

MSBA CORRECTIONAL REFORM SECTION COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of November 16, 2010

Members Present: Michael Berlin, Phil Dantes, Monique Dixon, Arnold Hopkins, Roland Knapp, Stephanie Lane-Weber, Walter Lomax, Scott Oakley, Joe Tetrault, and Paulette Wirsching.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at the Maryland Bar Center in Baltimore at approximately 6:40pm.

Review of Minutes of Meeting of October 19, 2010

The minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2010 were reviewed. It was pointed out that two names were misspelled. Stephanie Lane-Weber made a motion that they be approved with corrections to the misspelled names, Roland Knapp seconded, and the motion carried.

Maryland Bar Journal Correctional Reform Issue

Previous commitments for articles remain generally unchanged. Stephanie Lane-Weber reported that it is less likely that she will co-author an article with Maureen Dove on Supreme Court decisions impacting prisoners' rights, and Mike Berlin reported that it is less likely that he will author an article providing an overview of the criminal justice system. The deadline for contacting Janet Eveleth remains December, 2010.

Aging Prison Population

Arnold Hopkins gave a report on the efforts thus far of the Aging Prison Population "committee." Resource documents have been compiled and the committee has met a number of times. Efforts are currently underway to set up a meeting with Secretary Maynard, hopefully within the next few weeks, to discuss the current policies of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services concerning this population. Arnold reported that it may be useful to seek federal funding from the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance. It was also suggested that the committee might contact Professor Jonathan Turley about a program for the medical parole of inmates in the District of Columbia.

Reentry of Offenders

Walter Lomax provided a brief report on the efforts of the Maryland Restorative Justice Initiative (MRJI) to work with the Baltimore City Mayor's office on the updating of a compilation of reentry resources, and there was general agreement that such a compilation would be a worthy project. Scott Oakley reported that he attended a reentry "roundtable" hosted by Congresswoman Donna Edwards to boost efforts in her Congressional District in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties to coordinate prisoner reentry among federal, state, and local governments and local faith-based and other not-for-profit organizations. It was generally agreed that the Section Council should invite Secretary Maynard to send someone from the

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide an overview of the Department's current reentry efforts, and Scott Oakley agreed to extend the invitation.

MRJI Legislative Initiative

Walter Lomax agreed to provide to the Section Council for its consideration concrete legislative language for the legislative initiative involving executive decision-making in the parole of "lifers."

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2010 at 6:30pm (gathering at 6pm for dinner) at the Maryland Bar Center in Baltimore.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.