

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/18/08

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: New Start Employment Program Collaboration

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only

DISCUSSION: Since September 2007, the Governor's Rehabilitation Strike Team began pursuing a four-pronged strategy for bringing rehabilitation programs back into the California corrections system. These initiatives include a Prison to Employment Program – designed to facilitate offenders' successful employment after release, initially using California's existing Workforce Investment Boards, and eventually implementing a comprehensive "New Start" employment program.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation operates with a \$10 Billion annual budget. In May 2007, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law prison reform legislation - AB 900, or the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Services of 2007. To assist in the implementation of AB 900, two strike teams were composed focusing on construction issues and developing and implementing prison and parole programs.

A phased-in approach is being implemented with Phase III involving all California Workforce Investment Boards(CWIBs) by early 2009. The CWIBs may participate in providing assessments and placement of offenders in rehabilitation program and increase offenders' participation in vocational education.

- **Offenders Leaving Prison**
 - **2006: 134,000 prisoners – 10% participated in prison vocational education, 18% in classroom education.**
 - **2006: Parolees – 10% participated in parolee vocational or classroom education.**
 - **20% prisoners completely illiterate; 40% functionally illiterate.**
 - **60% to 80% parolee unemployment rate one year after prison release.**
 - **Most parolees – two or less 15-minute meetings with parole agent each month.**
 - **66% of parolees return to prison within three years of release – twice national average.**
 - **Most: Administrative revocation process**
 - **Some: Criminal prosecution**

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A