

South Dakota Corrections Commission  
State Capitol, Room 414  
March 19, 2012  
Approved Minutes

Chairman Tieszen called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Commission members present were: Senator Jim Bradford, Mr. Mark Anderson, Judge John Brown, Representative Larry Lucas, and Senator Craig Tieszen. Commissioners participating by telephone were Judge Patricia Riepel, Mr. David McGirr, and Mr. Timothy Bottom. Representative Carson was absent.

Chairman Tieszen noted Representative Carson was presently attending an Appropriations Committee meeting and might join the meeting later.

The chair asked for additions or corrections to the minutes from the October 2011 meeting. Representative Lucas noted that on page 6, the second full paragraph, at the end of the third line, where it says "raised every month," it should say "raised every six months." Mr. Anderson moved the approval of the minutes as amended, and Representative Lucas seconded the motion, which motion carried.

Chairman Tieszen noted the agenda would be as follows

- Status report on Corrections-related Legislation
- Update on Black Hills Correctional Transition Center
- Update on Inmate Population
- Violence Risk Assessment Program
- Inmate Recidivism
- Update on Staff Turnover Rates
- Training Academy Dedication and National Memorial
- Discussion about next meeting.

**Status Report on Corrections-related Legislation, Michael Winder, Communications and Information Manager**

Michael Winder addressed the five DOC agency bills which passed during the 2012 legislative session.

HB 1021, An Act to revise certain provisions regarding the rights of victims of crime. The bill allows victims the right to provide written input at clemency hearings with the Board of Pardons and Paroles as well as written input on clemency being considered by the Governor. Currently, under SDCL 23A-28C-1(10), the right to provide written input only extends to the discretionary parole hearings with the board but not to clemency hearings and only to consideration of sentence commutations by the Governor but not to pardons and remissions of fines or forfeitures. The Act also repeals duplicative language from the parole system chapter which is also found in the Crime Victims' Rights Act (SDCL 23A-28C).

HB 1022, An Act to revise certain parole hearing provisions regarding inmate compliance, waivers, and teleconferencing. The bill provides that inmates with undetermined compliance with their Individual Program Directives (IPDs) will be reviewed by the Parole Board, which will determine their parole release. The bill also allows for the use of teleconferencing for all types of parole hearings and allows inmates the chance to waive attendance at non-compliance and parole revocation hearings. Parole

systems are different in every state, so when one of our inmates is serving parole in another state, we can now hold hearings by teleconference for noncompliance as well as violation hearings and discretionary paroles. The bill clarifies that an inmate is entitled to a hearing versus a personal appearance and allows for the parole of an inmate to another jurisdiction for the purpose of confinement or deportation, even if the inmate does not want to be paroled from his South Dakota sentence. There are situations where it is in the best interests of the state to parole inmates to federal or other-state obligations.

Representative Lucas asked for a clarification of the changes made by HB 1022. The parole board cannot extend a parole release beyond the sentence end date, even absent that information. When their time is up, they get out and that is it?

Michael Winder stated that was accurate.

HB 1023, An Act to repeal and revise certain provisions relating to the Department of Corrections. The bill repeals various statutory provisions related to the DOC including laws that have been on the books since the transition from the Board of Charities and Corrections. The bill also removes provisions related to DOC building projects, laws related to past-due account collection from Pheasantland Industries and the chapter on Adult Community Corrections. The bill is a result of DOC's review of statutes as part of Governor Dugaard's red tape review.

HB 1024, An Act to repeal the authorization to sell certain surplus real estate under the control of the Department of Corrections in Aurora County and Minnehaha County. The bill removes land near the State Penitentiary and a portion of the property near the State Training School from a list of state-owned properties that the 2011 Legislature authorized the Governor to sell. The two parcels removed from the list included one in Aurora County which contains a dump site and a former sewage lagoon near the State Training School campus. There was an agreement with the City of Plankinton that the sewage lagoon would be kept available in the event it was needed by the city. The parcel in Minnehaha County is across the viaduct from SDSP. Because the penitentiary campus is landlocked, there is no opportunity to address any further correctional needs without retaining that parcel. The 2011 bill also included land near the West Farm campus in Minnehaha County and other land around the State Training School and land around STAR Academy in Custer. The land sales around West Farm and the other parcels around the training school have been conducted. The Custer County sale is pending.

