BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — JANUARY 2020

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on January 3, 2020, at the Evelyn K. Davis Center in Des Moines. Meeting materials and a video of the meeting may be found on the Department of Corrections (DOC) website.

Introduction. Joy Esposito, Assistant Director of the Evelyn K. Davis Center, welcomed the Board and gave an overview of the reentry services provided by the Center.

Fifth District Update. District Director Jerry Evans provided an update on the Fifth Judicial District and its current caseload. The District has recently experienced an increase in the number of level 5 supervision cases, the highest level of supervision in Community-Based Corrections.

Director’s Update. Deputy Director Sally Kreamer provided the Director’s update and discussed the following items:

- New Legislative Liaison — Cord Overton has been named the DOC’s new legislative liaison.
- New Training Director — A new training director was hired after a nationwide search for candidates.
- Uniform Level System — A statewide uniform level system for supervision has been implemented in all judicial districts, resulting in uniform supervision requirements across the State.
- Governor’s FOCUS (Fueling Ongoing Collaboration and Uncovering Solutions) Committee on Criminal Justice Reform — The Committee recently provided several recommendations relating to the justice system. The DOC has already implemented one of the recommendations by creating an auto-fill program for the felon voting rights restoration application.
- Reentry Employer Roundtables — Two roundtable meetings have been held at the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women and the North Central Correctional Facility. The next reentry roundtable meeting will be at Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP) on January 29, 2020, at 12:30 p.m.
- Fire at Newton Correctional Release Center — On December 31, 2019, there was a fire in the laundry room of the minimum-security facility at Newton. The DOC is currently working with the Department of Administrative Services to assess the repair needs and cost. Until repairs are complete, laundry services will be done at the medium security facility on site.

Education Update. Director of Education Sandra Smith updated the Board on the educational programming provided by the DOC and the core educational services offered across the correctional facilities. There are currently two instructional vacancies at ASP and one instructional vacancy at Iowa State Penitentiary that are in the process of being filled. Director Smith also discussed several potential grant opportunities available to the DOC.

Juvenile Lifers. Deputy Director Bill Sperfslage provided data related to juvenile lifers that was requested during the last meeting. Individuals sentenced to life in prison without parole as a juvenile were given the right to the possibility of parole in 2015. There were 52 individuals impacted by this change. Since then, 36 are still incarcerated and 16 have been released on parole. The recidivism rate for this group is currently 0.0%.
**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2020, at the DOC Central Office in Des Moines.

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