
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — AUGUST 2019

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on August 2, 2019, at the Clarinda Correctional Facility (CCF).

Introduction. CCF Warden Steve Weis gave an overview of the campus at CCF and discussed the various vocational programming available at the facility, including horticulture and landscaping, welding, and fabrication apprenticeships.

Director's Update. Deputy Director of Institutions William Sperflage provided a Department update:

- New Director Meetings — The recently appointed Department of Corrections (DOC) Director Beth Skinner and Deputy Director Sperflage have been traveling around the State and meeting with staff at the various institutions for the last several weeks.
- Newton Housing Project — A Fox News reporter recently visited the Newton Housing Project site at the Newton Correctional Facility and did a feature on the project. The report is available [online](#).
- Budget — The DOC is in the process of closing out the FY 2019 budget and working on the distribution of the FY 2020 available budget. The DOC will begin working on the FY 2021 Department budget request in September.

CCF Gardening and Beekeeping Programs. Dave Stephens, an instructor with Iowa Western Community College (IWCC), and Gerald Nelson, a correctional officer at CCF, gave an overview of the horticulture and landscaping apprenticeships offered to inmates at CCF. IWCC partners with CCF to provide U.S. Department of Labor-registered apprenticeship programs to the inmates. The program may have up to 20 inmates participating at a time, with 15 currently participating. As part of the program, participants work on the landscaping and develop bee hives on facility grounds. In addition, the participants grow fresh produce, which can be sold and/or donated to homeless shelters in the area.

DOC Learning Center. Trish Signor, Training Coordinator at the DOC Central Office, gave an overview of the programming provided to staff for professional development. The current programs include:

- Implementation Leadership Academy — Conducted by The Alliance for Criminal Justice Innovation. The training is provided to supervisors and executives to support the adoption of best practices and development of leadership skills.
- Leadership Institute — The Institute seminars are provided to staff from various levels throughout the DOC, with the goal of increasing the knowledge base of staff regarding DOC operations and to prepare them to eventually take on leadership positions within the DOC. The first session took place July 23 through July 25, 2019, at the DOC Central Office and was led by Director Skinner.
- Emotional Intelligence Training — The training will be provided by EQ Smarts to develop communication skills and promote efficiency within the Department.
- Case Management Training for Community-Based Corrections — Online training classes offered to probation/parole officers. Courses include: Responding to Bad Behavior; Risk, Need, and Responsivity Research; and Response and Incentives.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2019, at the Seventh Judicial District Department of Correctional Services in Davenport.

LSA Staff Contact: Laura Book (515.205.9275) laura.book@legis.iowa.gov

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