

MINUTES
BOARD OF STATE AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Meeting Held Via Zoom & Teleconference
Pursuant to Governor's [Executive Order N-29-20](#)

I. Call to Order

Chair Linda Penner called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Chair Penner welcomed the Board Members and the public to the Zoom & Teleconference meeting.

Board Secretary Adam Lwin provided instructions to the Board members and the public for participation in the Zoom meeting.

Lwin called roll and announced that there was a quorum.

The following members were in attendance via Zoom or Teleconference:

Chair Penner	Mr. Steinhart	Mr. Growdon	Mr. Budnick
Mr. Seale	Mr. Ertola	Mr. Baranco	
Mr. Gore	Mr. Mills	Ms. Cumpian	

ABSENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Diaz, Mr. Viera Rosa

Chair's Opening Comments

Introductions

- Chair Penner announced that Secretary Diaz and Director Viera Rosa would not be in attendance because they are required to recuse themselves from Agenda Item B.

COVID-19 Data Collection

- Chair Penner announced that on July 15, 2020 a letter was sent to Sheriffs and Probation Chiefs requesting data so the BSCC can build a COVID-19 dashboard on cases in county jails and juvenile detention facilities. The decision was reached after many weeks of consultation with state and local partners. The

data collection will begin next week, and the dashboard is scheduled to launch on July 31, 2020.

Facility Inspections:

- Penner reported that the BSCC has established a travel policy that balances the need for BSCC inspectors back out in the field while also ensuring their ability to travel safely. The BSCC has begun some in-person inspections and will continue to approve inspections based on the priority of the visits.

II. Action: Discussion Items

Discussion Items

A. Finding of Emergency to waive 10-day notice requirement. (Gov. Code, § 11125.5.)

This emergency meeting was called to address an urgent need to consider allocating funding to address the emergency housing needs of people coming out of state prison. This issue is directly related to the State's response to COVID-19, and the Administration has requested that a portion of the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding be dedicated for this purpose.

General Counsel Maguire explained the need for the emergency meeting and referenced [Government Code Section 11125.5](#).

The Board must make a finding of an emergency.

Mr. Gore moved approval. Mr. Growdon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Allocation of Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide emergency temporary housing to individuals released from state prison due to COVID-19: **Requesting Approval**

Deputy Director Ricardo Goodridge and Stephanie Welch of CDCR presented on this agenda item requesting Board approval to award \$15 million of its \$58.5 million in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to help address the emergency temporary housing needs of individuals released from state prison due to COVID-19. CDCR is tasked with releasing 8,000 people from prison by the end of August, and the

Administration has requested that the federal emergency funding be used to help CDCR quickly leverage its existing reentry contracts that can assist in housing transitions.

A CESF award would allow CDCR to immediately leverage existing contracts through the Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) to help with emergency housing needs. The STOP system operates in six regional areas statewide, with offices in LA, San Diego, Sacramento, Marin, San Bernardino and Fresno. Each provider contracts to provide step-down services ranging from residential treatment to recovery and reentry housing at the local level. The proposed funding would provide emergency housing and could cover costs associated with increasing housing capacity and providing quality assurance of housing to ensure safe housing standards are implemented.

The Board members asked questions about the contractors, how the funding would be allocated, grievance process, and if nonprofits will be able to participate in the STOP program.

Ms. Welch explained that CDCR is working with contractors throughout the state and linking individuals to services. The six contractors will be used to increase over 2000 beds in the STOP network. The funding would have a great impact in providing the most immediate available emergency housing.

Welch reported that referrals will be conducted by Division of Adult Parole prior to release and offer emergency housing. CDCR has developed an internal process and will offer resources to people who have recently been released.

Each STOP contractor has a quality assurance process and onsite inspections are completed. The STOP network will need to increase capacity and CDCR has been in communication for preparedness. There are about 500 nonprofits in the STOP network. There will be six program areas geographically laid out throughout the state, those include: West Care, GEO, Amity Foundation, and Health Right 360. More information for these programs may be found here: <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/rehabilitation/stop/stopmap/>.

Public comment was heard for Agenda Item B:

A brief summary of comments provided are as follows:

Luis Nolasco (ACLU): Opposed any funding going to GEO group, a for-profit private prison company. Urged that funding go directly to nonprofit and grassroots programs.

Avalon Edwards (Starting Over): Originally intended to support the recommendation, but now concerned, seeing that GEO group is involved.

Dorsey Nunn: Urged the Board to not fund GEO, and instead find real grass roots organizations.

Jordanna Wong-Omshehe (Starting Over): Does not support funding going to GEO. Requested the Board to rethink. Conversation is tone deaf.

Danielle Sanchez (CPOC): Supported the release of the funds to CDCR. Housing is a critical component in the reentry process. This is timely and essential.

Miguel Garcia (ARC): Urged the Board to leverage resources to the communities most in need. Culturally competent resources are critical.

