August 8, 2016

Weekly Memo

California Association
of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives
A Regular Communication For CAADPE Members

Kernan officially takes helm of CDCR --
increase in suicides spurs audit, CAADPE outlines SUD and mental health issues

The State Senate unanimously confirmed Governor Jerry Brown's appointment of Scott Kernan as Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Brown appointed Kernan to the post in December, 2015, had one year to secure Senate confirmation.

Kernan, 55, is a 30-year corrections former corrections employee, most recently servings as Undersecretary for Operations. He previously served as warden of Mule Creek State Prison and California State Prison, Sacramento. He returned to CDCR after retiring from the state workforce in 2011. Kernan, a Republican, will earn $243,360.

Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles), in advocating for confirmation, said Kernan's more than three decades with the department give him an advantage in making changes especially in changing the culture of CDCR to one of rehabilitation with the realization that people currently in prisons will be returning to their neighborhoods and need to return prepared to transition. Kernan takes control as CDCR has been under federal control and oversight, subject to class actions over inmate healthcare, mental health services and solitary confinement. Senator DeLeon specifically noted "it's not enough to lock folks up," but rather there is a need for in-prison substance use disorder treatment services and for educational services. "It is increasingly difficult for any outsider to come in and take the helm of the largest criminal justice system in the nation," De León told his colleagues. "I feel confident that he [Kernan] has the full skill set and wherewithal to make the necessary changes to keep all of our communities safe."

However, Kernan and CDCR came under scrutiny during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Rules committee. Senator Connie M. Levya (D-Chino) expressed concern about the increase of suicide in the two prisons in her district, and DeLeon noted the continuing expectation of the Senate to shift the focus of CDCR to rehabilitation, including Substance Use Disorder services. DeLeon noted the importance of both SUD services and education as important components to reduce recidivism. CAADPE testified at the hearing, adding to the conversation the need to reform the state's contracting process and fully fund post release residential treatment services. Both are underpinning of the ability of SUD providers to assist individuals as they prepare for and transition back to their families, homes and communities and to reduce recidivism throughout the state.

In conjunction with the Rules Committee discussion, Senator Levy's requested the Joint Legislative Audit Committee audit the California Institution for Women (CIW), to examine suicide prevention and reduction policies, procedures and practices at state prisons across California. Senator Leyva's audit request stems from a significant recent increase in the number and rate of suicides at the California Institution for Women (CIW), a women's prison located in the 20th State Senate District though the audit itself will include several prisons within the CDCR's jurisdiction.

During an eighteen month period in 2014-15, the suicide rate at CIW was eight times the national average for women prisoners and five times the rate for the entire California prison system. During this same time period, there were four suicides and at least 35 suicide attempts. Since the beginning of 2016, there have been two suicides at this facility. The most recent death was on June 1, 2016, a 26 year old woman who was six weeks away from her release date. Prior to 2014, there were three suicides total in 14 years. At CIW from October 2014 to March 2015, nine women were sent for emergency care due to suicide risk and there were over 400 referrals for suicidal behavior during the same period.

Scott Kernan

The audit will include an assessment of the current suicide crisis at CIW, as well as provide recommendations on methods to reduce this continuing emergency situation at the prison. The audit is expected to evaluate a host of issues relevant to this crisis, including:

- CDCR's policies and procedures for inmates that express suicidal behavior and/or tendencies
- Uniformity of policies and procedures implementation across CDCR
- Comparison of suicide rates and attempts across all California prisons (male and female)
- Availability, access and use of mental health care services for and by inmates
- Potential causes and factors contributing to high suicide rates and attempts at CIW
- Appropriate implementation of CDCR's suicide prevention and related policies at CIW
- Medical treatment and housing options for suicidal inmates at CIW
- Previous and ongoing suicide prevention and reduction training for CIW staff

The California State Auditor will conduct the independent audit over the next several months and issue a public report once the analysis is completed.

New Chief at CDCR's Division of Rehabilitative Services

As Scott Kernan's appointment for Secretary of CDCR got scrutiny from the Senate Rules Committee, Governor Brown announced the appointment of Jay Virbel, 50, of Sacramento, as director of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs at CDCR, where he has been associate director of female offender programs and services since 2012 and served as assistant deputy director of facility operations from 2011 to 2012.

