



BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — NOVEMBER 2016

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met November 4, 2016, at the Central Office of the Department of Corrections (DOC) in Des Moines. Director Jerry Bartruff welcomed the Board and provided an update of his activity since the last meeting:

- A preservice training class for new employees ended this week, and graduation was held on November 3. Director Bartruff was struck by the diverse backgrounds of this class.
- On October 12 Community-Based Corrections (CBC) held a recognition ceremony in the Eighth District.
- During the week of October 17, training related to recidivism programs was held for 90 employees.
- On October 18 the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility held a recognition banquet for 380 offenders who had not received any disciplinary reports during the year.
- A warden's meeting was held at the Anamosa State Penitentiary (ASP) on October 19. That same day there was an escape attempt by an inmate that was quickly contained due to staff action.
- On October 27 a meeting was held with Iowa State University landscaping staff and students related to projects at the ASP and the Iowa Medical and Classification Center for staff decompression areas.
- On October 28 there was a meeting of the Victim Advisory Committee.

Board of Parole. John Hodges, Chair of the Board of Parole (BOP), provided data showing that cases for consideration being reviewed by the BOP are up by 18.3% for the first four months of FY 2017 compared to the same time period in FY 2016, and this included 329 additional releases. The prison population was 8,330 on October 31, 2015, and 8,288 on October 31, 2016. This is a decrease of 42 inmates (0.5%). Collaboration between the BOP and the DOC has contributed greatly to greater efficiency and includes:

- Regular meetings to ensure prompt communication of issues.
- Cross-training on processes used by either the BOP or the DOC to foster better understanding of information needed for decision making.
- Continued development of the Iowa Corrections Offender Network.
- Continued collaboration with the CBCs and the DOC on revocation processes to foster uniformity and develop additional alternatives to revocation where appropriate.

County Confinement Budget. The state reimburses counties for holding alleged violators of work release, parole, or certain Operating While Intoxicated conditions of supervision pending a revocation hearing. In FY 2015, \$620,000 was reallocated to the initial General Fund appropriation of \$1.1 million, an increase of 57.7%. In FY 2016, the total reallocation to County Confinement Reimbursements was \$634,000 to the initial appropriation of \$1.1 million, an increase of 58.9%. The DOC held a Lean/Kaizen event to develop a process to reduce county confinement costs and increase efficiencies. Goals developed from this event are to:

- Decrease the cost of county confinement by 20.0% for FY 2017.
- Decrease the average days an offender is in jail prior to a BOP initial hearing from 26.7 days to 14 days.
- Decrease the average days between a Parole Violation Report (PVR) submittal date and the BOP initial hearing from 13.4 days to 10 days or less.
- Decrease the average days for the PVR submittal date from an average of 13.9 days from the start of an offender being placed in jail to five days.

Target Population Recidivism Rates. The DOC calculates a prison recidivism rate, but has also started calculating a recidivism rate for the probation and parole population that includes higher-risk probationers receiving case planning. This will coincide with a new Statewide Recidivism Reduction Strategy that is expected to be fully implemented in 2017. The work now will provide the baseline for examining the

effectiveness for this strategy by 2020, as the recidivism rates are based on three years of tracking data. The Board requested updates on a yearly basis as this project moves along.

Core Correctional Practices Overview. A training program for correctional staff is being implemented that emphasizes building working relationships with inmates through new thinking, social skills, problem solving, and identifying and reducing risk. There will be a two-year implementation of training for correctional staff statewide. The goal is to establish treatment practices to keep staff and the public safe.

Budget Update. After the distribution of FY 2017 additional funds of \$3.4 million for department-wide duties, there is still a projected shortfall of \$1.8 million. Full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are being left vacant to achieve savings, but that also incurs overtime costs. All of the institutions have done a staffing analysis, and rebidding of shifts at some institutions is being considered to cut overtime costs. Hepatitis C drugs, as well as other pharmaceuticals, continue to be very costly. There are currently four capital projects still underway:

- Bidding addressing the humidity problems at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison will be done this month, and work will be completed before July 1, 2017. Capital moneys for this project will revert July 1, 2017.
- The Iowa Correctional Institution for Women at Mitchellville has one building under construction, and that should also be completed before July 1, 2017.
- The Third District CBC currently has heating, ventilation, and air conditioning repair work being completed.
- The Fifth District CBC has fiber optics upgrades and building maintenance being done.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2017, at the Central Office in Des Moines. For additional information, see the DOC website: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/BoardOfCorrections>.

STAFF CONTACT: Alice Fulk Wisner (515-281-6764) alice.wisner@legis.iowa.gov