BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — JUNE 2018

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on June 1, 2018, at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF). A copy of the materials provided at the meeting may be found on the Department of Corrections (DOC) website.

Department Update. DOC Director Jerry Bartruff provided an update on Department activities:

- **Iowa Statewide Forum on Public Safety** – The DOC and the Department of Public Safety are co-hosting the Iowa Statewide Forum on Public Safety, which will be facilitated by representatives from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. The event will be held at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville on June 19, 2018.

- **Specialty Courts Study** – House File 2492 (2018 Justice System Appropriations Act) contains a provision requiring the Judicial Branch and the DOC to study the effectiveness and recidivism rates of persons assigned to the specialty courts of the Judicial Branch. The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) division will also be involved in the study. The study is currently in the planning stages, and a report detailing the cost effectiveness, including any recommendations, will be filed with the General Assembly by January 15, 2019.

Facility Overview and Education Programs. FDCF Warden Robert Johnson provided an overview of the facility and its population profile. There are currently 1,310 offenders at the facility. Typically, 30 to 50 offenders are released from the facility each month. Representatives from Iowa Central Community College (ICCC) presented on the Second Chance Pell Program at the facility. The Second Chance Pell Program is a federal program that allows incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants and pursue postsecondary education. The FDCF works with ICCC to implement the Program.

Race Trends. DOC Risk Reduction Director Dr. Beth Skinner presented data on the racial composition, education levels, and violence and victimization risk levels of inmates in Iowa institutions. The Board provided suggestions for further review, including a cost-benefit analysis of education programs and the programs’ impact on employment levels after release and the recidivism rate.

Racial Disparity Policy. The Board discussed a proposed policy to address racial disparity in DOC facilities. The policy is based on a model policy from the Association of State Correctional Administrators. The Board did not take any action and will deliberate the policy further at a future meeting.

Uniforms. Representatives from Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) presented the new officer uniforms for the officers working at IPI. The uniforms will be made in the IPI workshop at FDCF and worn by IPI correctional officers and employees throughout the Department.

Budget Update. DOC Financial Manager Steve Dick reported on several items related to the budget:

- **FY 2018** – The DOC will spend any remaining funds on equipment and technology upgrades before the end of the fiscal year.

- **Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP)** – The DOC has submitted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a study on potential uses for the former ISP building. A portion of the building is being leased out, but the DOC must continue to pay utilities and maintenance costs for the building until a plan is adopted.

- **FY 2019** – The DOC will receive an appropriation of $381.8 million, an increase of $7.5 million from estimated net FY 2018, which will fund some salary increases. The DOC is currently working with the
institutions and Community-Based Corrections (CBCs) to determine their needs for the FY 2019 budget year.

**Legislative Update.** DOC General Counsel Michael Savala provided an update to the Board on several pieces of legislation from the 2018 General Assembly that will have an impact on the DOC, including policy provisions in **HF 2492** (2018 Justice System Appropriations Act), **SF 2418** (2018 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act), and **HF 2502** (2018 Standing Appropriations Act). For a summary of the policy provisions, a corresponding document is available as part of the meeting materials.

**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting is scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on July 13, 2018, at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville. For additional information, see the DOC website: doc.iowa.gov/about-us/board-corrections.

LSA Staff Contact: Laura Book (515.205.9275) laura.book@legis.iowa.gov

966661