Virbel held several positions at the Board of Parole Hearings from 2008 to 2011, including chief deputy of program operations and chief of investigations. He was senior special agent at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Office of Internal Affairs from 2007 to 2008, where he was a special agent from 2005 to 2007. Virbel served in several positions at the California Medical Facility, Vacaville from 1994 - 2005, including lieutenant, sergeant and correctional officer. He was a correctional officer at California State Prison, Los Angeles County from 1993 to 1994. The position requires Senate confirmation. It is expected his confirmation hearing will be in early 2017, prior to the one year limit he can serve in the position without confirmation. The compensation is $165,360. Virbel is a Republican.

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Housing and SUD reported at national summit

Recently the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) invited a diverse group of national experts from the housing, homeless prevention, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment, mental health, criminal justice and recovery fields for a special meeting on the topic of addiction recovery and housing. The primary goal of session was to engage participants in a discussion around how CSH can work with national and local partners to promote recovery in supportive housing and ensure that supportive housing is part of the continuum of recovery supports available for people living with addiction.

The conversation built on the work accomplished at the National Leadership Forum on Substance Use and Housing, also hosted by CSH and the National Council for Behavioral Health in October 2014, and explored a range of issues including the meaning of recovery and recovery-oriented care in supportive housing, the role of abstinence-focused housing for serving individuals experiencing homelessness, ways to address the stigma associated with addiction, and the need to engage the health care and criminal justice sector more meaningfully in this work. These discussions pointed to the rich diversity of experiences and insights at the meeting, all of which offered opportunities for deepening participants' collective understanding of the strengths and challenges we face in this work. The meeting also pointed to a number of key areas of consensus and recommendations, which are summarized below.

The recommendations that emerged from this convening will inform the collective efforts of CSH and its national partners to advance meaningful system changes at the federal, state and local levels to maximize resources, services and choices for people living with substance use disorders. Supportive housing must play a critical role in addressing the national crisis of homelessness and addiction in this country and promoting more recovery-oriented systems of care. In order to be successful in this work, the industry must advance with great, innovative leaps; it must move beyond bricks and mortar and beyond homelessness and housing stability to elevate supportive housing as a platform for tenant empowerment, success and long-term recovery. Toward these ends, CSH will be focusing its efforts on the following activities:

- Work with local communities and our federal and national partners to strengthen partnerships and collaboration between supportive housing providers, treatment systems and recovery communities
- Leverage our Dimensions of Quality and national certification program to drive more recovery-oriented, tenant-centered, and peer-driven services in supportive housing
- Provide training and technical assistance to supportive housing providers to integrate evidence-based recovery supports (employment, peer supports, Wellness Self-Management, Wellness Recovery Action Planning, etc.) and treatment modalities (e.g., MAT) more integrally into services
- Provide tools, resources and technical assistance to help communities assess housing needs and develop a broad and integrated continuum of housing options that remove barriers to housing while promoting various pathways to recovery for people with addictions
- Work with policy makers and funders to expand and evaluate promising models of Recovery Housing (as described in the HUD recovery housing brief) that meet the needs of individuals and families with a long history of homelessness and severe substance use Meaningfully engage the voices of individuals with lived experience of homelessness and addiction to inform CSH's strategic planning and national advocacy efforts around housing and substance use.

The Corporation for Supportive Housing is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to help communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. Founded in 1991. www.csh.org. One of the goals of CSH is advancing the concept of Criminal Justice Reinvestment – incentivizing communities to analyze criminal justice spending and shift investments towards risk-reducing activities, including supportive housing.

The CAADPE office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

The *Weekly Membership Memo* will return on Monday, September 12.

Save the Date

August 23-25 Annual Substance Use Disorder Statewide Conference, Department of Health Care Services Hyatt Regency Orange County. Details for follow More information: http://www.cvent.com/events/substance-use-disorders-2016-statewide-conference/event-summary-56045ff256f74887ba4791a838266bfc.aspx

October 6-7 The Fourth Annual Innovations Summit on Integrated Care Presented by Integrated Behavioral Health Partners. Learn from the experiences of regional, cross-sector partners who are working to collectively build and implement coordinated and accountable systems of care. Health and behavioral leaders will explore innovative strategies for patient engagement and activation, service delivery, and payment and financing reform. Registration information coming soon. More information: http://files.ctctcdn.com/4afa27d8301/e7eb972b-0f54-4308-af21-f1313cd87903.pdf

October 19-20 13th Annual Statewide Integrated Care Conference LA County Department of Mental Health and the LA County Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control. For information that will be updated throughout the year, visit www.uclaisap.org/

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