HB 1025, An Act to make aggravated incest a violent crime for purposes of setting an initial parole date. In 2005 and 2006 when the criminal code was revised, incest was removed from Ch. 22 dealing with sex offenses and put into a new chapter offenses against the family. As a result, new incest statutes were drafted, including the new offense of Aggravated Incest. That was expanded in 2008. Aggravated Incest was not included as a violent offense. Aggravated Incest is a Class 3 felony. A non-violent offense perpetrator right now would have to serve 30-50% of his sentence prior to initial parole. A violent offense perpetrator will have to serve 50-70% prior to parole.

Senator Bradford asked whether the land sold at the STAR Academy would go onto the tax rolls once it is sold.

Michael Winder stated that the land would become taxable after it is sold.

Michael Winder next addressed Corrections-related bills from other agencies.

SB 23 is a Department of Health bill to ban entire families of chemical compounds related to synthetic marijuana and bath salts unless an exemption is granted for the chemical being approved as a pharmaceutical.

SB 39 and SB 42 are Attorney General's bills. SB 39 expands the definition of victim for the purposes of certain written victim impact statements. It allows victims to address the court orally prior to sentencing and to provide input if they have been adversely impacted, either emotionally, physically, or monetarily by the defendant's crime. SB 42 revises the habeas corpus process to be more consistent with federal statutes on post-conviction relief. It creates a one-year statute of limitations for applying for relief regarding a conviction, sentence, and direct appeal and prevents repetitive and subsequent collateral post-conviction proceedings.

SB 48 revised the General Appropriations Act for FY 12.

HB 1060 is a UJS bill which allows a registered sex offender on probation (under the court's supervision) to reside in a halfway house within a community safety zone, as currently is the case with parolees.

HB 1247 removes anyone serving a sentence for a felony conviction from the voter registration records. Currently, those in prison and on parole are not allowed to vote. This bill states those on probation are unable to vote. They can vote after completing their sentences and reregistering.

Representative Lucas stated he believed once an inmate was out on parole, they could vote. Michael Winder clarified that the sentence includes those on parole supervision and offenders have to be off parole supervision before they can vote. Representative Lucas asked if DOC provides notification to inmates who have completed their sentences that they can vote. Deputy Secretary Laurie Feiler noted that a discharge certificate is mailed to each discharged offender and the language in the certificate states that their right to vote is restored. The certificate is mailed to the offender and to the county clerk of courts so the county is also aware that they are eligible to reregister.

Senator Bradford stated that the thing that was changed was that an offender, who was never sent to prison and was only on probation, is now ineligible to vote until his sentence is completed. He asked if people in the system now were grandfathered in, those in that situation right now. Or are they done July 1, too? Michael Winder stated that he did not know the answer to that question.

The last bill is SB 197, the FY 13 general bill. The fiscal year budget for DOC is around \$102 million and 856 FTE.

Finally, three appointments were confirmed by the Senate. Denny Kaemingk was confirmed as the Secretary of Corrections; the Attorney General's appointee to the Parole Board, Don Holloway, was confirmed; as was the Attorney General's appointment of Krista Heeren-Graber to the Interstate Compact for Adult Offenders.

### **Update on Black Hills Correctional Transition Center, Darwin Weeldreyer, Director of Community Service**

Darwin Weeldreyer delivered the construction update. Briefly, the project is coming down the backstretch of the construction process and entering into the punch-list phase. The major components

are complete. DOC will have a facility that will serve the department very well for many years to come. The building is turning out to be impressive and will perform well in the job we want it to do.

