

Department of Corrections Response

In response to these incidents, the Iowa Department of Corrections provided the Task Force with the following information regarding the changes they have pro-actively made:

- Revised the mental health training for new employees and recommended a refresher course for all employees yearly.
- Training video for cell entry completed. Training recommended for all security staff at all prisons.
- Revised policy on Suicide/Self-Injury Prevention and restraints.
- Revising the DOC Mental Health Observation policy.
- Developed an inmate companion policy patterned after Bureau of Prison.
- Modified the Use of Force policy to prohibit use of prone restraint.
- DOC requests death investigations be done according to guidelines provided by the State Medical Examiners Office.
- Monitoring of equipment check at a regular interval (i.e. video, battery, crash carts, etc.).
- Training in gowning and cell entry in a timely fashion.
- Implemented timely and consistent Critical Incident Reporting Policy for both institutions and Judicial Districts.
- Revised policies to ensure review and approval of all new and modified policies by Regional Deputy Directors.
- Purchased three portable telemedicine machines to be utilized at the Clarinda Correctional Facility, Iowa Medical and Classification Center, and the Clinical Care Unit located at the Iowa State Penitentiary.
- Added an additional 16-bed unit at ICIW within Unit Six for female special needs structured living.
- Revising DOC policy AD-I-11 to require in cases of imminent death of an offender, the Warden will notify the DOC Director of any death that is not the result of natural causes where DCI will be called to investigate. The DOC Director will coordinate investigations with DCI.

- DOC Director will contact DCI about amending DCI Directive C.200, non-criminal investigations, for DCI to contact the DOC Director after arriving at a correctional facility to conduct an investigation. Current practice requires DCI to notify a warden.

Attached is the list of specific recommendations of Iowa Protection and Advocacy, Inc. The Task Force believes the spirit of most of these was incorporated into the Task Force Recommendations. They are listed in their entirety.

Iowa Protections and Advocacy Recommendations

- Continue active Task Force meetings to proactively focus on prevention, possibly quarterly meetings. Invite DHS, legislators and DCI possibly again.
- Suggested training resources: MANDT System, BRACEanalysis.com (Russell Smith) and JIREH Consulting and Training (800-656-3044 ext. 62)⁷⁶
- Inmate Companion Policy: screening and training is crucial. We do not want to set up a vulnerable inmate to be manipulated and/or abused by these companions.
- Implement into the revised DOC Mental Health Observation policy irregular visual checks. This way the inmate will not be able to plan anything in-between checks as they will be random, such as in the Madigan case.
- Ensure heightened awareness when reintroducing items to the inmate when on "suicide watch."
- Possible use of a padded room, helmet and/or PRN med. in cases such as Mundy.
- Ensure appropriate medication follows the inmate. This could be crucial to their treatment.
- Ensure Emergency Services are available to perform post traumatic incident follow-up with both staff and inmates involved.

⁷⁶ The Ombudsman performed additional research on these referenced systems. According to <www.mandtsystem.com>, "The Mandt System® teaches the use of a graded system of alternatives which uses the least amount of external management necessary in all situations. The entire philosophy of The Mandt System® is based on the principle that all people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect." JIREH provides training in crisis prevention, crisis intervention and de-escalation, "safe least restrictive control techniques", and restoration counseling. <www.jirehtraining.com>. According to <www.braceanalysis.com>, BRACE™ "is an acronym for Behavioral Relativity and Cognitive Economics. BRACE Analysis, Inc. is more concerned with education than therapy, focusing on helping others to better understand human nature in order to avoid many of life's pitfalls and to create adaptive change on purpose." (June 24, 2004)