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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 8, 2019



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### BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — MAY 2019

**Meeting.** The Board of Corrections met on May 3, 2019, at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC) in Coralville.

**IMCC Update.** IMCC Warden Jim McKinney provided an update on the IMCC:

- Annual spring concert — The IMCC hosted its annual spring concert at the gymnasium located inside the facility. Inmates participated in the concert and friends and families were invited to attend.
- University of Iowa Lab — The University of Iowa currently provides college course instruction to inmates at IMCC. Under this program, 100 inmates at the facility have earned University of Iowa college credit in classes including economics and entrepreneurship.
- Retrieving Freedom Inc. (RFI) Dog Program — The RFI Dog Program is currently in place at the IMCC. Under this program, inmates may foster and train a service dog for a veteran in need of a service animal. The inmates may foster the dog for a period of 18 to 24 months.
- M-Unit — Warden McKinney discussed the M-Unit at IMCC, a 16-bed unit for inmates with behavioral and mental health issues. The unit has one correctional counselor and one therapist. Warden McKinney also discussed the Moral Recognition Therapy available at IMCC.

**Flooding Assistance.** Inmates from the Anamosa State Penitentiary and Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility traveled to Buffalo, Iowa, to help with sandbagging and flood prevention efforts. The Department of Corrections (DOC) has also been requested to provide sandbags for Burlington, Iowa. For this project, inmates at the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) in Fort Madison will fill the sandbags and the Department of Transportation will load and transport the sandbags.

**Ombudsman Report.** State Ombudsman Kristie Hirschman presented her annual report on complaints and cases submitted to their office of Ombudsman by inmates at correctional facilities. From 2017 to 2018, there was a 1.2% increase in prison cases. In 2018, there were 33 partially substantiated and 27 substantiated complaints related to the prison system.

**Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) Farm Land Sale.** IPI Deputy Director, Dan Clark, discussed the sale of 70.71 acres of IPI farm ground located in Lee County (near ISP) to the Great River Regional Waste Authority at the appraised value of \$678,000. Iowa Code section [904.317](#) requires that the sale of real estate must be approved by the Board and the proceeds from the sale must be used for capital improvements to DOC property. The DOC will use the proceeds to fund the Homes for Iowa project at the Newton Correctional Facility. The Board voted to approve the sale.

**Legislative/Budget Update.** DOC General Counsel, Michael Savala, provided an update on DOC legislative priorities during the 2019 Legislative Session. Savala highlighted several pieces of legislation related to DOC priorities as well as legislation with potential impacts on the DOC:

- [HF 421](#) — Transfer of Patients
- [SF 273](#) — Sexual Misconduct with Offenders (Did not pass)
- [HF 423](#) — Medicaid Eligibility Suspension for Criminal Offenders
- [HF 393](#) — Gifts and Bequests Reports, Electronic Filing
- [HF 634](#) — Justice Advisory Board

Savala also provided a brief update on the appropriations to the DOC for FY 2020. A more detailed budget report will be provided once the Governor has approved the appropriations.

**Policy Approval.** The Board voted to adopt two new DOC policies:

- Core Correctional Practices (CCP) — Relates to staff training and the use of evidence-based practices.
- Continuous Quality Improvement — Relates to the monitoring of current DOC administrative practices and creating and maintaining efficiencies.

**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting is scheduled on June 7, 2019, at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility in Mount Pleasant. For additional information, see the DOC [website](#).

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