

CALIFORNIA PRISON INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF THE
PRISON INDUSTRY BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

10:00 A.M.

ZOOM/TELECONFERENCE MEETING

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Reported by: ANN R. LEITZ, CSR NO. 9149

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APPEARANCES

Kathleen Allison, Board Chair
Darshan Singh, Vice-Chair

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dawn Davison
Brent Jamison
Curtis Kelly
Felipe Martin
Troy Vaughn
Kathleen Webb
Bob Jennings (appeared after Roll Call)

ALSO PRESENT:

William Davidson, General Manager (A)
Jessica Murray, Board Secretary
Suzie Changus, Chief Informational Officer

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Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126, the Board will meet in closed session to discuss the following:	11
*Matters defined under Government Code Section 11126(a) regarding appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a Public employee.	
*Matters defined under Government Code Section 1126(e) (2) (B) (i) regarding pending litigation.	
6. Public Comment	
This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items not on the agenda. Under the Bagley-Keene Act, the Board cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff.	11
7. Adjournment 11:25 a.m.	13

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1 VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS

2 Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

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4 CHAIR ALLISON: I call this meeting of the Prison
5 Industry Board to order at 10:01 a.m.

6 I am Kathleen Allison, Secretary for the Department Of
7 Corrections and Board Chair.

8 Welcome Board Members and Attendees and thank you for
9 being here today for the Prison Industry Board Meeting.

10 I would like to note, in light of the State's
11 recommendation for social distancing measures, this Board
12 meeting is being conducted via videoconference pursuant to the
13 provisions outlined in the Executive Order N-29-0.

14 If any member of the public who are on the line right
15 now would like to make a comment, you will have a chance to
16 comment at the end of the meeting. We will give out further
17 instructions on how to raise your hand and to let the
18 organizer know you would like to speak. Each speaker will be
19 limited to two minutes for public comment. I would request
20 that everybody announce your full name and affiliation before
21 speaking so there's no confusion.

22 We will begin by asking the Board Secretary to please
23 call the roll.

24 BOARD SECRETARY: Good morning, everybody.

25 All right, Chair Allison?

1 CHAIR ALLISON: Present.

2 BOARD SECRETARY: Vice-Chair Singh?

3 VICE CHAIR SINGH: Yes.

4 BOARD SECRETARY: Member Aghakhanian?

5 Member Davison?

6 MEMBER DAVISON: Here.

7 BOARD SECRETARY: Member Jamison?

8 MEMBER JAMISON: Present.

9 BOARD SECRETARY: Member Jenkins? Member Jennings?

10 Member Kelly?

11 MEMBER KELLY: Here.

12 BOARD SECRETARY: Member Martin?

13 MEMBER MARTIN: Here.

14 BOARD SECRETARY: Member Vaughn?

15 MEMBER VAUGHN: Present.

16 BOARD SECRETARY: Member Webb?

17 MEMBER WEBB: Present.

18 BOARD SECRETARY: There you are. Thank you very much.

19 Let the record show that we have a quorum of eight members.

20 CHAIR ALLISON: Thank you, Jessica.

21 So I am definitely pleased to be in front of you today

22 to announce where we're at as it relates to Covid and,

23 hopefully, getting our institutions back up to some kind of

24 normal operations.

25 Currently, we are tracking only 30 active cases of

1 Covid, which is, obviously, substantially less than our
2 all-time high of 10,000 at one time. Yes.

3 It's been a very stressful year, but we're definitely
4 seeing our way out of this through vaccines. So vaccine
5 administration has gone exceptionally well for the Department.
6 We have about 48 percent of the population vaccinated and
7 about 41 percent of staff.

8 So, you know, we were very fortunate to be able to
9 that first week in December, when vaccines starting arriving
10 in California, to administer to our elderly population, 65 and
11 older, at specific institutions, and now it's gone statewide.

12 We're still following the California Department of
13 Public Health guidelines as well as CDC as far as when it's,
14 you know, "my turn" kind of thing. So we're very excited
15 about that. We're actually in the phase of going to actually
16 -- right now, we are just doing strictly volunteers, now going
17 to each individual saying "are you going to take it or not?"
18 We knew a lot of people were, in particular, wanting to wait,
19 in particular with staff, to see how it worked for other
20 people. And so, fortunately, that has gone well.

