Iowa Board of Parole

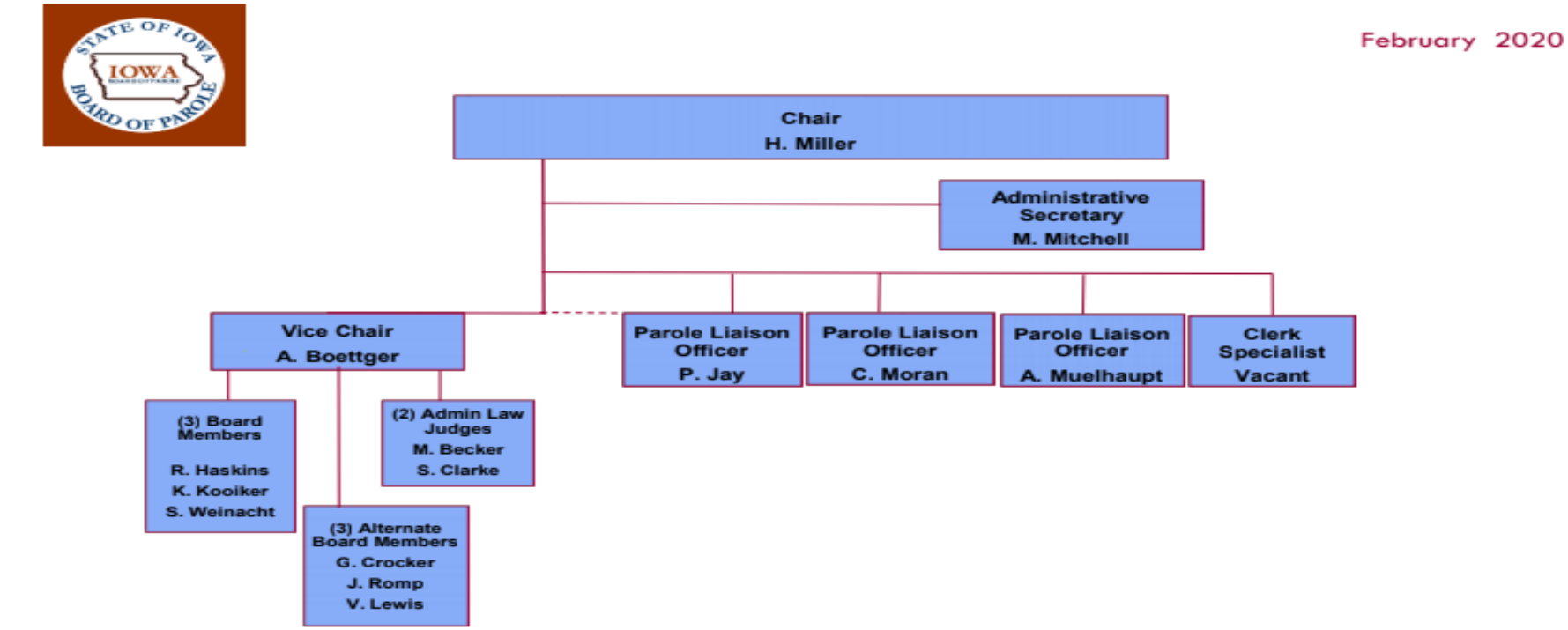
Joint Meeting of the Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

FY 2021 Budget Request

February 12, 2020

Chair Helen Miller

Iowa Board of Parole: Small but Mighty



Iowa Board of Parole Mission

To enhance overall public safety by making evidence-based and informed parole decisions for the successful reentry of offenders into the community to become productive and responsible citizens.

Smart Decision Making

- Utilize evidence based practices in the decision making process
- Promote release at the appropriate time and level
- Foster a deliberation system that respect the interest of the public, victims, and offenders

Efficiency

- Be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Iowa
- Be vigilant in the acquisition of knowledge and process improvement

Collaboration

- Enhance a collaborative working relationship with stakeholders in the criminal justice system
- Become a nationally recognized leader among paroling authorities

