



Iowa Department of Corrections
Justice Appropriation Subcommittee Presentation
Responses to Follow-up Questions
February 9, 2012

Salary Adjustment

1. The estimated salary adjustment need at the start of FY 2012 was \$16.7 million – that included funds for the Farm Account and Prison Industries (funded from revolving funds). So in rounding, the DOC general fund need is estimated at \$16.6 million – correct? Of that amount, how much was the cost of providing salary increases to the non-bargaining staff (management and exempt such as accounting techs).

In process of collecting data.

2. Is there any indication that recidivism is slowly increasing since general fund budgets have been decreasing?

The one-year return rate to prison was 12.8% for those released from prison in FY2010. For FY2009 releases, the one-year return rate was 12.7%; for FY2008 releases, it was 14.1%; for FY2007 releases, it was 15.5%. Differences in recidivism rates are due to many factors including the types of offenders released. We would note implementation of evidence-based practices appears to be driving down recidivism rates. Continued funding in future years will ensure we are able to provide the necessary evidence-based interventions and levels of supervision for higher risk offenders that will lower their likelihood of reoffending.

Clarinda Correctional Facility

3. Please comment on staffing at Clarinda Correctional Facility – there were 152 FTE's funded, added funds for 20 new correctional officers, and there are currently 141 CO on staff. Where did the money go?

The funds paid for existing security staff.

4. Since Dec. 2010, 10 COs were lost, hired 1 over the same time, but no cuts were made in central office?

No cuts or layoffs occurred at Clarinda or any other location. Loss of staff through normal attrition occurs on a continuous basis across the DOC and subsequent vacant positions are re-filled as operations and budget permit.

5. Is the DOC moving offenders from the Fort Madison Clinical Care Unit (CCU) to Clarinda's empty housing unit (South 1)? If yes, why? If yes, will Clarinda hire more staff or will Fort Madison transfer staff as well as offenders to Clarinda?

We believe that the long term interests of the Department will include a shift in the population demographics at the Clinical Care Unit. As sufficient resources become available at the Iowa State Penitentiary, the Clarinda Correctional Facility, and the Iowa Medical and Classification Center; we plan to shift a relatively small number of violent and treatment resistive offenders with mental illness to a specialized unit within the new ISP and the remainder of the CCU's offenders with mental illness to specialized units at CCF and IMCC. The CCU, then, will be converted to a maximum security Reintegration Unit. Its population will be primarily composed of sexually predatory offenders, persons

determined to be in positions of leadership in Security Threat Groups (gangs), offenders classified into long-term segregation status as a result of continued disruptive or predatory behavior, and offenders in need of long term protective custody.

6. The South 1 Unit was closed for 4-5 years when staffing at Clarinda was at 150, now the DOC is reopening the closed unit with only 141 staff at Clarinda?

Although the Department must react to rising populations within our institutions to the best of our ability regardless of our resources and increases in population may, at some point, result in reactivation of housing units at CCF and other facilities, there are no plans to re-open South 1 Unit except as part of more systemic changes that are contingent upon the availability of sufficient resources at Clarinda, Fort Madison, and Oakdale.

7. Has the DOC shifted its philosophy to a direct supervision model or “feel good” treatment philosophy? Have all staff, including security, received adequate training on this shift? Does this prevent effective inmate discipline by COs?

Direct Supervision is not a “feel good” treatment philosophy. The Department’s Direct Supervision policy describes Direct Supervision as “an approach to management of offenders within a living unit whereby a single officer is assigned on a continuous basis to supervise a manageable number of offenders in a way that maximizes staff interaction with offenders in a way that promotes staff and offender safety, offender adherence to the rules and the principles behind those rules, and provides opportunities for offenders to make positive choices.” Direct supervision, which is by no means a new approach, is a practical method of managing offender behavior that blends both the short-term objectives of our institutions with our long-term goals.

8. How are inmates on minimum outs held accountable? What is the disciplinary process for not meeting behavioral standards to remain in the program? Some offenders are known to have engaged in inappropriate actions while on minimum outs status.

Offenders in minimum outs status are under the direct or indirect supervision of staff and are held accountable in a variety of ways—formal discipline is only one way of holding offenders accountable. When staff believe that formal discipline is necessary, they have the option of filing either a minor report or a major report. Each institution has processes for dealing with minor violations. Major reports are heard by an approved Administrative Law Judge. “Some offenders are known to have engaged in inappropriate actions...” Certainly that is true and there are a number of instances in which administrative and/or disciplinary action has been taken. In some cases, where it has been deemed appropriate, minimum outs privileges have been revoked.

9. When will the outdated non-functioning radios be replaced?

The current inventory of operational radios would be replaced in FY2013, as proposed in the FY2013 Governor’s Budget to meet federal mandate of narrow banding compliance by January 1, 2013.

10. What can be done to eliminate tattoo contraband?

Staff are responsible for controlling contraband within our institutions. Controlling contraband includes controlling tools and materials that can be used for illicit purposes, interdiction measures, frequent searches of persons and property, and appropriate disciplinary action.

11. When will overtime be made available?

Overtime is available and continues to be scheduled to address operational needs.

