



Meeting Minutes
Iowa Prison Industries Advisory Board
Friday, December 6, 2019
Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, Mitchellville, IA

Present: Dr. Doug Hillman, Tim Diesburg, Andrew Bright, Megan Ellsworth, Jennifer Gardner, Dan Clark.

Absent: Bonnie Winther, Helen Miller

Staff: Alan Reiter, Justin Opfer, Clint Schmidt.

Guests: Warden Sheryl Dahm

I. Call to Order.

Prior to the meeting, Warden Dahm gave an overview of the correctional institution in Mitchellville. She mentioned that the BBC network was onsite and filming for 3 weeks, and that Great Britain did not have life sentences for females. ICIW had recently received two grants from the Department of Justice – one on research related to trauma-informed gender responsive programming, and a second to collect data on changes in the ICIW culture. The warden explained the policy that allowed Minimum Live-Outs to join the IPI program, and also mentioned that three women were currently working at the Mitchellville Community Center with senior citizens. ICIW had recently received a grant from Google related to computer programming, and had also hosted the Governor's conference on re-entry.

ICIW houses about 600 women inside the secure perimeter, and another 120 outside, with ages ranging from 18-83, and with 45 serving a life sentence or a very long sentence. Typically, about 7-9 women were pregnant at any given time, and once close to term they are transferred to IMCC in Iowa City. Two staff had been arrested recently, related PREA violations, which are a misdemeanor in Iowa but a felony in all but three states. Staff turnover is a struggle, particularly with the hours and days off that new officers begin with (the least desirable shifts). Most new staff have Tuesday and Wednesday as their "weekend".

Dr. Doug Hillman called the meeting to order at 8:55am on December 6, 2019.

II. IPI Manager Updates.

Mr. Reiter, Mr. Opfer and Mr. Schmidt provided the board with updates.

III. Report – Private Contractor Sales.

Mr. Clark reviewed approved sales to private contractors that involve eligible IPI customers. All such approved projects are posted to the IPI website.

IV. Tour of IPI Program.

Mr. Opfer provided the Advisory Board members with a tour of the Mitchellville facility. Women in the IPI program learn to manufacture seating, office systems, plastic bags and textiles for IPI partners, and also have the opportunity to work in the private sector program.

V. Update IPI Vision and Mission Statements.

Ms. Gardner made a motion to adopt updates to the IPI Vision and Mission statements, as shown below. Mr. Diesburg seconded the motion, and the updates were approved unanimously.

Vision

A meaningful work training opportunity to develop utilizable skills for every person.

Mission Statement

A self-sufficient program that positively impacts participant lives, reduces recidivism, and provides valued products and services to our communities.

The board plans to review and update the Vision and Mission statements every two years.

VI. New Business.

The board approved the following dates and locations for meetings in 2020:

Friday, March 27, 2020	Anamosa
Friday June 19, 2020	Rockwell City
Friday September 18, 2020	Newton
Friday December 11, 2020	IPI Showroom

Previous locations are shown below:

2019	Ft. Dodge	Anamosa	Newton	Mitchellville
2018	Conf Call	Clarinda	Ft. Madison	Mitchellville
2017	Newton	Rockwell City	Anamosa	Showroom
2016	Ft. Madison	Anamosa	Conf Call	Showroom
2015	Anamosa	Ft. Dodge	- none -	Mitchellville
2014	Clarinda	Mitchellville	Conf Call	Showroom

Mr. Clark reviewed the IPI policy that disallows the participation in the private sector employment program by men and women serving a life sentence. He said that there is no state or federal prohibition on “lifers” working in the program, and that IPI attempts to mirror the population demographics of each institution in which it operates. The board asked Mr. Clark to develop policy language that would prevent lifers from taking all of the “good jobs” thereby excluding those men and women that are scheduled for release.

VII. Adjourn

Dr. Hillman asked for a motion to adjourn, which was offered by Ms. Gardner and seconded by Mr. Diesburg. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12pm.

Minutes submitted by:

Handwritten signature of Dan Clark, consisting of a large 'D' followed by a stylized 'C'.

Dan Clark, Director

Minutes approved by:

Handwritten signature of Dr. Doug Hillman, written in cursive.

Dr. Doug Hillman, Chair