21 So we're very close to issuing our -- what we call our
22 "roadmap to reopening" to include in-person visitation. Our
23 population has not seen their families, touched their families
24 in over a year, and so, very excited to get that going as best
25 we can with the Public Health guidance. And, hopefully, that

1 announcement will be very soon.

2 Obviously, it will not be what it was before, it will
3 not be the full visiting rooms, like we've seen in the past,
4 but -- and, of course, our programs will start opening up more
5 and more throughout the institutions. And I know Prison
6 Industries is excited to get all their programs up to full
7 speed, and so I'm sure that Randy will talk about that more
8 later.

9 So now I would like to open up the floor for any
10 opening remarks from the Board Members?

11 MEMBER DAVISON: Kathy, I would just like to say that
12 I think it's very admirable that the Department has gone ahead
13 and vaccinated our incarcerated population, because I know
14 that not all states are doing that. And as recently, I read
15 in the news, that Florida has not vaccinated one incarcerated
16 person, and that, I believe, has come down from the governor
17 of the state. And I just -- I think that's an abomination and
18 really is telling -- I did some work there with the Department
19 of Justice, and it's really telling of what they believe their
20 incarcerated population is worth. So it's admirable and it
21 really makes a statement about how we feel about our
22 incarcerated population. So I just wanted to make that
23 statement.

24 CHAIR ALLISON: Thank you. I will say the
25 administration at the highest level felt very strongly that

1 that was part of the governor's equity agenda, to make sure
2 our population receive vaccines in tandem with the community.

3 In fact, we were actually ahead of it because we had
4 the infrastructure. We had the nurses. We had the
5 availability to administer every dose we received. And so, we
6 were actually ahead of the game. We were one of the first
7 states to ever administer vaccines, let alone as widespread as
8 we did. That has come with a little bit of pushback, but not
9 too much. And the bottom line is, we have an infrastructure.
10 We're still trying to stand up the CVS's and all the
11 community-based injection sites. We already were ready to go.

12 So very excited. Thank you for that comment.

13 Would anybody else like to make a comment this
14 morning? Okay, thank you. We will move along to the General
15 Manager's Comment. Randy, are you acting this week?

16 BILL DAVIDSON: Secretary Allison, this is Bill; I'm
17 here.

18 CHAIR ALLISON: I'm sorry, Bill. Thank you for being
19 here. I apologize.

20 BOARD SECRETARY: Bill, I'm sorry, I just wanted to
21 let the record show that Mr. Jennings also joined the meeting.
22 I'm sorry, thank you.

23 MEMBER JENNINGS: Hello. Good morning.

24 BOARD SECRETARY: Good morning.

25 BILL DAVIDSON: Good morning, Chair Allison and Board

1 Members. It's great to be able to be here with you this
2 morning. I will be brief in my comments this morning because
3 I know that there's other issues that folks are anxious to get
4 into and discuss this morning.

5 But, first and foremost, I just want to thank each of
6 you for your support. Over this past month-and-a-half, I have
7 had the opportunity to meet with nearly all of you. Not every
8 one of you yet, but nearly all of you. I just want to let you
9 know that I appreciate your support, your encouragement and
10 our shared desire to continue to move PIA ahead forward.

11 And I appreciate those numbers that you shared,
12 Secretary Allison. I think it's great to see the progress
13 that's been made, particularly over the past couple of months
14 in regards to the situation with Covid, and we are in the
15 process of reopening programs and operations within CALPIA, we
16 are seeing increased numbers of incarcerated individuals who
17 are able to work in the programs again, and that has been a
18 great benefit to our programs.

19 You know, we're seeing -- obviously, more production
20 that we're able to do, less product that we have to buy out,
21 and just again giving these incarcerated individuals the
22 opportunity to participate and work in the programs again. So
23 that's been very encouraging and motivating and optimistic to
24 see that happening.

25 As we -- again, this meeting in its acting capacity,

1 as I've shared with you, has been met. My goal and my focus
2 right now is just to continue to keep this organization moving
3 forward. I believe that we are on and have been on firm
4 ground, and the plans and the actions that have been going, I
5 believe are the right actions for this organization. So my
6 focus is just to continue to keep that moving forward.

