
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

June 8, 2022



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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — JUNE 2022

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on June 3, 2022, at the Seventh Judicial District in Davenport. Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

Director's Update. Sally Kreamer, Deputy Director of Community-Based Corrections, provided the following Department updates:

- An emergency preparedness training was held at the Clarinda Correctional Facility from May 10 to May 12. Staff from all the institutions and the DOC emergency response teams participated. The training consisted of scenarios, hostage-taking, disturbance control, and escape. The DOC also completed its first nighttime emergency preparedness exercise.
- In May, several DOC leaders attended Fallen Heroes Week in Washington, D.C., where six Iowa DOC staff members were honored. After finishing the week, DOC leaders committed to work on staff wellness. The DOC has an official committee to look into staff wellness, with the first meeting to be scheduled soon.
- The DOC will host the last series of its current leadership training from June 14 to June 16. The leadership training is a three-part series with webinars occurring throughout. The current leadership training is for high-level management, including wardens, directors, and assistant directors. Once all high-level management staff have participated in the leadership training, more leadership trainings will be held for other staff. By the end of the current training, approximately 40 staff will have been served; the DOC plans to start another cohort of leadership training in the fall.
- Director Beth Skinner will attend a Correctional Peace Officers Foundation memorial in Reno, Nevada, in June. Bob McFarland and Lorena Schulte will be recognized at the memorial.
- A mental health summit is being hosted by the court system. The summit's purpose is to look at the mental health system, agencies' roles, and the gaps that exist. Director Skinner will be on a panel in June.

Tech2Connect. Lisa Chapman, Assistant District Director at the Seventh Judicial District, introduced the Tech2Connect pilot project, and members of the Tech2Connect team presented on the pilot project.

- The Seventh Judicial District was selected as the urban site for the pilot project, and the Second Judicial District was selected as the rural site.
- Funding for the pilot project allowed the Seventh Judicial District to dedicate staff resources for key positions within the Tech2Connect program.
- The Tech2Connect program has led to a large increase in programming in the community and an expansion of reentry services within the institutions. The program has helped to facilitate a smooth transition for offenders released from institutions who are coming back into the community.
- The program's goals are as follows:
 - Use technology to connect with justice-involved individuals.
 - Provide access to individualized treatments within the institutions and the community.
 - Develop a process for reconsideration of sentence.
 - Provide reentry services for justice-involved individuals.
 - Establish a mentorship program.
 - Increase treatment dosage within the institutions and the community.
- The Tech2Connect program currently only serves individuals at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility, the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, and the

Iowa Medical and Classification Center who will be released to the Second or Seventh Judicial Districts. The DOC hopes to expand the program to other institutions, which will require additional funding.

Legislative Update. Nick Crawford, Legislative Liaison, provided a legislative update. The Legislature appropriated approximately \$414.7 million to the DOC for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, an increase of approximately \$6.4 million compared to estimated FY 2022. Most of this increase was distributed by the Legislature across the institutions and judicial districts for salary adjustments, but County Confinement also received an increase of approximately \$113,000.

Policy Approval. The Board approved changes to the DOC's Incarcerated Individual Correspondence Policy. The changes allow the DOC to utilize a third-party vendor for incarcerated individual mail services in order to enhance safety and security in the institutions.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2022, at the Anamosa State Penitentiary.

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