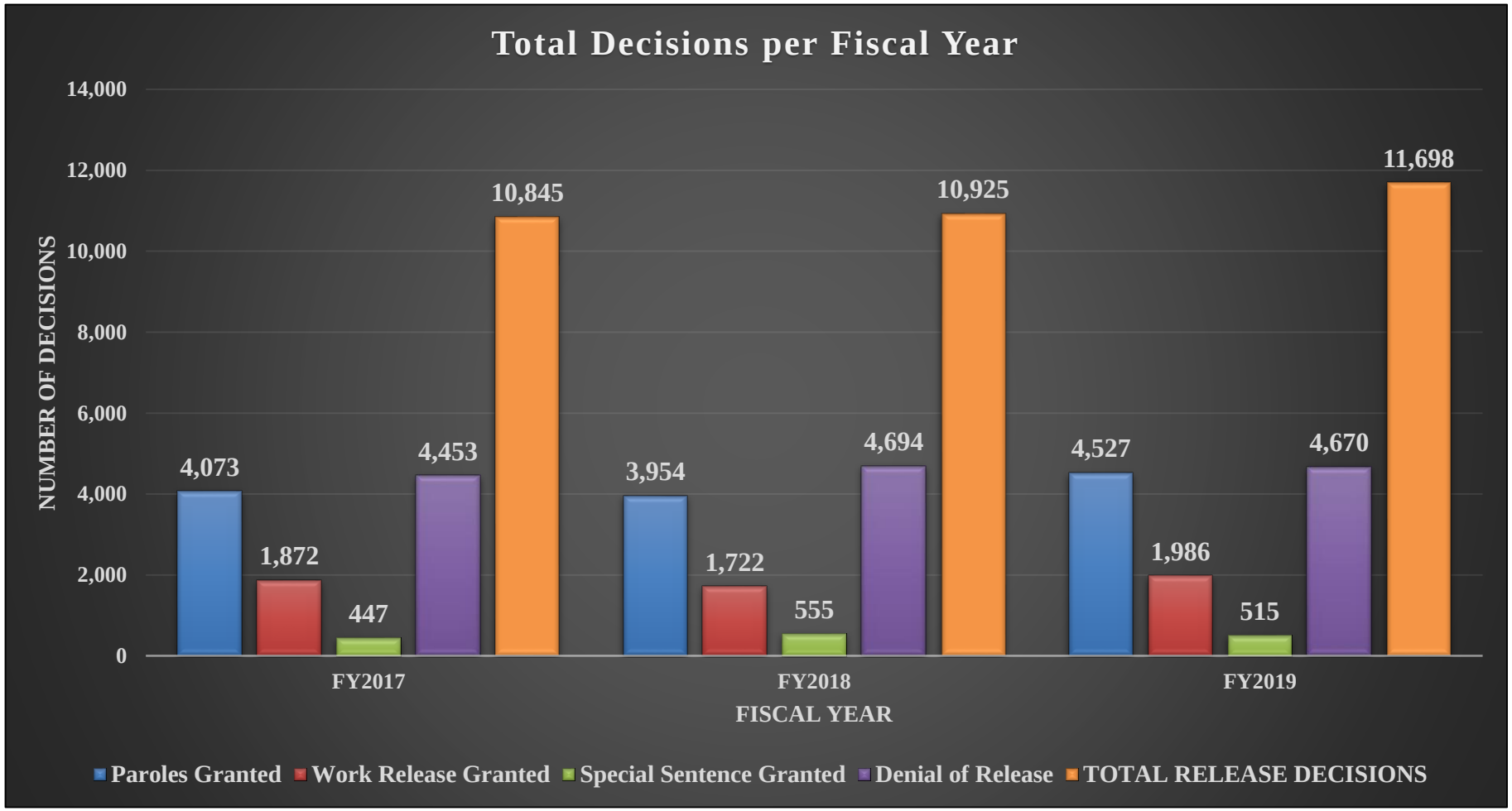
Smart Decision Making

- Comprehensive and efficient consideration for parole and work release of offenders committed to the department of corrections
- Expeditious Administrative Law Judge review and determination in the matter of paroles of persons who violate release conditions.
- Continue to increase the use of evidence based practices at the appropriate time.
- Careful consideration of victims opinions concerning the release decisions and timely notification.
- Quality advice to the Governor in matters relating to executive clemency.
- Timely research and analysis of issues critical to the performance of the Board of Parole.
- Perform objective risk assessments for incarcerated individuals.

