

2015 BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE QUESTIONS
Board of Parole

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

- a. Do you have defined outcomes or measurements for your program(s)? What are they and are these measures listed somewhere so the public can see them?*

Yes. The Board of Parole submits an Agency Performance Plan to the Department of Management on an annual basis. The most recent Performance Plan included three main goals, which were consistent with the Board of Parole's duties. Those three goals were: (1) keeping the number of parole deliberations consistent with the most immediate prior years; (2) working to keep the revocation rate statistically consistent with the most recent prior years; and (3) to notify all victims registered with the Board of Parole of the Board's actions consistent with the requirements of Iowa Code Chapter 915 and related Administrative Rules.

The Agency Performance Plan is published on the Department of Management web page and can be found at: (http://www.dom.state.ia.us/planning_performance/files/plans/performance/FY15/FY15BoardOfParolePerformancePlan.pdf).

- b. What data is available to show Iowans that your program(s) are an effective investment of taxpayer dollars? Where can Iowans find this data?*

The Board of Parole publishes a comprehensive annual report that provides detailed data on all Board of Parole operations. The report contains information on the Board's risk assessment tools, workload and decision statistics, recidivism rates, revocation rates, victim services, etc. This report is published annually and is made available to the public via the Iowa Board of Parole's web page.

The Board of Parole's Annual Report can be found at (<http://www.bop.state.ia.us/AnnualReports>)

The five member Board of Parole is statutorily required to review every offender eligible for parole on an annual basis. The Board reviews every offender at least annually and some more than once annually. The Board conducted approximately 11,450 deliberations in FY 14. To date, the Board has conducted approximately 6,195 deliberations in FY 15.

- c. Can you provide the committee with performance data for your programs over the last 5 or 10 years?*

The Board of Parole's Annual Report contains performance data for past years. In some situations, such as workload and decision statistics, only one year of data is currently available due to a change in the way workload and decisions were counted. Allowing additional years of data to be compiled will allow for a consistent comparison in this instance.

PROGRAM EFFICIENCY

- a. Have you examined what other states are doing to improve performance and reduce costs?*

The Board regularly reviews any information it can obtain about parole/work-release programs, policy, trends, statistics, etc. This information typically comes in the form of scholarly articles or newsletters published by leading experts, the releasing authorities of other states, or most common, national organizations. The Board is also a member of the Association of Paroling Authorities International, which provides seminars and annual training regarding timely parole issues and policy matters, parole/work-release programs, parole/work-release trends, etc.

Other states and countries have consulted with the Iowa Board of Parole regarding the use of ICON and technology in making the parole review process more efficient.

- b. Can you share with the committee what other states are doing?*

Given the broad nature of this question the Board will do its best to provide some specific examples responsive to the subcommittee's inquiry. If further questions arise please let us know.

The Board of Parole is regularly asked to grant parole to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees. From time-to-time, the parole to detainer does not result in a deportation and the offender is then released into the community for further supervision. When an offender is released to an ICE detainer, not all options and conditions (i.e. work release) are available. Recognizing these limitations the Board of Parole has been working with the Department of Corrections, ICE, and other criminal justice stakeholders to develop a way to increase available release planning options and conditions. One option currently being explored is a policy developed and implemented by the State of Nebraska. This policy would allow individuals who are not deported to be returned to the Iowa Department of Corrections for further release planning and consideration by the

Board of Parole. Research into if/how this policy can be implemented in Iowa is ongoing. Research, design, and the potential future implementation of this policy is also a great example of how the Board works with other criminal justice stakeholders in Iowa to find efficient and cost effective solutions to issues that arise.

Within the last month, the Board of Parole has begun research into available alternatives to traditional revocation for low-risk offenders who commit technical violations. “Technical violations” are violations of the terms of their agreement that do not result in the imposition of new criminal charges. The first step in the research is to study what other states have done, what other states are currently doing, and what those states intend to do in the future. For example, South Dakota has utilized a 24/7 sobriety program as an alternative to incarceration for individuals convicted of alcohol related offenses. The Board is examining whether such a program could be used as an alternative to revocation for individuals who are found to have violated conditions of their release agreements relating to alcohol use. The research is just beginning and several options will be explored.

c. Which of these ideas are you considering for implementation here in Iowa?

Please see the Board’s response to “b.” above.

d. Are there websites or organizations we could go to obtain more information on what other states’ programs are doing to provide more efficient services?

There are websites available where information can be found as to practices of other states. Websites for the following organizations, which are listed in alphabetical order, are reviewed by the Board of Parole when conducting research:

- American Probation and Parole Association
 - <http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/>
- Association of Paroling Authorities International
 - <http://www.apaintl.org/>
- Association of State Correctional Administrators
 - <http://www.asca.net/>
- Bureau of Justice Assistance – U.S. Department of Justice
 - <https://www.bja.gov/>
- Justice Center – National Reentry Resource Center – Council of State Governments
 - <http://csgjusticecenter.org/>
- National Conference of State Legislatures
 - <http://www.ncsl.org>

- National Parole Resource Center
 - <http://nationalparoleresourcecenter.org/>
- PEW Charitable Trust – Public Safety Performance Project
 - <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en>
- U.S. Department of Justice
 - <http://www.justice.gov/>

e. Do you have an email address or a comment section on your website where Iowans can suggest improvements to your program or agency?

Yes. An “Email Us” tab is included at the top of the Board of Parole’s web page. This e-mail account is monitored regularly and e-mails are forwarded to the appropriate staff for response.

The Board of Parole’s web site link is: <http://www.bop.state.ia.us>.

PROGRAM DUPLICATION

a. Are there any other programs that are providing the same or similar services?

The Iowa Board of Parole is the only state agency with statutory authority to consider and grant early release to offenders in the State of Iowa.

b. Is there a reason why we need more than one program providing the same or similar service?

N/A

c. Have you had any discussions with the other agencies or programs to find ways to maximize the use of the taxpayer’s dollars?

Yes. The Board of Parole regularly works with the Department of Corrections, Iowa’s eight Judicial Districts, and other criminal justice stakeholders to find ways to make the Board’s process more efficient without affecting the quality of decision making. The Board of Parole collaboratively works with the Department of Corrections and the Directors of the Judicial Districts on a regular basis to explore options available to reduce cost and increase efficiency, while simultaneously attempting to reduce recidivism and promote public safety.

d. Are there any laws or administrative rules that would limit your ability to work with the other programs or departments?

Not that the Board is aware of at this time.

- e. Are there any laws or administrative rules that could be changed to make your program or agency work better?*

Not that the Board is aware of at this time.

OTHER

- a. Would it be a burden to your agency to ask that your presentations be delivered to the Legislative Services Agency 48 hours in advance of your appearance before the committee?*

No.

- b. If you are required to reduce your budget by 1%, 5%, or 10%, where would you suggest we focus our attention?*

The Board of Parole is a small agency (2 fulltime board members, 3 part-time board members, 5 staff members and 2 administrative law judges) with a high volume workload (approximately 11,450 case reviews in FY 14). The Governor proposed a status quo budget for the Board of Parole. However, the Board of Parole has in the past and will continue in the future to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible with appropriated funds. Any reduction will have a direct impact on staffing and result in reduced workload capacity.