



TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
JOHN BALDWIN, DIRECTOR

Response to Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee
February 4, 2013

Question: The members of the subcommittee asked what the Iowa Department of Corrections was going to do in the future to reduce recidivism and improve public safety.

Response: Iowa Results First has demonstrated that a number of prison and community corrections programs are effective in reducing recidivism and are a sound investment for taxpayers. These programs include: substance abuse treatment, cognitive behavioral programs, vocational education GED classes, drug courts and mental health courts, employment training and job assistance, and intensive supervision that adheres to the Risk Need Responsivity Model. The Iowa DOC will continue to make data driven decisions about the best use of available resources. We will continue to discuss early discharge for lower risk probationers and parolees to free up caseloads to provide the best supervision and treatment for high risk offenders. We will continue to promote the justice involved population to the mental health redesign decision makers. We will work to make sure the mentally ill under our supervision are treated as much as possible in the community including tele-psych services for probationers and parolees. We will continue to work with the Board of Parole and others to improve outcomes for people under our supervision. We will continue to focus on re-entry across the corrections system. We will work with any interested party to begin to address the disproportionate share of African –Americans under the supervision of the DOC.

Over the past 2 years we have had success in reducing the prison population by over 800 offenders and we have stabilized the CBC population around the 30,000-31,000 mark. These are major accomplishments; however, as you indicate our next task is to improve upon our current reality.

I could go on about this topic; however, I think this gives you an idea about the corrections systems commitment to make Iowa safer place while at the same time improving outcomes for the offenders under our supervision. I would be happy to discuss this issue in more depth at any time.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
John R. Baldwin
Director

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:
To advance successful offender reentry to protect the public, staff and offenders from victimization.

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