Efficiency

Utilization of technology to increase workload capacity and accuracy within the allotted financial resources and be fiscally responsible to the tax payers of Iowa.

Release Deliberations	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Case Reviews	11,059	11,160	11,828	12,134	12,921
Interviews	312	302	392	365	464
Total Deliberations	**11,371**	**11,468**	**12,220**	**12,499**	**13,385**
Release Decisions	**FY 2015**	**FY 2016**	**FY 2017**	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**
Paroles Granted	3,306	3,767	4,073	3,954	4,527
Work Releases Granted	1,411	1,611	1,872	1,722	1,986
Special Sentences Granted (903B)*	462	470	447	555	515
Deny Release	4,509	4,201	4,453	4,694	4,670


Total Decisions per Fiscal Year
NUMBER OF DECISIONS
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
4,073
1,872
447
4,453
10,845
3,954
1,722
555
4,694
10,925
4,527
1,986
515
4,670
11,698
FY2017
FY2018
FY2019
FISCAL YEAR
Paroles Granted
Work Release Granted
Special Sentence Granted
Denial of Release
TOTAL RELEASE DECISIONS

Victim Services

The Board recognizes the special place that victims occupy as unwilling participants in our criminal justice system. Victims can provide crucial insight into the crimes committed against them by individuals that the Board considers for discretionary release.

Recognizing the status held by victims within our criminal justice system and the unparalleled insight such individuals can provide, the Board established its first program for victim participation in 1986. As part of this program the position of Victim Coordinator was added to the Board's staff. Today, the Victim Coordinator's primary responsibility is to assist victims who want to exercise the following rights established by the Iowa Victim Rights Act, Iowa Code Chapter 915:

- Notify victims of violent crimes, not less than twenty days prior to the Board conducting a hearing at which the offender will be interviewed, and inform the victim that they may submit their opinion concerning the release of the offender in writing prior to the hearing or may appear personally or by counsel at the hearing to express an opinion concerning the offender's release.

- Notify the victim, whether or not the victim appears at the hearing or expresses an opinion, of the Board's decision regarding release of the offender.

Victim Services

Victim Registration Statistics	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Registered Victims at Yearend	5,248	5,823	6,067	6,337
Registration Letters	1,778	2,873	1,700	2,318
Interview Letters	487	598	538	772
Decision Letters	2,323	3,160	3,117	3,633

Board of Parole Administrative Law Judges: Parole Revocations

A total of 1,979 paroles were revoked in FY19. This number includes sex offenders who are subject to special sentence supervision pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 903B.

Parole Revocation Statistics FY 2019	
Total Parole Revocation Hearings	**3,474**
Total Paroles Revoked	**1,979**
Discretionary Revocations	928
Automatic Revocations	300

