
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 14, 2022



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — NOVEMBER 2022

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on November 4, 2022, at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC). Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

IMCC Update. Mike Heinrich, Warden of the IMCC, provided updates on the IMCC.

- The IMCC has been having trouble filling nursing and correctional officer positions, but it has recently started to make progress on recruitment for correctional officers.
- Since January 1, 2022, the IMCC has had 2,980 admissions from county jails and 294 transfers from other facilities, and the IMCC has transferred 3,069 individuals out of reception to other facilities.

Education at the IMCC. Michelle Barker, Education Coordinator, presented on the IMCC's educational programs.

- The IMCC provides opportunities for incarcerated individuals to participate in high school completion courses, literacy courses, and vocational courses.
- Vocational courses are meant for individuals who may reenter the community soon. The IMCC is looking to expand its vocational course offerings.
- The IMCC's life skills program is now running, as the IMCC was able to secure funding to hire an instructor this past year. This program focuses on employment opportunities and personal finance.
- The IMCC is participating in the DOC pilot program that utilizes tablets. The IMCC recently received tablets for the youthful offender group. With this program, there are many opportunities for certifications, preparing for the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), and other career exploration.
- In the future, the IMCC would like to improve literacy outcomes, especially for students who are nonnative English speakers. The IMCC would also like to increase its vocational offerings.

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

- The DOC has been working with the [Council of State Governments \(CSG\) Justice Center](#) over the last year to analyze the impact the pandemic had on Community-Based Corrections (CBC) operations.
 - The CSG's key findings included higher completion rates in programming, a reduction in revocations, increased job opportunities for clients, and a decrease in supervision violations.
 - The CSG commented on the CBC district departments' innovations regarding virtual visits, virtual treatments, and using virtual courts.
- The Homes for Iowa program was recently featured on WHO 13 News. The program provides much-needed skills to incarcerated individuals while also providing affordable homes for Iowans.
- Director Skinner will attend the Iowa Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE) meeting in November to answer questions related to DOC policies, reentry, and visitation.
- The DOC will have a recruitment booth at an upcoming job fair at the Des Moines Public Schools' Central Campus.
- The DOC is beginning to see a decrease in the number of job vacancies.
- The new Chief Information Officer started this past month. This new position will help increase efficiency and develop infrastructure.

Employee Recognition Policy. The Board approved a new policy that outlines the DOC's position on employee recognition and provides guidelines for the institutions to create their own procedures for

employee recognition. This policy includes a provision for an agency-wide employee recognition ceremony once each year.

Public Comments. A member of the public expressed concerns about the Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP) and the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility (MPCF) not having air conditioning, limited in-person visiting hours at the institutions, and the increasing prison population.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2023, at the DOC Central Office in Des Moines, following the legislative breakfast.

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