12. When will technology such as Tasers and recording cameras in the dead areas be addressed?

Tasers are not currently approved in IDOC policy. Handheld electronic stun devices and stun shields are available and approved for use in certain situations. Video cameras are used extensively in the IDOC although, because our institutions are large and complex, cameras are not available in all areas. Within its resources, each institution has prioritized the placement of its cameras.

IPI and Laundry

13. Please explain how laundry services work now throughout the prison system.

Laundry services throughout the DOC vary dependent upon the population and security level. Please refer to the attached FY2012 Laundry Operations excel document for detail by location.

a. How many prisoners are employed by the laundry at each prison?

At any point in time there are approximately 222 total offender workers assigned to the laundry at the DOC institutions.

b. How many CO's or other staff are directly involved with the laundry services at each of the prisons?

Based on shifts and coverage, there are 16.1 FTEs assigned to supervise laundry services.

14. Does the DOC intend to consolidate all of the prisons' laundry services at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison when the new prison is built?

There are no plans to do so at this time.

15. If yes, how would consolidation of laundry services at ISP affect offenders and staff who are involved with laundry services now at the other institutions? NA

16. Does the Department of Corrections and/or Iowa Prison Industries (including the IPI Board) have any plans related to bidding on laundry services for any non-prison entity?

The IPI Board authorized the deputy director to develop a business plan to provide laundry services for ISP and MPCF, and as a short term emergency backup for nearby health care facilities. There are no plans to bid on laundry services for any non-prison entity, and none has been approached. Nor have ISP and MPCF been presented with any plan for consideration.

17. Has the Department of Corrections and/or Iowa Prison Industries Board or staff discussed the possibility of exploring the idea of providing laundry services for entities such as hospitals and other non-profits?

Yes. As provided in section 904.805 of the *Iowa Code*, "The state director, with the advice of the industries board, shall: (1) Conduct market studies and consult with public bodies and officers who are listed in section 904.807, and with other potential purchasers, for the purpose of determining items or services needed and design features desired or required by potential purchasers of Iowa state industries products or services."

18. Under what authority would Corrections or IPI be able to bid on laundry services for non-Corrections entities?

Section 904.815 (3) of the *Iowa Code* states “Iowa state industries may sell products to nonprofit health care facilities serving Medicaid or social security patients.” However, as previously noted, there are no plans to do so.

Correctional Officers

19. Explain why 40 new correctional officers were not hired in FY 2012 even though funding was provided in SF 510 (Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee Act)?

The funds paid for existing security staff.

RJP Transfer

20. Explain the transfer of responsibilities for managing the Habitat for Humanity program at Fort Madison.

- a. The Governor’s recommendation is to reduce the General Fund appropriation by \$171,340 and transfer 2.00 Program Planner 2 positions to Iowa State Industries. Could the appropriation be reduced, and require Industries to reimburse the Institution, so the 2 employees can remain on the Institution’s table of organization?

The transfer will not impact the employees’ status for promotional and/or other employment opportunities that may be available as positions become vacant.

- b. Who owns the real and personal property (such as tools) associated with the Habitat for Humanity Program – the State or Habitat for Humanity?

Real property is owned by the State. Equipment is owned by the State and originally purchased by Habitat for Humanity.

Iowa Department of Corrections

Prison Laundry Services

	Offender Workers	Staff Assigned	Comments
ISP	11	1.7	ISP currently has 11 offenders assigned with one correctional officer assigned daily.
ASP	70	1.7	There is an average of 70 offender workers in ASP laundry, with most working four hour shifts and others working 5, 6, 7 or 8 hours per day. There is one day-shift correctional officer assigned to the laundry room seven days a week.
IMCC	38	3	At IMCC, 31 offenders work in the laundry under the supervision of two Correctional Building Services Coordinators. An additional seven offenders work in clothing issue under the supervision of one Correctional Building Services Coordinator. Laundry services run Monday thru Friday on two shifts.
NCF	11	1.2	NCF has 5 offenders working 6 days a week doing laundry for 900 offenders under the supervision of one Building Services Coordinator.
MPCF	30	2	CRC has 6 offenders working 7 days a week doing laundry for 350 offenders. CRC has staff that provide indirect supervision of the laundry area. MPCF utilizes approximately 30 offenders who are responsible for clothing issue and laundry. One correctional trades leader supervises the workers full time. In the PM correctional officer staff checks in at the laundry area.
NCCF	7	0	Seven offender workers handle central laundry. Correctional trades leaders are available for repairs to equipment, but no other staff are assigned to supervise or operate central laundry.
CCF	11	3	Correctional Building Service Coordinators are assigned to the laundry which is located at the MHI. Offenders assigned Clarinda Lodge are assigned to these positions. Laundry provides services to Min/Med prisons on campus along with MHI and Clarinda Academy. It operates 6 days a week.
ICIW	16	1.5	The laundry is supervised by two part-time correctional officers and one part time correctional trades leader.

FDCF

28

2

The central laundry at FDCF employs 26 offenders supervised by two Correctional Building Services Coordinators. An additional two offenders, intermittently checked on by officers and on camera, work at night to wash sheets and blankets. The four honor units have washers and dryers allowing these offenders to wash their own clothes using their own supplies.

222

16.1