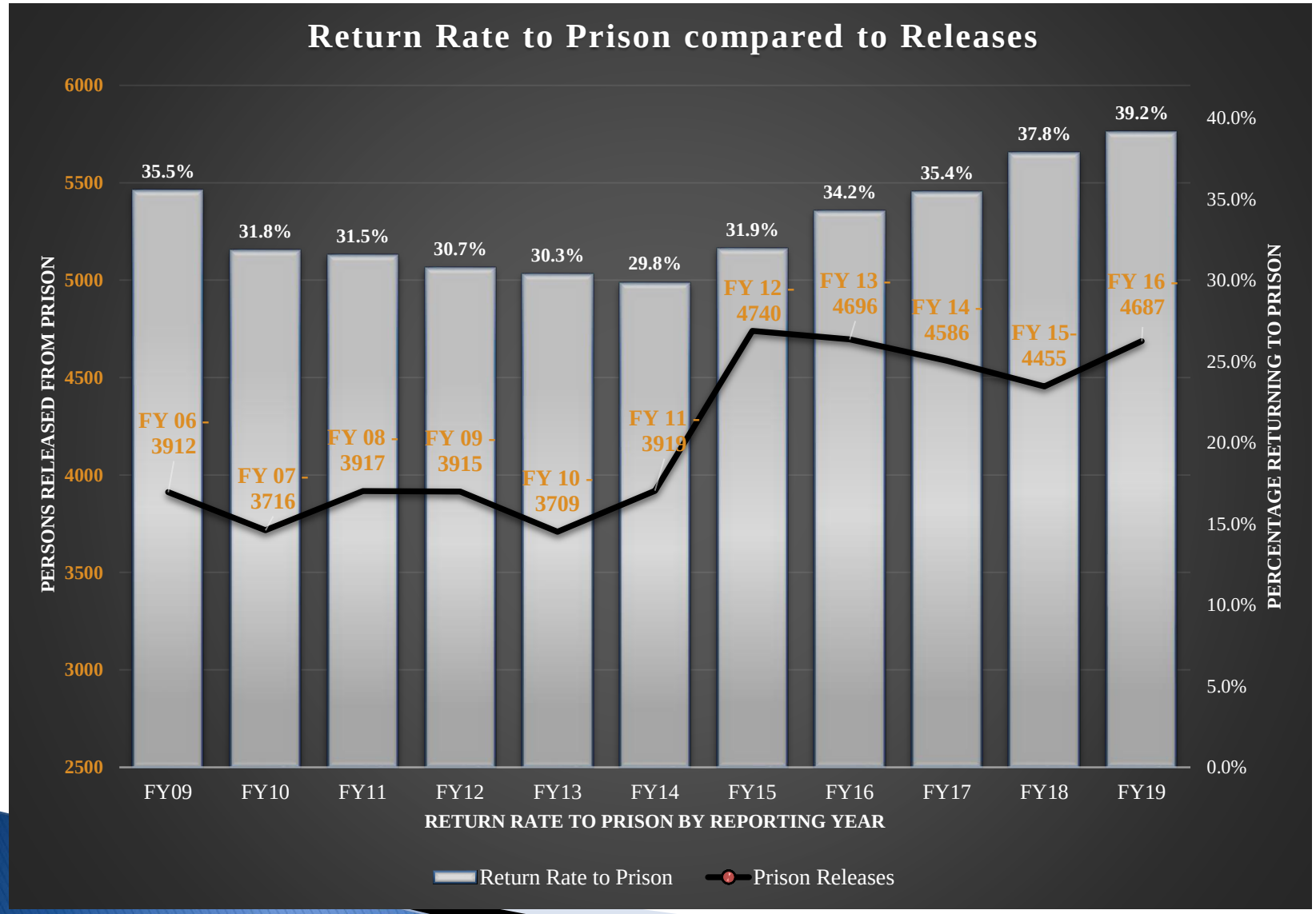
Administrative Law Judge Revocation Diversion: Community Success Program

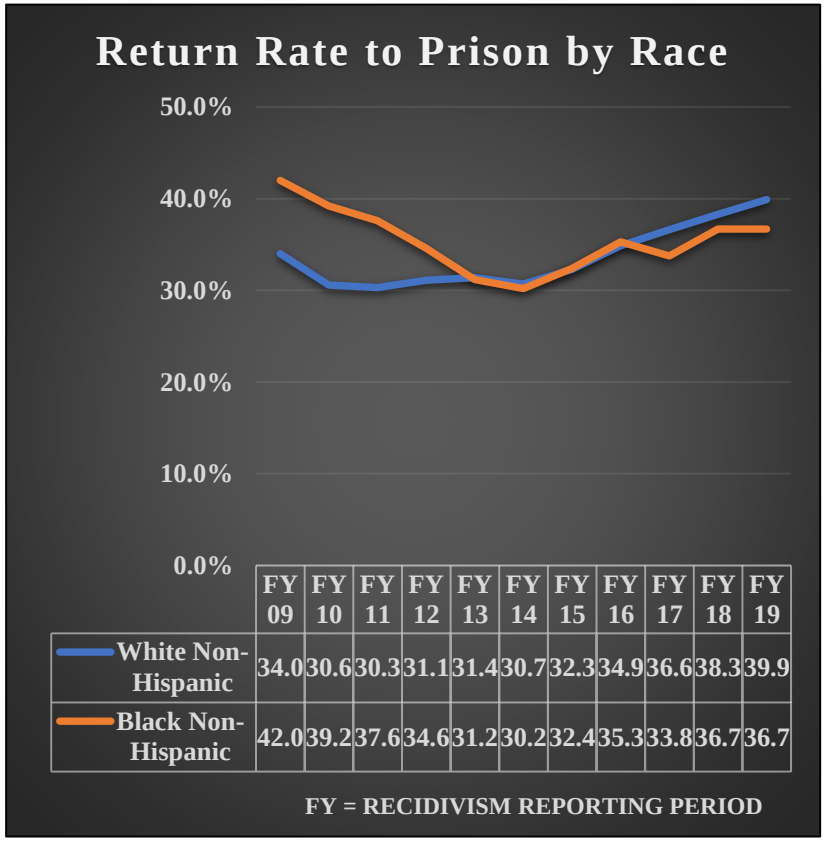
In September 2018, the Board of Parole launched a diversion program for parolees in the community facing revocation of their parole status. The purpose of the Community Success Program (CSP) is to invite parolees to prevent returns to prison by engaging parolees in the process of changing their behavior.

