

Testimony before the Sunset Review Committee
Presented by: Will Eleby, Administrator Office of Enterprise Development
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
December 7, 2015

Good afternoon Chairman Brown, Vice Chair Jordan, and members of the Sunset Review Committee. I am Will Eleby, Administrator for the Office of Enterprise Development (OED) within the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak before the Committee today to discuss the OED Advisory Board.

1. Commission's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives:

Pursuant to ORC 5145.162, the Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board is tasked to advise and assist the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction with the creation of training programs and jobs for inmates and releasees through partnerships with private sector businesses. This program is aligned with the Department's mission to reduce recidivism by providing training and work opportunities.

2. The agency's past and anticipated workload, the number of staff required to complete that workload, and the agency's total number of staff:

The Office of Enterprise Development holds quarterly meetings at the Ohio Penal Industries (OPI) location. The Advisory Board consists of at least five appointed members and the Executive Director of the Office of Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, who shall serve as an ex-officio member. Each member shall have experience in labor relations, marketing, business management or business. The members and chairperson shall be appointed by the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The Advisory Board's size allows it to include members with a broad range of experiences and representation while remaining nimble. The Office of Enterprise Development has one full time staff and one additional staff member, who works for the OED approximately 20 hours per week.

3. The agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding:

We have not incurred any expenses for quarterly meetings. By statute, each member of the advisory board shall receive no compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses actually and necessarily in the performance of official duties of the board. Members of the board who are state employees shall be reimbursed for expenses pursuant to travel rules. To date, no one has requested reimbursement for travel. The total budget is approximately \$195,000, coming from the General Revenue Fund and Ohio Penal Industries.

4. The number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation if any:

The Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board is authorized pursuant to ORC 5145.162 and consists of at least five appointed members. The Administrator for the Office of Enterprise Development shall be a member of the Advisory Board and its chairperson. The chairperson and members are appointed by the Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

In conclusion, Chairman Brown, and members of the Sunset Review Committee. We would urge that the committee recommend reauthorization of the Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board due to its importance in supporting the mission of the Department by creating training programs and jobs for inmates and returning citizens through partnerships with private sector businesses. In the absence of the Office of Enterprise Development Advisory Board we would not have placed more than 300 ex-offenders in jobs upon release. This is among the reasons why Ohio's 27.5% recidivism rate is among the lowest in the nation.

I would now be pleased to answer any questions you might have.