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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

September 12, 2022



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### BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2022

**Meeting.** The Board of Corrections met on September 9, 2022, at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW). Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

**ICIW Update.** Sheryl Dahm, Warden of the ICIW, provided updates on the ICIW. The ICIW currently has a population of 674 women, 107 of whom are in the minimum live-out facility. There are currently 20 openings for correctional officers at the ICIW.

**ICIW Inmate Employment Opportunities.** Joan Greimann, Correctional Counselor, provided information on employment opportunities for women in the ICIW minimum live-out facility.

- The minimum live-out facility has 120 total beds.
- The women in this facility are close to being released, so the staff focus on preparing them for release, which includes employment.
- Opportunities for employment while in the minimum live-out facility include jobs through Iowa Prison Industries (IPI), working at the DOC Central Office doing clerical work, and working at the IPI showroom doing clerical work.
- Two new job opportunities include partnerships with Diamond Crystal for a food service industry packing job and with the Iowa Veterans Home for a kitchen job.
- The women take home approximately 20.0% of what they earn, and the rest is used to pay off fines and fees.

**New Housing Guidelines.** The ICIW has redone its housing guidelines and moved away from a transition incentive program. Last fall, the ICIW formed a committee to look at better managing the population to suit the ICIW's housing and needs. The ICIW is now housing individuals based on their length of sentence.

**Director's Update.** Director Beth Skinner provided the following Department updates:

- **Iowa Press** — Director Skinner was on *Iowa Press* in August, where she discussed the state of corrections. The episode can be found [here](#).
- **Recidivism** — The recidivism rate has decreased for the second year in a row. The recidivism rate decreased by 1.7% this year, and it is now 37.0%.
- **Recruitment** — The DOC had a booth at the Iowa State Fair for the first time, and the Department received good feedback on this. There was an increase in applications during this time.
- **Recent Events** — DOC staff recently attended the End of Watch Ride in the 5th judicial district. The DOC recently participated in a canine competition and won in many categories. The DOC also recently presented on Tech2Connect at an association meeting in Chicago.
- **Religious and Volunteer Services** — The DOC has opened up video religious services. The DOC is now accepting applications for in-person religious activities. The next phase is to open up other volunteer services.
- **New Position** — The DOC is in the process of hiring a Chief Information Officer, which the Department has never had before.

**Telephone Rebate Expenditures.** Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager, presented the proposed FY 2023 expenditures from the Inmate Telephone Fund, and the Board approved the expenditures. The proposal totals approximately \$1.0 million and includes the following expenditures:

- \$500,000 for education.
- \$200,000 for a [28E](#) agreement with the Department of Transportation (DOT) for two employees to help inmates obtain IDs.
- \$160,000 for a 28E agreement with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) for two workforce advisors.
- \$83,000 for the inmate law library.
- \$64,000 for telephone administration.
- \$7,000 for translation services and other miscellaneous items.

**Budget Request.** Mr. Dick detailed the proposed DOC budget request. The DOC is requesting a status quo budget for FY 2024. The General Fund budget request totals approximately \$414.7 million. The only change from the FY 2023 budget is between line items to distribute the remaining department-wide duties funds to the Central Office. Additionally, the DOC is requesting \$53.7 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) and \$12.2 million from the Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF). Both requests are five-year plans. The Board approved all requests.

**Public Comments.** Members of the public expressed concerns about in-person visits being limited, problems with the visit scheduling app, a deterioration in food quality at the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP), religious services not being held in person, and the new mail system. The DOC will follow up with these individuals regarding their concerns.

**Open Discussion.** Board members discussed the meeting schedule for next year and the possibility of holding some meetings virtually and some in person.

**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2022, at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility.

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