7 A couple of the things that, you know, particularly
8 focused on, obviously, you know, we presented and approved the
9 Strategic Plan at the last Board Meeting, so just to continue
10 to roll out in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, to
11 continue the formation and establishment of the subcommittees,
12 get back to focus on the development of the bylaws for the
13 Board. So those are some of the things, along with the
14 operational areas.

15 You know, our focus continues to be Optical, you know,
16 the transition we're doing with the Dairy program. I have
17 talked with Ms. Webb regarding the efforts for DMV. Those are
18 the areas that we're highly focused on right now, and I would
19 say all of those areas continue to make good progress and, you
20 know, provided improved service in each of those areas. We
21 look forward to continuing to do that. And then finally as
22 mentioned, over the next week or so, be working on putting
23 together and scheduling the next regular Board meeting -- next
24 regularly scheduled Board Meeting. Particularly, we have a
25 Board Meeting in April. So we'll either have that scheduled

1 probably right at the end of April, may have to go to early
2 May, but late April, early May is when we will look forward to
3 scheduling the next Board Meeting.

4 Those points are what I wanted to share with you this
5 morning. If you have any questions, happy to take any
6 questions that you have. And, again, I just want to thank you
7 and express my appreciation for your continued support.

8 CHAIR ALLISON: Thank you, Mr. Davidson. I appreciate
9 your comments.

10 At this time, the Board will recess for a Closed
11 Session. The Board will be in Closed Session to discuss
12 pending litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 11126
13 (e) (2) (B) (I), and also discuss the appointment/employment
14 evaluation of performance or dismissal of a public employee
15 pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a).

16 The Host will place the Board Members into a breakroom
17 where they will meet separately. To ensure all Board Members
18 have joined in the breakroom, I will ask the Board Secretary
19 to once again call the roll, excuse me, and then we'll excuse
20 prior to discussion. Once the closed session is complete, the
21 Members will join back into the regular meeting. Thank you.

22 (Off the record at 10:15 a.m. for Closed Session)

23 (Roll Call/Resumed at 11:21 a.m.)

24 BOARD SECRETARY: We have a quorum of nine Members.

25 CHAIR ALLISON: This meeting is now reconvened.

1 For the record, the Board discussed the appointment,
2 employment, evaluation of performance or dismissal of a public
3 employee and also pending litigation.

4 We now move on the portion of the meeting reserved for
5 comment regarding items not on the agenda.

6 Under the Bagley-Keene Act, the Board cannot act on
7 items raised during public comment, but may respond briefly to
8 statements made or questions posed or it may request
9 clarification or refer the item to staff.

10 If any member of the public would like to make a
11 comment or address the Board, please dial "*6." Our meeting
12 organizer will place you in order and will call out the last
13 four digits of your phone number when it's time for you to
14 speak.

15 Please make sure to announce your full name and
16 affiliation before your comment so we can make a note for the
17 record.

18 SUZIE CHANGUS: No public participants today.

19 CHAIR ALLISON: No public participants, okay.

20 This concludes our Prison Industry Board of March 23rd
21 2021. Is there a motion to adjourn the meeting?

22 MEMBER JENNINGS: So moved.

23 MEMBER MARTIN: Second. Felipe Martin.

24 CHAIR ALLISON: All in favor.

25 ALL BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

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CHAIR ALLISON: Thank you. Meeting adjourned at
11:25.

(Off the record at 11:25 a.m.)

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1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)

4) ss.

5 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO)
6

7 I, Ann R. Leitz, Certified Shorthand Reporter in the
8 State of California, hereby certify that I was duly appointed
9 and qualified to take the foregoing matter:
10

11 That acting as such reporter, I took down in stenotype
12 notes the testimony given and proceedings had;
13

14 That I thereafter transcribed said shorthand notes into
15 typewritten longhand, the above and foregoing pages being a
16 full, true and correct transcription of the testimony given
17 and proceedings had.
18

19 /s/Ann R. Leitz

20 _____
21 ANN R. LEITZ, CSR NO. 9149
22

23 DATED: Monday, April 5, 2021

24 REVISIONS: 7-29-2021
25