At this point, substantial completion is scheduled for March 25. This is the point when all the primary contractors contractually must have the majority of their work completed. There will be small items as we move into the punch list stage from there. The substantial completion walkthrough is scheduled for April 5 and will involve architects, engineers, all the primary contractors, the department and the State Engineer's Office. The walk through allows the team to review construction from all aspects and identified items will be put into a punch list and completed prior to occupancy. April 12 - 25 are the dates scheduled for the commissioning of the systems. Fundamental commissioning is a LEED requirement where the commissioning agent comes in and goes through pre-identified mechanical and electrical systems to make sure they are performing at maximum efficiency so we see the savings on the energy side of things. From April 25 until occupancy, DOC will be taking care of many of the punch list items identified in the previous walkthrough. The projected occupancy date is June 1.

The project budget is \$5.6 million, and there are no budget concerns at this point. The project is set to come in under budget. Because this project is over \$500,000, SDCL 5-13-33 applies. This states that all state buildings are to meet high-performance green building standards. This will be a projected silver certification under the LEED process. It will be considered a green building. The project has had some challenges, but it is a worthwhile and it's a design that will save the state many dollars over the lifespan of the building. We have also notified the landlord of our current facility (2317 Creek Drive, Rapid City) of our schedule and are keeping him updated so he is aware of our timetable.

DOC is planning an open house for this facility in May. There is no firm date at this point in time. Formal notices will be sent when the date is set.

Mr. Weeldreyer showed photographs of the Black Hills Community Transition Center. Among the photos was the control room, designed for the officer to be able to see to the end of the building, anyone coming in from the public side, and monitor inmates departing on the north side of the facility. Included in the new construction of (9,400 square ft.) are the kitchen preparation area and laundry services. Meals at the current facility are transported from Pennington County Jail, posing management issues. DOC will now provide meals on site with CBM services. The kitchen is designed to prepare meals for 416 inmates. The laundry will start with one large washer and two dryers and has the space capacity to add equipment in the future.

Chairman Tieszen noted he toured the facility last Friday and talked to Art Melcher, who will be the physical plant manager at the facility when it is completed. The unit incorporates many innovative features and will be very efficient. He noticed inmates working on site doing general construction. Finally, he noted that the Commission would like to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the dedication of the Black Hills Correctional Transition Center in late May.

Darwin Weeldreyer agreed that the inmates have performed very well and worked diligently on the project. He also commended Art Melcher.

#### **Update on Inmate Population, Deputy Secretary Laurie Feiler**

Laurie Feiler explained page 2 of her presentation, a chart showing the historical Average Daily Count (ADC) for male inmates. Traditionally, DOC measures inmate population by ADC or average daily

population (ADP). Typically, that is a better measure than a point in time because of fluctuations caused by parole board hearings or new admissions. Traditionally, DOC measures either on a monthly or on an annual basis. Over the last 5 years, DOC has not seen a lot of growth in the male population. It ranged from a decrease of 2% to an increase of 2%, so there has not been a lot of movement. Mrs. Feiler updated the ADC through February on this chart, which is representing about a 1% increase so far this fiscal year. The next slide is the same but for female inmates. The female inmate ADP rate grew a little faster than the male population has. Over the last five years, it has been about 3 to 3.5% per year. FY 12 through February shows a 6 % increase based on the ADC. The next slide is a combination of males and females. FY 12 is the year we are in now and we planned on a total 3508 inmates. Our ADC through February is 3500. For FY 11, we were at 3434 (431 females and 3033 males). The planned count for FY 12 was 3091 males and 417 females. Our actual count through February is 3075 males and 425 females. Typically, population projections are completed when we prepare our budget in the summer. Our projections for FY 13 were based on a 2% increase for males and about 3% for females. DOC usually looks at the growth rate of the last 5 years. Based on what we were seeing, admissions seem to be ramping up, so we decided to project a 2% growth and for females the 3% based on the average over the last 5 years. Unfortunately, based on population figures from the last 3 months, DOC will have to adjust numbers up. DOC has seen an unprecedented population growth. Slide 6 is how DOC explains that. If you only look at ADC, it looks okay, but recent trends show we will be above what we had budgeted. In the last 6 months, the ADP is 3515 and if you look at the last 3 months, the ADP goes up to 3549. If you look at a point in time, our population is peaking at higher than the ADC. On March 13, we had 3180 male inmates and 448 female inmates. The peak in the population in the last couple of months is significant, especially when you look at DOC's budget for next year. It is based on 3156 males, and we were at 3180 a few days ago. The next chart shows what the ADC has been doing month-to-month from February 2009 – February 2012 and the steady growth in the last fiscal year. The next slide shows the same for females.

