
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — JUNE 2023

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on June 2, 2023, at the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP). Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

New Board Members. Two new Board members were introduced, Alexa Perez and Jay Nelson.

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

- On April 11, Director Skinner attended the Crime Victim Rights Week ceremony with Attorney General Brenna Bird.
- In early May, the DOC celebrated Correctional Workers Week, and the institutions' staff were recognized in a variety of ways through the week.
- The DOC recently had a virtual reentry conference, which had 175 attendees.
- On May 10, the DOC celebrated the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility's (FDCF) 25th anniversary.
- On June 8, the DOC will have its employee recognition ceremony at the State Capitol.

Community-Based Corrections (CBC) Alignment. Director Skinner provided the following information on the CBC alignment:

- On July 1, 2023, the CBC district departments will move under the DOC, creating one system for corrections. Employees of the CBC district departments will become State employees, and the district boards will move to an advisory capacity.
- Anticipated benefits of the alignment include continuity of services, programming, and reentry; system efficiency in information technology, human resources practices, and purchasing; increased collaboration between the institutions and district departments; equity of services; and the elevation of innovations occurring in the district departments.
- The DOC has been working on implementation of the CBC alignment. This has involved multiple workgroups that meet daily, weekly meetings with district directors, site visits with the district departments to meet with staff, working on policy, and communication with staff about the alignment and its benefits. The DOC is planning to host a virtual town hall meeting related to the alignment.

Warden Approval. The current warden of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW), Sheryl Dahm, is retiring. The Board approved Michelle Waddle as the new warden of the ICIW.

Emergency Preparedness Exercise. The DOC recently hosted its annual training on emergency preparedness. The training takes place over three days and includes scenarios and drills. The emergency teams included in the training are the correctional emergency response team, the crisis negotiation team, health services, and staff support services. Approximately 150 staff attended this year.

Offender Phone System. Matt Jones, Budget Analyst at the ISP, presented the following information on the DOC offender phone system:

- In FY 2021, the DOC generated \$4.3 million in gross sales from the phone account and paid the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) \$3.5 million for phone services. In FY 2022, the DOC generated \$4.6 million in gross sales from the phone account and paid the ICN \$3.7 million for phone services.
- Revenues generated from the phone account pay for certain services for all incarcerated individuals. This includes educational services, the law library, and language translation services.

- The DOC averages 290,000 to 350,000 outgoing phone calls each year from incarcerated individuals in all nine institutions.
- The rate charged to incarcerated individuals for local calls is currently \$0.11 per minute.

FY 2023 Budget. Steve Dick, Financial Manager, provided the following updates on the status of the FY 2023 budget for the institutions and the Central Office:

- The DOC is currently on track with personnel and salaries for the FY 2023 budget.
- In FY 2023, travel expenses increased due to the new centralized employee training.
- During FY 2023, inflation affected the price of supplies and utilities.
- In FY 2023, the Central Office carried forward a significant amount originally appropriated in FY 2022. The DOC has plans to spend the remainder of those moneys before they revert at the end of FY 2023, including the purchase of body scanners.

FY 2024 Budget. Steve Dick provided the following updates on the FY 2024 budget passed by the General Assembly.

- The DOC received a \$15.7 million increase from the General Fund, which is a 3.8% increase compared to FY 2023. The DOC received the following additional funding:
 - \$13.1 million for Department-wide duties.
 - \$1.3 million for cost increases due to inflation.
 - \$750,000 for hepatitis C treatment. The average cost for hepatitis C treatment for one individual is \$10,000.
 - \$690,000 and 5.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for a high-risk unit in the Seventh Judicial District. There are high-risk units in several other judicial districts.
- The DOC received funding from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) and Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF) for FY 2024, including the following projects:
 - \$865,000 for body scanners in the institutions. This is estimated to purchase approximately five body scanners.
 - \$1.2 million to construct an apprenticeship building at the Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility (MPCF).
 - \$2.8 million for electric service upgrades at the Iowa Medical and Classification Center (IMCC).
 - \$1.9 million for camera system upgrades at the institutions.
 - \$325,000 for body-worn cameras at the institutions.

DOC Website. Nick Crawford, Communications Director, presented the following information on the DOC's new website:

- There has been an effort across Executive Branch agencies to update agency websites. The DOC was one of the first agencies to undergo this update.
- In the update process, the DOC focused on accessibility and providing the information that families need.
- Currently, each judicial district has its own website. Starting on July 1, 2023, all the information on these separate websites will move to the new DOC website. The DOC is working to ensure there is no interruption of services during this transition.

Public Comments. Members of the public expressed concerns about the multidisciplinary team; the medical care of incarcerated individuals; and problems with Pigeonly, the company that processes mail sent to incarcerated individuals. A member of the public expressed a desire for volunteers to return to the institutions. A CBC district department director gave positive feedback about the implementation of the CBC alignment so far.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2023, at the Newton Correctional Facility (NCF).

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