

From: [Laura Pitman](#)
To: [Ed Evans <ed.evans@doc.state.ok.us>](mailto:ed.evans@doc.state.ok.us)
CC:
Date: Tue, 11/19/2013 2:39:54 PM
Subject: FW: Meeting Recap

Here are my thoughts with respect to a response to Mr. Costello.

We also appreciate the opportunity to meet with you. We look forward to future meetings to address our mutual interests and concerns. As we discussed, we are willing to evaluate and consider each of the suggestions made during the meeting as you have listed them below. Once we have had an opportunity to do so, we are willing to discuss each at a future meeting. To accurately evaluate most of the recommendations that were made information will be required from our Evaluation and Analysis unit. Their workload and priorities will impact the speed with which we will be able to gather this data.

One item that is missing from your list is the efforts that you are willing to undertake to reduce the number of returns to higher security from halfway. As we discussed, for FY 2013, for males, out of 871 placements into Avalon facilities, 253 (29%) were returned to higher security. Reduction in the number of returns would be of benefit to the your company, the state, the department and to the offenders. It is likely that changes in security and case management practices could significantly impact the number of returns.

We look forward to hearing about your efforts as well as discussing the recommendations that you put forward.

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From: Brian Costello [mailto:bcostello@avaloncorrections.net]
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2013 3:26 PM
To: Ed Evans
Cc: Laura Pitman; Reginald Hines; Don Smith; Chris Villalobos
Subject: Meeting Recap

Director Evans,
I wanted to thank you for your time yesterday. I know you are busy and we appreciate the opportunity to sit down with you and your team and discuss some possible changes that will be beneficial to the DOC, the state, and the Halfway Houses which contract with you. As I stated yesterday, there are 358 empty HWH beds that are under contract today, and at least 140 more that are available. We believe that anything we can do through partnership with you to help move more offenders to these beds is a positive move for everyone involved...especially the offenders.

As Dr. Pitman's data suggested, there were 830 male releases in FY13, that potentially could have moved down and did not. 434 from Minimum to Community and 396 from Community to Halfway Houses. We recognize that some of these 830 may have had a recent misconduct or other disqualifying factor, but we believe that percentage would be low and the bulk of these offenders could have been moved.

As a short recap of the meeting here a few take-aways that I believe we agreed on:

- DOC will look at the current population in Minimum, CCC, and CWC with the same criteria as releases in FY 13, to determine potential candidates to move down in the system.
- Consider a policy change to eligibility criteria for Community (for males) from 1095 to 1500 days. This would match the criteria for females. This change would create a much larger pool of offenders in Minimum facilities to be looked at for potential moves to community.
- Consider a policy change for the amount of time spent at a CCC, CWC or Minimum facility after an offender is removed from a Halfway House. Currently the requirement is one (1) year. It seems that there could be a decrease in this time to six (6) months or three (3) months depending on the offender and the reason for the initial HWH failure.
- Consider a policy change to shorten the number of days required at Minimum security before becoming eligible for movement to Community level. Currently the requirement is ninety (90) days. Also, consider policy change for number of days at Community before HWH eligible. Currently the requirement is thirty (30) days. Again, this increases the number of offenders to look at for potential moves.
- Implement the GPS sanctioning program for certain HWH failures. (i.e. off-itinerary, late returns, etc). This would be for working offenders and they would pay the fee themselves. (approximately \$4.00/day). This has been in work for quite a few months and should be ready to implement.
- An automated classification system (to replace OMS) would be ideal but will take money and time. In lieu of a new system, consider putting a full-time employee in the position of "Offender Classification and Movement Monitor". This individual would conduct regular audits of all facilities to ensure proper classification for each offender and ensure on-time movement of those offenders eligible to move. The Monitor would provide regular reports on their findings to the Director and the Board of Corrections.
- It was discussed that we were receiving offenders with an average of 600 days remaining instead of closer to 1095. The longer the offenders are in a HWH with a job, the better it is for everyone. Program support fees increase, offender savings increase, etc. and the chance of successful reintegration also increases. Mr. Rudek stated that he would look at that and attempt to get offenders to HWH's sooner.

An additional idea which was not discussed in detail yesterday:

- Consider a revision to the policy which deals with offenders' points based on the crime committed. Currently, offenders with 6 or more points are not eligible for community placement. For certain offenders, it might make sense to allow for point reductions based on time served without misconducts, program completion, or education. This could also increase the pool of offenders potentially eligible for movement from Minimum to Community.

Lastly, I mentioned that we would be willing to consider certain sex offenders for placement in our OKC HWH, The Carver Center. Policy current prevents that from happening but we cannot find anywhere in State Statutes a prohibition against sex offenders being eligible for community placement if the facility is zoned appropriately. I believe that we would need much more discussion on this topic and weigh the risks associated with this population, but we house anywhere from 15% to 40% sex offenders in our Texas and Wyoming Halfway Houses and have had a fair amount of success getting them jobs and helping them to reintegrate.

Again, thank you very much for your time yesterday. I greatly appreciate your willingness to consider some of these ideas as we hope to work together on these issues

in the future.
Sincerely,
Brian

Brian Costello
President and Chief Operating Officer
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