

DCCCP Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2017 – 3:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Dawn Deaner, Mike Engle, Donna Grayer, Charlotte Mann, Vince Wyatt, and Tyler Yarbros.

DCCCP Staff Present: Larissa Burdette, Program Manager

1. Welcome

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Secretary Tyler Yarbros called the meeting to order. Larissa Burdette welcomed the Advisory Board.

2. Adopt minutes from February meeting

Dawn Deaner moved that the minutes from the February meeting be adopted. Mike Engle seconded the motion. There being no objection, the minutes were approved.

3. 3rd Quarter program review

Larissa reviewed the DCCCP statistics for the 3rd statistics and offered to answer questions from the Advisory Board. In anticipation of question, noted 142 positive drug screens. Donna Grayer inquired as to what happens when an offender tests positive. Larissa responded that the CO is required to report that to the judge. In a discussion that followed regarding screens that test positive for opiates, Larissa noted that the screens now used indicate opiate use.

There was also a question as to whether the graduated sanctions program adopted by Probation and Parole apply to DCCCP. Larissa responded that this program will not apply during this grant cycle, 2017 – 2019. She indicated that it may apply to DCCCP after 2019, but there has been no final decision on this yet by TDOC.

4. Personnel Changes

Separations:

None

Promotions:

Andrew Wheat promoted to Case Officer 2 (promoted to Katie Martin's former position)

Vacant Positions:

None

New Hires:

Shellis Hampton, Case Officer 1 – Start date February 21, 2017
Anna Flores, Case Officer 1 – Start date March 27, 2017 (took Andrew Wheat's CO1 position)

Larissa noted that both are trained and doing well.

5. Recent changes/developments

Larissa reported that the new grant requires a change in DCCCP's assessment tool and treatment curriculum. Accordingly, DCCCP will be changing from "Pro-Life Skills," which was used during the 2014-2017 grant cycle, to "Thinking 4 a Change."

It is not entirely known to Larissa why the requirements for the curriculum keep changing. She noted that the TDOC Commissioner is requiring that all programs adopt the same curriculum. The training for the new curriculum is scheduled to begin some time in June.

6. Ongoing Projects

There are new requirements in the Community Corrections Standards, requiring DCCCP to move from using LSCMI to Strong R for recidivism risk assessment. Use of Strong R will begin July 1 (the license for use of LSCMI expires on June 30) and DCCCP employees will be trained some time in June.

Larissa explained that use of the LSCMI tool is required at intake, every two years, and after every life-changing event, like a reincarceration. It is also used by officers who write pre-sentence reports.

TDOC representative Charlotte Mann is familiar with the Strong R tool and she offered some of her observations about the key differences in what is asked in the Strong R assessment. Charlotte also asked what DCCCP does with offenders who do not have a high school degree. Currently, DCCCP is referring those individuals out to the programs in the community as there is no DCCCP staff member currently assisting with GED needs.

Larissa reported that DCCCP's policy and procedure manual will need to change slightly to conform with new TDOC requirements. DCCCP will begin to undertake those revisions once the grant is completely finalized.

Dawn inquired as to whether there are any concerns that Larissa or DCCCP has with respect to the new requirements. Larissa indicated that she does not believe that the changes will have too much of an impact on DCCCP. The changes were mostly made to ensure greater uniformity among different programs and to clarify language.

7. New business

The new grant is for two years, 2017-2019. It is due to be turned in to TDOC by May 22, 2017. Larissa has no reason to assume that any other program has submitted a competing bid, so there should be no issue with the grant being awarded.

8. Closing

Larissa entertained any remaining questions/comments from the Advisory Board. There being none, the meeting was adjourned and the next meeting was scheduled for August 30, 2017 at 3:30 PM.

Next Meeting
8/30 at 3:30