Courtney Rein: Requested that the Board reconsider the decision to fund the STOP network and fund nonprofit and grassroots programs.

Tyler Rinde (County Behavioral Health Directors): Raised concerns about also addressing the behavioral health and substance use disorder needs of people coming out of state prison.

Johnny Lujan (CEO at Freedom through Education): Questions about status of people being released – parole v. probation, also 290s.

Steven Green (ARC): Oppose the distribution of funds to CDCR. Urged Board to be fiscally responsible.

Daisy Chavez: Opposed funding being given to GEO. Should go to grass roots organizations that employ system impacted people.

Sam Lewis (ARC): In support of this funding going to nonprofits and requested that the Board reconsider the decision to fund to the CDCR contracted agencies from the STOP network and fund nonprofit and grassroots programs.

Kristin Cesario (Fathers and Families of San Joaquin): Opposed funding going to GEO or West Care.

Ed Little: Opposed funding being given to GEO. These resources are critically needed by community organizations.

Jeff Powell (NAMI Sacramento): Behavioral health issues are also very important. Also case management and substance abuse.

Renee Menart (CJCJ): Opposed funding being given to for-profit organizations. Also emphasized the need for accountability and oversight by the BSCC.

Noemi Elias: (Fathers and Families of San Joaquin): Opposed funding being given to GEO. Board should prioritize healing and growth.

Leah Higgins: Disagree with funding going to GEO. This is profiting off the problem.

Samuel Nunez: Prefer to direct funding to housing and other services in the community. This BTDT – been there done that system navigation. Healing services. Trauma recovery center.

Dabney Park & Tess Cogen: Working with youth organizing team. Advocated for COVID-19 data and collection and begin in person inspections.

Stacy Williams (Fathers and Families of San Joaquin): Requested that the Board reconsider the decision to fund to the CDCR contracted agencies from the STOP network and fund nonprofit and grassroots programs.

James Martinez (MILPA): This should be funding for reentry and housing. This is a grab for CDCR. Alleged nonprofit – GEO is for profit.

Kathryn Prizmich (GEO Group): Comments are uneducated on what we do and don't do. This is an allocation to go to nonprofits. We have been providing this management of services. We are in process of growing this network. This should not be about tax status.

Melia Filipao: GEO group is profiting off black and brown people.

Robert Forte: Do not fund GEO.

Gracie Veiga: Also opposed to funding GEO. Fund community based nonprofits instead.

Cesar Lara (MILPA): GEO is not effective. This funding should go to CBOs.

End of Public Comment

Following public comment, Ms. Cumpian stated that she would recuse herself from the vote. General Counsel Maguire explained that the Anti-Recidivism Coalition is a current contractor for CDCR, but that because the group was not a STOP contractor and would not be receiving funds as part of Agenda Item B, Ms. Cumpian could participate in the discussion.

Mr. Gore moved approval. Mr. Mills seconded. The following votes were recorded:

	Board Member	Aye	No	Not Voting
1	Chair Penner	X		
2	Mr. Diaz			Absent
3	Mr. Viera Rosa			Absent
4	Mr. Growdon	X		
5	Mr. Gore	X		
6	Mr. Seale	X		
7	Mr. Ertola	X		
8	Mr. Baranco		X	
9	Mr. Mills	X		
10	Mr. Budnick			X
11	Mr. Steinhart	X		
12	Ms. Cumpian			X
13	VACANT			

The motion carried.

III. Public Comments

Brian Goldstein (CJCJ): Requested BSCC to include total weekly number of tests administered in a facility or total pending tests in the COVID-19 data dashboard.

Miguel Garcia (ARC): Suggested that the BSCC focus on the well being and rehabilitative efforts to those who are being released.

Avalon Edwards: Requested and supported onsite inspections of detention facilities.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at: 11:56am

Next Meeting:

❖ BSCC Board Meeting:

August 13, 2020 (Via Zoom)

ROSTER OF PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE

BSCC BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair Penner, Chair, Board of State and Community Corrections
Mr. Growdon, Sheriff, Nevada County
Mr. Gore, Sheriff, San Diego County
Mr. Seale, Chief Probation Officer, Sacramento County
Mr. Ertola, Chief Probation Officer, Nevada County
Mr. Baranco, Retired Judge, Alameda County
Mr. Mills, Chief of Police, Santa Cruz County
Mr. Budnick, Founder, Anti-Recidivism Coalition
Mr. Steinhart, Director, Commonweal Juvenile Justice Program
Ms. Cumpian, Women's and Non-Binary Services Manager Anti-Recidivism Coalition

BSCC STAFF:

Kathleen T. Howard, Executive Director
Aaron Maguire, General Counsel
Tracie Cone, Communications Director
Ricardo Goodridge, Deputy Director, Corrections Planning and Grant Programs
Adam Lwin, Board Secretary