The big question is why? We are seeing an increase in the number of people coming into prison this year. We have seen an increase in the number of parole violators; we are averaging 63 per month. That breaks down to 55 males and 8 females. Last year, we averaged 44 parole violators per month, 38 males and 6 females. Last year was the outlier. DOC has implemented provisions for making changes to policies and to reduce recidivism. We had good success but have been unable to sustain that in FY 12 so far. That does not mean DOC is giving up, but efforts are being reinforced and redoubled. Violation rates for FY 12 are consistent with historical numbers. Previous years were consistent with an average of 63 per month. . We are also seeing a slight increase in new court commitments for women. There has been a steady increase in women coming in over the last four years. December of this year was particularly challenging as we received 35 or 36 new commitments for women. When you put everything together, Mrs. Feiler estimates DOC will have about 120 additional admissions over last year.

The next slide shows that in addition to more people coming in, fewer are leaving. We are seeing a decrease in the number of discretionary parole hearings in FY 12. Discretionary hearings are held for people who have been out on parole and come back in as a violator or for people who reach their presumptive parole date and are noncompliant. The number of discretionary hearings is down 16% this fiscal year, based on numbers through February and annualizing them at the same pace. DOC is estimating about 1271 discretionary hearings will be held this year. Last year, there were 1523, which is consistent with the last three years' average of 1496. This year so far, they are granting about 38% of the discretionary paroles. Last year, it was 39%; the year before it was 38%.

DOC is looking into the 16% drop and the reasons for it. Perhaps the board is putting the applicants off longer. The board can tell them they can reapply anywhere from 1 month to 24 months. Maybe they are putting them out longer. There is speculation that some inmates are saying they do not want to parole and waive that hearing because they don't want to deal with parole. If we see an increase in waivers, we would also see a drop. Finally, Mrs. Feiler believes the relatively low number of violators last year is impacting the numbers in the discretionary cycles, because if fewer return as violators, fewer are seen at discretionary hearings. There is also a decrease in the percentage of folks being released on presumptive parole. There are actually more eligible for presumptive parole by about 100 this year, but the percentage being released is down. Only about 77% are being released on presumptive parole this year and it was 84-85% in previous years. There is also an increase in inmates who are ineligible because they are noncompliant. In a typical year, 160 folks in a year are noncompliant and thus ineligible for presumptive parole. We are on pace to be about 100 above that right now, with an estimated 269 this year. It is probably disciplinary infractions, and we need to analyze further. If we can get noncompliance back down to normal levels, additional people will go out on parole. Representative Lucas questioned why the inmates are noncompliant. Is it because they have not completed required programming? Mrs. Feiler indicated the question reflects a good understanding of the new parole system. It is rules and programs and it is evincing an intent to reoffend. The wardens have indicated that the vast majority of noncompliant inmates are because of rule violations.

Judge Brown asked if the noncompliance could be a result of a greater sensitivity to violations as a result of the Johnson murder or a greater observance of rule infractions at that level or less inclination to ignore minor incidents. Mrs. Feiler believes that whenever we have had horrible events like those which occurred this spring and summer with the Johnson murder and the McVay crime as well, it does impact discretionary decisions. People become more conservative on discretionary decisions, whether it is rule violation decisions or parole decisions, many discretionary decisions are subtly impacted. Overall, we will have about 110 fewer people paroled. To summarize, we are on pace to admit about 120 more people this year and expect about 110 fewer to leave this year. That accounts for the increase of 230 in our population.

