BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — OCTOBER 2018

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met on October 5, 2018, at Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) Showroom in Des Moines.

Department Update. Department of Corrections (DOC) Director Jerry Bartruff provided an update on Department activities:

• The DOC met as part of the Geriatric Housing Work Group. The Group is in the process of compiling information to include in its report to the Legislature.
• Several DOC officials met with the Department of Management (DOM) to discuss the Department's budget request for FY 2020.
• The monthly wardens’ meeting occurred in Fort Dodge. During the meeting, the emergency response teams from the State institutions participated in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) challenge.
• Director Bartruff presented to the Older Iowans Legislature about the ongoing work of the Geriatric Housing Work Group.

United Way of Central Iowa Opportunity Reentry Project. The United Way has received grant funding to support a reentry project in which training is provided to inmates or clients for skills that may be utilized after release. The training programs include transportation and distribution, retail and hospitality, and health care. The project will be instituted at the Iowa Correction Institute for Women (ICIW), the Newton Correctional Facility, and the Fort Des Moines and New Start halfway houses in Des Moines. Additional opportunities available include the Lifechanges program, Iowa Legal Aid assessments, and employment assistance from Iowa Workforce Development.

Prison-Built Housing. State Senator Mark Lofgren and Executive Director Rick Hunsaker from the Iowa Association of Councils of Governments presented to the Board on a proposed Rural Iowa Housing Project. The project is modeled after South Dakota’s “Governor’s House” program, in which inmates build the homes and the homes are delivered to the final location, where the homeowner takes possession. The project was proposed during the 2018 Legislative Session but ultimately did not receive the support necessary to become law. The presenters indicated that a total appropriation of $2.5 million would be necessary to support the project. The Board tabled the vote on a motion to support the project until the next Board meeting.

Budget Update. DOC Financial Manager Steve Dick provided an update on the DOC budget. The budget for FY 2018 was closed in September 2018. For FY 2018, the DOC had a total reversion of $988,000. The majority of this reversion came from the County Confinement and Federal Prisoner appropriations, neither of which required the total appropriation amount. The balance carryforward of approximately $78,000 from the Institutions and Administration appropriations will be used for training and technology expenditures in FY 2019.

2019 Legislative Package. DOC General Counsel Michael Savala presented the 2019 Legislative Bill Package for the DOC. The Board approved the legislative package with a few suggestions.

Disparity Policy. The Board approved the proposed DOC policy related to preventing racial disparity in DOC institutions and Community-Based Corrections (CBCs).
Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled on November 2, 2018, at the DOC Central Office in Des Moines. For additional information, see the DOC website.

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