
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 17, 2022



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — OCTOBER 2022

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on October 7, 2022, at the North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF). Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

NCCF and Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF) Update. Nick Lamb, Warden of the NCCF and the FDCF, provided updates on the NCCF and FDCF.

- The NCCF currently has 462 incarcerated individuals and 90 staff.
- The FDCF currently has 1,182 incarcerated individuals and 242 staff.
- Apprenticeship programs at the NCCF include the following: barbers, cooks, electricians, fabricators, housekeepers, office managers, and welders.
- The NCCF and FDCF have a strong relationship with many stakeholders in the communities, including Iowa Central Community College.

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

- The DOC hired a Chief Information Officer in the Central Office to oversee the information technology department. This is a new position within the DOC.
- Victim Services Director Mary Roche received an award from the Peer Support Foundation.
- The Iowa Office of Victim and Restorative Justice Programs received a grant from the National Institute of Corrections to develop a national victim offender dialogue program.
- Earlier this year, the DOC was nominated by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) for a State government project experience award for Tech2Connect, and the DOC has now won the award.
- Channel 13 News in Des Moines recently visited the Newton Correctional Facility (NCF) and toured the Homes for Iowa program. A segment will be televised soon.

Apprenticeship Programs. Dane Sulentic, Apprenticeship Coordinator, presented on the DOC's apprenticeship programs.

- The DOC has 30 apprenticeship programs in varied industries and sectors. All nine institutions have apprenticeship programs.
- The first apprenticeship program was registered in 2015. Over 400 incarcerated individuals have completed an apprenticeship program.
- For several years, the DOC has had approximately 300 incarcerated individuals active in the apprenticeship programs at a time.
- Apprenticeships include both on-the-job training and a classroom component. Each apprentice has a paid job in the facilities.
- The apprenticeship programs have between 2,000 and 8,000 hours of on-the-job training.

Apprenticeship Study. Dr. Mindi Tenapal, Research Coordinator for the Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) of the Department of Human Rights, presented on a research collaboration between the DOC and the CJJP.

- The DOC and the CJJP have been working together for two years to study the DOC's apprenticeship programs and how effective they are. The CJJP recently released a report with the findings, which can be found [here](#).

- The CJJP found that the recidivism rate for incarcerated individuals who participated in an apprenticeship program, completed the program, and were released from prison was 16.3% compared to 32.7% for those who participated in an apprenticeship but did not complete the program.
- In the study, the fourth quarter post-release employment rate was 70.8% for those who had completed an apprenticeship program, 54.8% for those who participated but did not complete the program, and 37.4% for the general population of 2018 releases.
- The study also found that those who completed an apprenticeship had higher wages than those who participated but did not complete the program, and those who participated but did not complete the program had higher wages than the general population of 2018 releases.
- Overall, the DOC and the CJJP found that the DOC's apprenticeship programs significantly reduce recidivism, significantly connect individuals with employment opportunities, and significantly improve wage earnings.
- Although individuals who completed an apprenticeship had the best outcomes, just participating in the program appears to have made an impact to the outcomes.

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

- **FY 2022.** The DOC's balance carryforward for FY 2022 was approximately \$6.4 million. The majority of these carryforward moneys are related to the additional \$10.0 million the DOC received for FY 2022 and to some education funding the DOC receives. The DOC reverted approximately \$170,000. This reversion is related to supply chain issues. The DOC carried forward approximately \$5.2 million of capital funds, mostly for the Clarinda kitchen project.
- **FY 2023.** The appropriated budget for FY 2023 is mostly a status quo budget with some additional funding for salary adjustments. The pharmacy budget has been overspent for the last several years, but the DOC recently made new purchasing agreements that will lead to significant savings, and the DOC is hopeful it will be able to stay within the pharmacy budget now. The primary capitals project that will be funded in FY 2023 is the Clarinda kitchen project.

Open Discussion. Board members discussed the possibility of changing from monthly meetings to bimonthly or quarterly meetings. The Board approved holding bimonthly meetings in CY 2023.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2022, at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center in Coralville.

LSA Staff Contact: Isabel Waller (515.281.6561) isabel.waller@legis.iowa.gov

Doc ID 1298336