The next slide is the 20-year projection for our male population. These numbers change all of the time. In addition to updating these based on our population, DOC is also changing the classification system, so they must include the total number of people expected and what custody level inmates they will be. This slide is based on estimates on projected changes to the classification system. DOC is running low on Admission and Orientation beds, but adjustments can be made. The 2020 Low Medium beds would be attention-getting. The total system capacity is 3983, and DOC does not expect to run out of that number until 2026. These projections were put together in January and would be higher if redone today because of the increases in the last couple of months. At the current pace, DOC will be out of bed capacity in just a couple of years for the female inmates. There are contingency plans if the population continues to grow beyond the capacity we have right now.

The incarceration rates by state from the US Department of Justice show incarceration rates for females in South Dakota at a rate of 100 for every 100,000 population. You can see how that compares to other states. South Dakota is 5<sup>th</sup> highest in the country in terms of incarceration rates for female offenders. For males, we are about 30<sup>th</sup>. The male rate for South Dakota is 732 per 100,000.

There are different sources for crime rates. The crime rate in South Dakota is not as high as you would expect when comparing it with the incarceration rate. Our arrest rates are higher than our crime rates, but they are still not as high as our incarceration rate. South Dakota does a good job of law

enforcement. It is important that the crime rates are based on the Index Crime Rate so they can compare across states. Felony DUI and felony drug offenses however are not included in the Index Crime Rate. In South Dakota, felony DUI and felony drug offense are significant factors. Right now, 29% of our current male inmates and 55% of our females are doing time for one of those felonies. If you look at the number of inmates who flow through the system in a given year, it is even higher, with 68% of all our females admitted in the last year doing time either for drugs or DUI and 47% of the males.

Of all of our female offenders admitted this fiscal year, 46% are for drug-related offenses. That is up significantly from about 35% last year and in previous years. DOC is also seeing an increase for male drug related offenses at 25% this year, up from 23%. We are definitely seeing an increase in drug admissions. DUIs remain the same or slightly lower. DOC's response to that will be a multi-pronged approach.

Senator Bradford asked if DOC has any breakdown as to what counties the inmates are from and what the racial breakdown is. Laurie Feiler indicated that DOC does have the ability to do that analysis of the data, although it is not in her briefing today.

As a Department, DOC needs to continue to focus on recidivism reduction. If the recidivism nut can be cracked, the inmate population issue can be cracked. DOC will continue to work on evidence-based practices and sound reentry policies. DOC will also evaluate parole noncompliance to see if the problem lies with disciplinary or if it is noncompliance with programming and address those challenges. This legislative session, there was support for a DUI and drug court expansion. As a department, DOC will continue to focus on risk and needs assessments and responses. The better job we can do to determine a person's real risk level and what the needs really are and respond appropriately to those needs, the more impact we will have on the correctional system. There are certain folks that need to stay incarcerated for a long time and others that can reenter the community with proper programming and supervision.

Chairman Tieszen asked what initial contingency plans DOC has for meeting the need for space for females. Mrs. Feiler explained the contingency plans include positioning the department policy-wise to make more inmates eligible for work release. We have been working at scheduling inmates for treatment earlier in their sentence so we can get them out on work release. Once they are work-release eligible, they can be housed in a county jail bed and work release in either Rapid City or Sioux Falls, and they can pay a part of their bed rent. DOC also has ability to add beds in Pierre.

Judge Brown asked where we are at in the recidivism grant program and how is it impacting these new numbers.

Laurie Feiler responded that the goal of the reentry initiative, supported by the Second Chance Act Grant, was to reduce recidivism by 50% over 5 years. The last recidivism numbers were based on 2010 releases. The 12-month rate went down a couple of points. DOC doesn't expect the same for CY 2011 releases, which DOC will calculate a year from now. Based on the parole violation rates, it could tick up.

