
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

July 11, 2022



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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — JULY 2022

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on July 8, 2022, at the Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP). Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

ASP Update. Kris Karberg, Warden of the ASP, welcomed the Board members. He was confirmed by the Board as the Warden a year ago, and the ASP has made many physical and operational changes since then.

Director's Update. Randy Gibbs, Deputy Director of Prison Operations, provided the following Department updates:

- **Hiring** — There is a country-wide hiring shortage right now, and the DOC faces many challenges in hiring. It is especially difficult to recruit correctional officers and nurses, as hiring for those positions is very competitive. The DOC is trying many different options to advertise, and the wardens are working hard to recruit staff. The DOC currently has radio ads for most of the institutions.
- **Board of Parole (BOP) Agreement Rate** — The DOC now has a 90.0% agreement rate with the BOP, which is the highest rate the DOC has had recently. The DOC and the BOP have been working to collaborate and increase that agreement rate, as it directly relates to the institutional population.

Budget Update. Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager, provided a budget update for fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

- **FY 2022** — The DOC is still in the process of finishing FY 2022, but it is currently in a good financial position.
 - Currently, the DOC has approximately \$14.0 million remaining, although some of that will be spent on salaries that still need to be paid for FY 2022.
 - Of the additional approximately \$10.0 million the DOC received for FY 2022, the DOC has approximately \$7.0 million still to be spent, but a portion of that total will be used to help some of the institutions cover higher-than-estimated spending for FY 2022. The DOC estimates that there will be approximately \$4.0 million left to carry forward to FY 2023.
 - With these carryforward moneys, the DOC plans to provide \$500 staff incentives in August to all correctional workers. These carryforward moneys will also help move forward projects that have been delayed.
 - The remaining moneys in the education appropriation will also carry forward to FY 2023.
 - For the FY 2022 capitals appropriations, there is a significant amount remaining. The DOC typically has three years to spend down these appropriations. For projects whose funding would not carry forward to FY 2022, those appropriations have been expended. For the Clarinda Kitchen project, most of the approximately \$5.2 million appropriated for FY 2022 will carry forward as that project is still in progress. The DOC is in the preliminary stages of the Clarinda Kitchen project at this time, and the DOC will receive additional moneys for FY 2023 to fund that project in its entirety.
- **FY 2023** — The DOC was appropriated a status quo budget for FY 2023, plus moneys for salary adjustments and an increase of approximately \$113,000 for county confinement. These increases will help ensure the DOC is able to continue hiring all open positions.

Vacancies. Steve Dick provided an update on the DOC's progress on vacant positions.

- The DOC is holding steady on the number of vacancies in the institutions. In July 2021, the DOC had 217 vacancies in the institutions. It has since added 80 positions, and as of July 2022, the DOC has 294 vacancies in the institutions. Although the number has held steady, the DOC is seeing progress, especially in making it easier and quicker to hire.
- Correctional officer vacancies are down to 198 statewide. The number of correctional officer vacancies had been more than 200 for a significant amount of time.
- The qualification for a correctional officer position is a high school education, and the DOC has been going into high schools to recruit.
- There are many different jobs within corrections, and the DOC is trying to spread that message. The DOC will have a booth at the Iowa State Fair this year to advertise for hiring, and there will be a wide variety of different employees at the booth to showcase this.
- The DOC is focusing not only on recruitment, but also on retaining current employees. Strategies include providing opportunities for advancement and ensuring that employees are engaged and appreciated.
- In August, the DOC will start transitioning back to centralized training, for which some new employee training will happen at the Central Office and some will be done in the field. Eventually, the DOC plans to transition training back to the Central Office full time in order to provide more consistent training.

Review of DOC Administrative Rules. The DOC recently completed the required five-year review of its administrative rules. The DOC's updates were primarily clean-up changes to conform its administrative rules to current policy. The Administrative Rules Review Committee approved the DOC's updated administrative rules.

Land Transaction. The Board approved a land transaction between the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC) and the city of Coralville. The land transaction is to accommodate the city of Coralville with improving its infrastructure. The land transaction will make changes to one of the entrances to the IMCC.

Public Comments. A member of the public expressed concern about the difficulty in scheduling visits with inmates through the scheduling app and asked questions about the institutions' visiting policies. Another member of the public expressed concerns about inmate visitation being limited, some institutions not having air conditioning, and a mold problem. The DOC will follow up with these individuals regarding their questions and concerns.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2022, at the Third Judicial District in Sioux City.

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