
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 4, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — MAY 2020

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on May 1, 2020, through a Zoom video conference. Meeting materials and a video of the meeting may be found on the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

Director's Update/COVID-19 Update. DOC Director Beth Skinner provided a Department and COVID-19 update and discussed the following items:

- **Current Status of COVID-19 in Institutions** — Director Skinner gave an update of the current positive cases of COVID-19 in the institutions. Daily updates are available on the [DOC COVID-19 webpage](#). The current status is as follows:
 - Eighteen inmates at the Iowa Medical Classification Center (IMCC) and one inmate at Clarinda Correctional Facility (CCF) have tested positive and have been quarantined.
 - Six staff members at the IMCC and one staff member at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW) have tested positive and remain at home.
- **Mitigation Efforts** — Over the last few months, the DOC has taken steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in institutions. A detailed description of these mitigation strategies may be found in previous [Fiscal Update Articles](#) related to the DOC COVID-19 response. The DOC provided the following updates to these efforts:
 - Staff in all of the institutions are required to wear face masks. Inmates in prisons with positive cases (the IMCC and CCF) are required to wear face masks, and inmate use of face masks is voluntary and encouraged at all other institutions.
 - Director Skinner has been giving video updates to all inmates to provide information related to COVID-19 both related to the DOC and outside of the institutions.
- **Strategies to Reduce Prison Population** — The DOC has taken steps to reduce the prison population in order to provide for quarantine space and mitigate the spread in institutions. The Director gave the following updates related to reducing the population:
 - The DOC has asked the Iowa State Sheriffs and Deputies Association to stop all admissions and revocations to prisons. The DOC is currently in week two of no new admissions, and the DOC has extended this policy to May 11. The DOC will only admit prisoners if there is deemed to be a critical situation.
 - The DOC is working collaboratively with the Board of Parole to continue to increase reviews. As of May 1, 2020, there are 8,091 inmates currently incarcerated. This is a decrease of 404 inmates since early March and the lowest prison population level since June 30, 2013.
 - Director Skinner provided a regional outlook on COVID-19 cases in institutions to show how Iowa compares. The following chart shows the state institution data provided by Director Skinner.

| State | Iowa | Missouri | Wisconsin | Ohio | Indiana | Kansas | Minnesota | Illinois |
|---------------------------------------|------|----------|-----------|-------|---------|--------|-----------|----------|
| Positive Cases in Institutions | 19 | 30 | 18 | 3,656 | 334 | 81 | 79 | 155 |

Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) Production. IPI Director Dan Clark provided an update on the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) by IPI and discussed the following items:

- **Face Masks** — IPI is producing masks at four institutions, and more than 85,000 masks have been produced. All inmates have at least a minimum of three masks each. The masks are also being supplied to Community-Based Corrections (CBC), county jails, the Department of Human Services (DHS), and others.
- **Hand Sanitizer** — IPI is producing hand sanitizer at the ICIW. The ICIW has produced 24,000 gallons, equivalent to 46 million doses. Due to the increasing supply from the private sector, the last day of production of hand sanitizer by the ICIW was May 1, 2020.
- **Gowns** — IPI is producing gowns at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF) for the DHS, the Iowa Veterans Home, and DOC staff. Currently, the FDCF is producing 1,000 gowns a day. In addition, the Fort Dodge community, in partnership with Iowa Central Community College, has produced an additional 3,000 gowns from precut kits provided by IPI. Production of the gowns has also been expanded to Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP) and the ICIW to meet the high demand.
- **Face Shields** — IPI is producing face shields at ASP for health care professionals and correctional officers accompanying inmates to hospitals. Despite difficulty acquiring materials necessary for the face shields, ASP has produced 12,000 face shields to date.
- **Cleaning Fluid and Other Disinfecting Products** — IPI also produces cleaning products that have been in high demand since March. IPI continues to be able to provide these products to State agencies as needed.
- IPI is working seven days a week in three of the facilities to produce the products in a timely manner. The DOC plans to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursement for any additional costs incurred from the production. The Renewable Fuels Association donated the ethanol and glycerin, and Templeton Rye donated the distilled water necessary to produce the hand sanitizer at IPI.

Budget Update. Financial Manager Steve Dick provided a DOC budget update for FY 2020. The FY 2020 budget for the DOC is in good condition currently, and no major problems are expected towards the end of the fiscal year. As of the end of March, 71.0% of the DOC budget has been expended. There are several areas of the budget that will need to be monitored due to the impacts of COVID-19:

- Costs to the county confinement line item are higher due to the fact that prisoners are not being transferred out of facilities right now and the DOC must reimburse those costs.
- CBCs are experiencing significant revenue changes due to the reduction of beds being used in the residential facilities where clients pay daily rent. In addition, many of the clients are unemployed and are having difficulty paying their rent as well. Community supervision is also experiencing revenue loss from fewer supervision fees due to less client contact. The declining revenues will likely have more of an impact on the next fiscal year, and a slow recovery in revenue levels is anticipated.
- Other line items experiencing increased costs include: electronic monitoring, PPE expenses, and technology cost increases.

The DOC is hoping to receive reimbursement of these costs through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and other federal reimbursements available.

Next Meeting. The next Board of Corrections meeting is scheduled on June 5, 2020, at a location to be determined.

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