Successful Completion of Program	
Discharged Sentence While Under CSP	2
Continued on Parole without Revocation	2

Unsuccessful Completion of Program	
Revoked to Work Release	1
Revoked to Prison	6

Recidivism

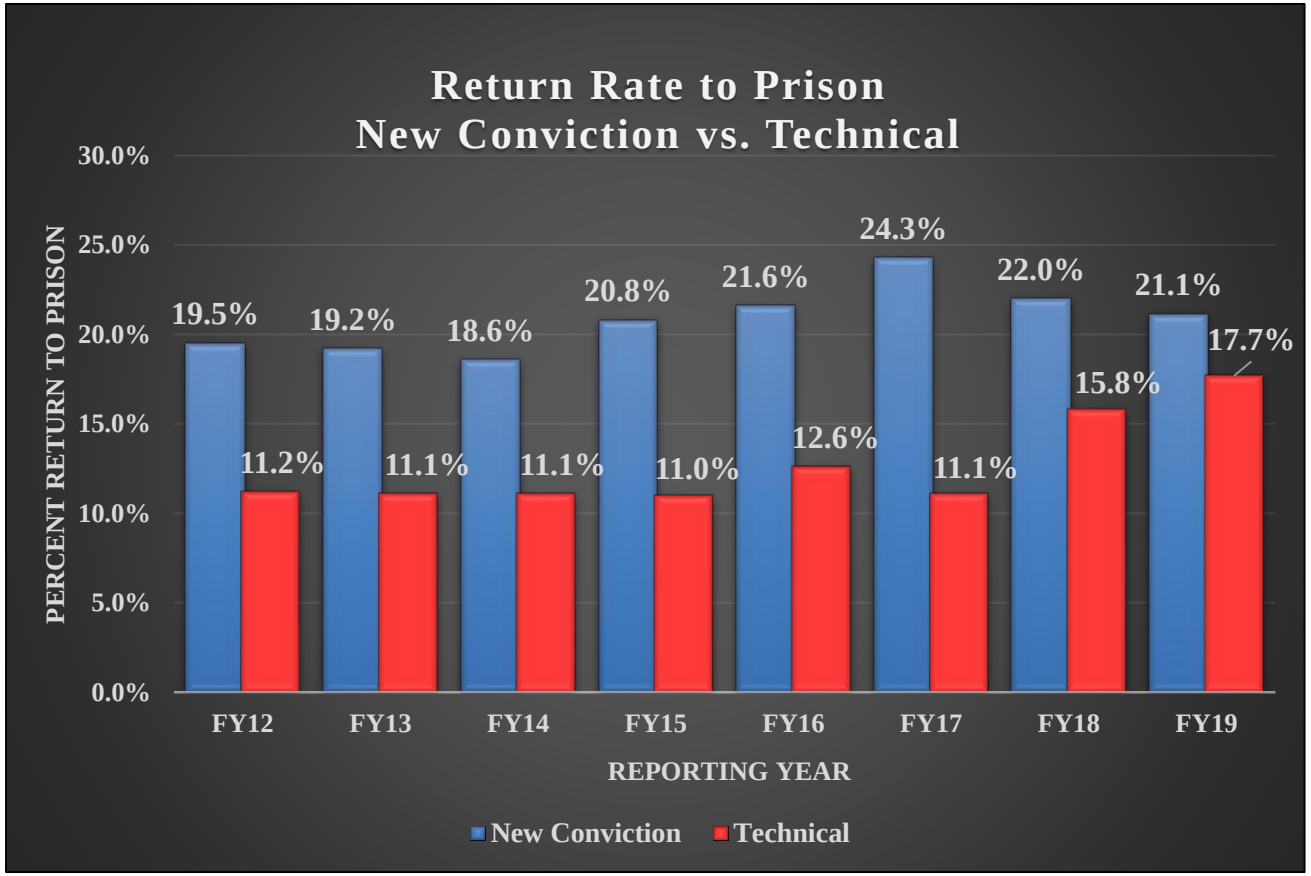


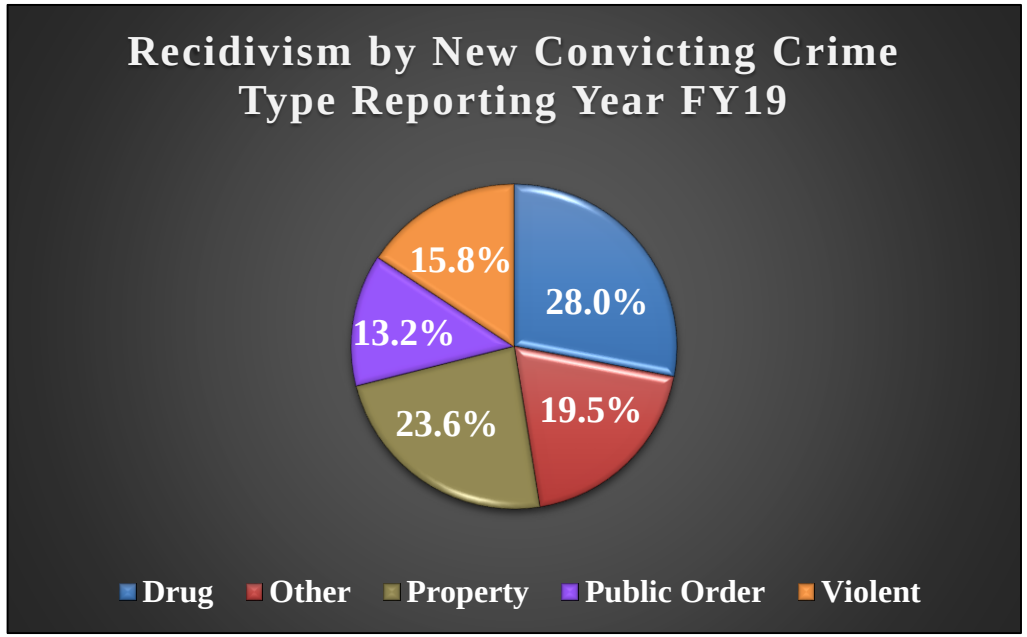


	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19
White Non-Hispanic	34.0	30.6	30.3	31.1	31.4	30.7	32.3	34.9	36.6	38.3	39.9
Black Non-Hispanic	42.0	39.2	37.6	34.6	31.2	30.2	32.4	35.3	33.8	36.7	36.7

FY = RECIDIVISM REPORTING PERIOD

Recidivism by Reason for Return (New Conviction vs. Technical)





Collaboration

Fostering collaborative working relationships with the Department of Corrections and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system

- Open communication increases efficiency at all stages of the release decision making process
- Elimination of redundant processes results in greater fiscal responsibility
- Collaboration across disciplines results in enhanced offender reentry planning and more comprehensive reviews

Collaboration

- Robina Project
  - Aligning Supervision Conditions with Risk and Needs
- Training at Board's monthly Board meetings
- Quarterly all day trainings required for all Board members and staff
- Visits to all nine institutions as well as community based corrections offices.
- Attending state-wide and national conferences to continue to improve and learn.
- Participate on panels and present to stakeholders the role and operations of the Board of Parole

Highlights: Selfies with the Chair

Budget Request

	FY 2019 Actuals	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 Department Request
Appropriation	$1,221,374	$1,240,265	$1,289,135
FTEs	10.5	10.5	10.5
Technology Reinvestment Fund		$50,00	*Continue to use $50,00*
Total Appropriation Request			**$1,289,135**

Thank you for your continued support of the Iowa Board of Parole!