
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — NOVEMBER 2018

Meeting. The Board of Corrections (Board) met on November 2, 2018, at the Department of Corrections (DOC) boardroom in Des Moines.

Department Update. Department of Corrections (DOC) Deputy Director Dan Clark provided an update on Department activities. The DOC continues to meet as part of the Geriatric Housing Work Group, and plans to meet to discuss housing for geriatric sex offenders at its next meeting on November 8, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. at the DOC boardroom. The Group is in the process of compiling information to include in its report to the Legislature.

Statewide Recidivism Reduction Evaluation (SRR). DOC Director of Risk Reduction Dr. Beth Skinner and Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Executive Officer Sarah Fineran presented the Board with the results of the Outcomes Evaluation of Iowa's Statewide Recidivism Reduction (SRR) Initiative. In October 2014, the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) received three years of federal funding from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) as part of the Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Strategic Planning Grant. The ODCP contracted with the DOC for this initiative, with the goal to enhance public safety by reducing the State's recidivism rate for offenders reentering the community.

The DOC targeted its recidivism reductions efforts toward mid- to high-risk probationers and all parolees. Analysis of 2010 data showed that the three-year prison return rate for this population was 28.0%. The two-year goal of the SRR initiative is to reduce recidivism to 22.0%, and the five-year goal is to reduce recidivism to 20.0%. The DOC has developed a statewide training plan to implement policies and procedures focused on evidence-based practices, with emphasis on comprehensive systemwide quality assurance plans, prerelease planning and connection to government and private services, and measurement of resource allocations to achieve these reduction goals.

In 2017, the CJJP prepared the first of two recidivism analyses per request of the DOC. At the November 2017 meeting, Dr. Skinner and Executive Officer Fineran presented the second of these two reports, which is based on the cohorts established in the first analysis, with one year of additional data. While the implementation of SRR activity is ongoing, analysis of data collected in the second report shows that the total three-year recidivism rate as compared to 2010 data is fairly similar at 30.4%, compared to 28.0%. Variations between parolee and probationer data from 2010 and data collected for the second report were minimal. Two-year recidivism rates were found to be consistently lower for the first phase of the SRR project than rates measured prior to the initiative, whether examined by total population (11.2% vs. 11.4%), parolee population (13.3% vs. 13.7%), or the probationer population (9.9% vs. 10.2%).

Data collected up to this point indicates that SRR efforts may have more successfully targeted mid- to high-risk offenders, particularly short-term parolees. The DOC continues to provide additional analysis as results from the second SRR report indicate that more tracking time is needed. Additional analysis is needed to assess the recidivism rates of cohorts established during SRR implementation periods, as well as those following full SRR implementation. Implementation of the SRR initiative is a continuing process.

Administrative Rules Review. DOC General Counsel Michael Savala presented proposed administrative rule changes to the Board. The Department's rules are subject to the five-year comprehensive rules review pursuant to Iowa Code chapter [17A](#), and proposed various technical

changes, including clarification of deputy director duties and risk assessment instruments to be utilized on a statewide level. The Board unanimously approved the proposed changes to the Department's rules.

Approval of 2019 Board Meeting Schedule. The Board unanimously approved the 2019 Board of Corrections meeting schedule. The schedule is available online on the DOC [website](#).

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled on January 4, 2019, at the DOC Central Office in Des Moines. No meeting is scheduled for the month of December. For additional information, see the DOC [website](#).

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