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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 30, 2023



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — NOVEMBER 2023

**Meeting.** The Board of Corrections met on November 17, 2023, at the Department of Corrections (DOC) Central Office. Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the DOC [website](#).

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

- The State's three-year recidivism rate in FY 2023 was 34.3%, a 2.7% decrease from FY 2022, and the third consecutive year for recidivism rates decreasing.
- To improve staff culture, surveys, newsletters, and focus groups have been conducted at various prisons.

**Presentations.** Two presentations were given to the Board.

- **Sex Offender Civil Commitment Referral Process.** Ken Pirc, an employee of the DOC's Placement Office, gave a presentation on the sex offender civil commitment referral process to the Board. The requirements for the commitment process of sexually violent predators under Iowa Code chapter [229A](#) were reviewed.
- **DOC Treatment Programs.** Katrina Carter, Director of Reentry, gave a presentation on the DOC's treatment programs to the Board. The Office of Drug Control Policy Report was discussed. The report found that approximately \$5.0 million was spent on community-based programs and treatment and enforcement by the DOC. An additional \$2.2 million was expended for institution core programs by the DOC.

**Action Items.** The Board took action on the following items.

- **FY 2024 Telephone Rebate Expenditures.** Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager, detailed the Offender Telephone Rebate expenditures for FY 2024. The Board approved the expenditures. The expenditures are as follows:
  - \$500,000 for educational programs, specifically for HiSET (High School Equivalency Test), special needs education, and life skills and vocational training.
  - \$144,000 to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the payment of staff members who assist inmates in applying for driver's licenses.
  - \$144,000 to Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) for the payment of staff serving as workforce advisors for inmates.
  - \$100,000 to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for peer-to-peer training programs.
  - \$83,000 for funding of resources through the Inmate Law Library. For more information, refer to this [Fiscal Topic](#).
  - \$64,000 for telephone administration.
  - \$7,000 for translation services.
- **Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) Easement for Utility Company.** Michael Savala, General Counsel, detailed a proposed easement for a utility company in Lee County. The Board approved the easement request.
- **NCCF Farmland Sale.** Michael Savala detailed a proposed sale of farmland located next to the North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF) in Rockwell City. The Board approved the sale.
- **Warden Approval.** The Board approved the appointment of Brian Foster as the new warden of the Anamosa State Penitentiary. The Board also approved the appointment of Don Harris as the new warden of the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility.

**Public Comments.** Members of the public expressed concerns about the process for committing individuals to the Sexually Violent Predator Program, difficulty communicating with incarcerated individuals, and issues with the Newton Correctional Facility. Board members expressed appreciation for the public comments.

**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024, at the DOC Central Office.

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