
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 16, 2021



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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — NOVEMBER 2021

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on November 5, 2021, at the Department of Corrections (DOC) Central Office. Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available on the DOC [website](#).

Director's Update. Director Beth Skinner provided a Department update.

- **COVID-19** — There has been an increase in positive cases, specifically at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW), the Mt. Pleasant Correctional Facility (MPCF), and the Clarinda Correctional Facility (CCF). Sixty-six inmates and 44 staff are currently positive. Seventy-six percent of inmates and 58.0% of staff are fully vaccinated. Approximately 400 vaccine booster shots have been administered.
- **Population Update** — The current institutional count is 8,003 inmates, which is 15.4% over capacity. The DOC is working with the Board of Parole (BOP) on releases to manage the population.
- **Feedback Forums** — The DOC has been hosting feedback forums at each institution over the past year for staff to provide feedback on problems and propose solutions. The next step is for the DOC to meet with administrators at each institution to discuss this feedback and make priority lists for improvements. Each institution will then be put on a plan to address the concerns.
- **Job Tool Classification Dashboard** — The DOC research team is developing an automated dashboard that classifies the risk levels of incarcerated individuals and what tools they are authorized to use. The dashboard will be used when making work assignments in the institutions with the goal of enhancing security.
- **Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center** — The DOC is partnering with the CSG Justice Center on a project to study the impacts of the Iowa criminal justice system's response to public safety concerns during the pandemic. The goal of the project is to make recommendations to State leaders on continuing or enhancing some of these efforts and to determine what resources may still be needed.
- **Statewide External Review** — The statewide external review report is still in progress. The DOC anticipates receiving a draft report next week.
- **Recruitment and Retention** — The DOC is focusing on recruitment and retention. Plans include a streamlined hiring process, rolling interviews, a welcoming onboarding process, consistent training, and staff engagement. The institutions with the biggest hiring needs are the Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP), the CCF, the Newton Correctional Facility (NCF), and the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF).

Trauma-Informed Care. Lorie Woodard, Deputy Warden at the ICIW, and Danielle Bailey, Residential Supervisor in the Sixth Judicial District, presented to the Board on trauma-informed care and how trauma-informed approaches are being implemented at the ICIW and the Anchor Center for Women in Cedar Rapids. These approaches include modifying practices that are triggering, offering choices when possible, and being gender responsive.

Aging Prison Population. Dr. Jerome Greenfield, Health Services Administrator, presented to the Board on issues related to the aging prison population, especially dementia. He discussed the current strategies to address the problem and plans the DOC has to improve its response.

Budget Update. Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager, updated the Board on the FY 2022 budget and FY 2023 budget request.

- **FY 2022 Budget** — Both expenditures and revenue are on track with expectations. The DOC has expended approximately one-third of its FY 2022 budget. Much of the additional \$10.0 million the DOC received for FY 2022 has already been allocated. Allocations include fully funding all FTE positions, assisting the institutions with advertising costs, and responding to problems found through the statewide external review. The DOC has requested additional federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds through the Governor's Office to purchase body scanners, temperature scanners, and Wi-Fi upgrades.
- **FY 2023 Budget Request** — The DOC delivered a status quo budget request to the Governor's Office. The DOC is in discussions with the Governor's Office and Department of Management (DOM) about additional funding. The DOC also delivered infrastructure and technology projects requests to the Governor's Office and DOM. The DOC also submitted a request for federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 funds, and conversations with the Governor's Office continue regarding this request.

2022 Board Meeting Schedule. The Board approved the [schedule](#) for 2022 Board of Corrections meetings.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2022, at the DOC Central Office in Des Moines.

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