chmn.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 34 of the Comprehensive Reentry Office Plan lays out specific indicators of success: recidivism rates, restitution collection, education, SA treatment, EBP

		CBT & other, population, Offender Civil Identification documents;
Toni Bissen Co-Chmn. Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 22 discusses philosophical ideas about framework strategies for success; • Response - The PSD Director was on PBS recently and reported on the ICIS definition of recidivism, where they record all arrests; Probation revocations, parole violations and that's how ICIS measure the success; However, ICIS is only looking at max out offenders; PSD numbers differ (37%) which translates to being 10% lower than ICIS numbers; • Commission - asks if the conviction rate is at the Prosecuting Office is known? • Response – No, but about 5% of cases come in, go to trial and gets settled; • Commission - Probably what's less concerning are people who violated parole or probation versus someone who actually commit an offense; those are the ones who are in real danger of recidivating; • Response – disagree; sometimes a person is admitted and it's only because they did not keep an appointment; or a dirty urinalysis, or some other reason; someone whose is re-convicted absolutely is thinking criminally, but it doesn't mean that someone who makes a wrong choice while probation or parole is less dangerous than someone whose been re-convicted. • Commission – Probation Officers (P.O.) are supposed to work with the person, help
Toni Bissen, Co-Chmn.		
Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C		
Toni Bissen, Co-Chmn.		

<p>Kimmy Takata, Commission Member</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, DEP-C</p> <p>Kimmy Takata, Commission Member</p> <p>Jodie Maesaka-Hirata, DEP-C</p>		<p>guide you towards making the right decisions, give you a chance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Commission</u> - asks if that counts as a relapse, does it mean that you committed a crime? • <u>Commission</u> – When you relapse you’re on the road and there’s no telling what you will do; you get that taste of the drug, and it’s hard to get out of your head; you can tell your P.O. all you want that you will be good this time, but it’s hard; first time offenders usually come out successful; it’s those who relapse that experience the problems; • <u>Response</u> - I propose that PSD should begin a research project and I recommend that it should be start with the Judiciary, asking them what are their rules on probation violation, new conviction, etc.; if the inmate was on probation and committed a new crime, then another set of questions should be asked: are they in prison now? When did they get released? Are they most likely to commit another crime? What was their behavior like before? Who are their associates? Where are their families? What kind of support system do they have? • <u>Commission</u> – Can PSD request mandatory programs to the inmates? • <u>Response</u> – No PSD cannot mandate any programming, everything is voluntary; recommendations can be made but we
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		can't make them do anything; the only way to make it mandatory is via a court order;
Tim Hansen, Co Chmn.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can add to the Agenda for the next meeting;
Jodie Maesaka- Hirata Dep-C		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adds insight: if a person makes it to 90 days without incident, it's a good chance they will survive the next 6 months; if you past the 1 year mark, then most likely you will past your 2nd year and so forth; if a person fails the first year its usually because 1) stressed out 2) have to deal with guilt 3) can't adjust to family life 4) job pressure and this usually happens the first 3-6 months; • <u>Commission</u> – We should really focus on the first 6 months. What are the best practices of maximum intervention? What can you do to help these people pass the first 6 months? What causes them to fail the last 6 months? Once we get answers and hopefully fix the problem the recidivism will drop; • <u>Commission</u> – Reentry is doing a great job. Getting these people their IDs, getting them back into society, building up their self-esteem; the billion dollar question is how to get them treatment for addiction; • <u>Response</u> – Inmates can get motivated when a case manager actually talks with them, and they don't just see them as a "body". What gets them going is the communication;
Kimmy Takata, Commission Member		
Gary Yabuta, Commission Member		
Jodie Maesaka- Hirata, DEP-C		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEP-C requests that RCO staff step out to allow Commission to discuss issue of press release;
Tim Hansen, Co Chmn.	Old and new business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New business – Returning Home Conference - hope it will happen with Kauai hosting; the person who was assigned is no longer in the position; • Toni is working on some kind of communication about whether or not they will have it; Please add this topic to the 'old' business in our next meeting; • Hopefully there will be 2 new commissioners by next meeting; • Motion to adjourn; unanimous = adjourned.