

SOUTH DAKOTA CORRECTIONS COMMISSION

Yankton Community Work Center

Yankton, SD

November 2, 2015, 2:00 P.M.

OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman Craig Tieszen called the meeting of the South Dakota Corrections Commission to order at 2:03 P.M. CDT at the Yankton Community Work Center in Yankton, South Dakota.

Members present included Senator Craig Tieszen, Senator Jim Bradford, Representative Pat Kirschman, Judge John Brown, Mark Anderson and David McGirr.

Judge Randall Macy joined the meeting by teleconference.

Seven of the nine commissioners were present making a quorum.

Also present were DOC Cabinet Secretary Denny Kaemingk, DOC Deputy Secretary Laurie Feiler, DOC Policy and Compliance Manager Aaron Miller, Unit Manager Becc Coyle, DOC Director of Prison Operations Bob Dooley, Sadie Stevens with the Governor's office, and District 18 Representative Jean Hunhoff.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sen. Tieszen asked for any additions or corrections to the June 2015 minutes. Hearing none, Sen. Tieszen asked review and approval of the minutes from the last meeting on March 30, 2015. Mark Anderson motioned the minutes be approved as written. Seconded by David McGirr. The minutes were approved.

WELCOME TO THE FACILITY

Yankton Unit Manager Becc Coyle welcomed the Commission to the facility and provided historic information about the facility, grounds and the programs offered at the unit and information regarding the current inmate population housed at the facility.

REVISIONS TO THE CORRECTIONS COMMISSION BY-LAWS

Aaron Miller presented the draft revisions to the Commission's by-laws. In summary these changes accomplish three main objectives. The term of office for the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be extended from 1 year to 2 year terms. The requirement that the Commission meet in December each year would be stricken and procedures were added for the Commission to adopt or change the by-laws in the future. The Commission discussed revising the draft language in Section I 8) and 11). Senator Bradford had concerns about not conducting a meeting in December if there was a need for the Commission to review proposed legislation. Mark Anderson asked whether the Commission believed it should endorse correction's

related legislation and if the Commission had authority to take this type of action. David McGirr talked about working to identify the role of the Commission in the future. Discussion about the Chairperson contacting the members of the legislature to invite them to submit corrections related legislation to the Commission for review and/or discussion and how this could be accomplished as well as when such correspondence could be sent to the members, given the legislative process and the final day for bills.

CUSTER TRANSITION UPDATE

Secretary Kaemingk distributed the DOC news release from September 3, 2015 announcing the STAR Academy Consolidation of Campuses. Secretary Kaemingk provided the Commission with information about the current juvenile population at STAR Academy and continuation of programming for the juvenile population. There was discussion about staffing changes due to the decreasing juvenile population and the unfilled FTE positions. Representative Kirschman asked about separation of the male and female juveniles and if moving them onto one campus presented any challenges. Secretary Kaemingk shared that the girls campus has been turned over to the Department of Game Fish and Parks for its use and management.

JUVENILE JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE

Secretary Kaemingk provided an update on the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JJRI). Many components of JJRI involve the Department of Social Services. Work continues to develop community based programming and services for juveniles as an alternative to state placement. As this development continues, placement of juveniles in private placement and with the DOC will hopefully continue to decline. Senator Bradford asked if there was any work being done with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Functional Family program for the tribes. Secretary Kaemingk indicated he was unaware of any decision on the program at this time. Judge Brown stated that the Unified Judicial System has stepped up their juvenile programming and is currently working with DSS and private providers to increase juvenile placements in the community and to build the programming and supervision provided to juveniles in the system that remain in the community.

Criminal Justice Reform Update

Deputy Secretary Feiler presented the Commission with a Criminal Justice Reform update. Following the presentation, Representative Kirschman shared some concerns and information he had received from a constituent regarding the St. Francis House. Judge Brown asked if prison sentences were possibly getting longer? He also shared that while fewer individuals are being sentenced to prison, the numbers being placed on probation continues to increase. Group discussion on how recidivism is measured and how long before progress and change can accurately be measured. Members of the Commission shared that they were pleased with the progress made in the Tribal pilot and all the work that has gone into working with Sisseton to develop the program. Secretary Kaemingk shared that Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is also preparing to initiate a similar program/agreement with the DOC and that this will continue to be developed in the near future.

CLOSING BUSINESS

Sen. Tieszen addressed the Commission regarding the proposed changes in the Commission by-laws and advised the Commission to vote on acceptance of the by-laws as amended. A unanimous vote was cast. The next meeting will be decided based on if there is a need for the Commission to review corrections related legislation. No date was set for any future meetings. Senator Tieszen stated the Commission should consider possibly meeting in January.

Senator Tieszen asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Motion by Senator Bradford, Second by Representative Kirschman. Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.