Senator Bradford asked whether the new facility in Rapid City would be able to handle male and female inmates, and Mrs. Feiler responded that it will only house male offenders.

Mr. Anderson asked if the increase in prison population tracks with the increase in the general population in the state. Are we locking more people up because we are arresting more people and judges are giving them longer terms?

Mrs. Feiler indicated that her information says the increases in the prison population cannot be attributed to increases in the overall population in the state. It is an increase in the actual rate of incarceration. South Dakota's arrest rates are higher than our crime rates.

Mr. Anderson asked if judges are putting people in prison for longer terms. He has seen different sentence terms for different people based on the similar crimes. He asked if that information is tracked and if there are disparities in those areas.

Mrs. Feiler indicated that DOC is seeing an increase in the number of people being admitted for parole violations this year and a slight increase in the number of women who are coming in under new court commitments. Conversely, fewer people are being released on parole. The population increases when more people come in or when they stay longer. There are more people coming in and because releases are down, they are also staying longer.

Judge Riepel asked if DOC tracks when a person has been on probation on a suspended sentence, fails, and has their suspended sentence imposed. When they have been on probation for 18 months and fail and enter prison, then parole, is there a correlation between when they fail on probation and for when they fail on parole?

Laurie Feiler replied that when DOC sees the increases in new court commitments, she questions how many were on probation first. DOC does have the ability to analyze that, but the information is not in today's packet. DOC can track how many new commitments were first given probation by the judge.

#### **Violence Risk Assessment Program, Laurie Feiler**

The FY 13 budget includes a risk reduction manager and the operation of a violence risk reduction program. We are proposing to put together a system where we identify inmates when they come in the door that, based on their assessment and past history are at high risk for violence in the institution and when transitioning back into the community. DOC uses a system of assessments looking at the inmate's past record. DOC will assess these inmates, keep them in secure custody for a period of several months and then complete additional assessments. If they still appear to be at high risk for violence, they will be referred to a psychologist for a review. If the psychologist says the person appears to be high risk for violence, then DOC has certain things it will respond to differently. If an offender is very high risk, they will be programmed differently than the garden-variety offender would be. For instance, high risk offenders might not be put into a group program setting, because they respond better to individual attention. DOC will supervise them differently in terms of their work assignments and supervision in the institution and in the community. In certain circumstances, DOC has statutory authority to look at withholding parole eligibility for very high risk offenders. DOC has a process where we notify law enforcement specifically when we release someone who may pose a higher risk in the community. Senator Tieszen has seen a couple of the press releases about high-risk offenders and felt they were a good addition.



## **Inmate Recidivism, Kevin McLain**

Kevin McLain explained that “recidivism” is defined as a return to prison for either a new conviction or for a parole or suspended sentence supervision revocation. DOC looks at offenders at their individual 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year anniversary date of their release. The rates are identified on a calendar year basis. In 2012, DOC looked at 2010 releases for their 1-year recidivism rate. By the beginning of 2012, everyone who was released in 2010 has been out at least 1 year. If we look at the 2009 releases, all of those have been out now 2 years and we can develop a 2-year rate. A 3-year rate is available for those released in 2008. We are just getting started on compilation and distribution of the data. Some of the data are not completely analyzed and put into a format we can share, but this is what is done so far.

Slide 3 shows 2003-2010 recidivism rates for those who released during those years. In 2010, 1934 inmates released either to parole supervision or because their sentences expired. Within 12 months from their release dates, 25.9% had returned either for a revocation of supervision or for a new crime with a new sentence. This is down from 28.7% and from 31.2% in 2008. This is really good news because it shows our 1-year rate is going down, which we hope to sustain. You can see the 24-month rate has dropped down to 38.3% from 40.3% in 2008. The 3-year rate has also gone down to 44.9% from 46%.

Slide 4 charts the 1-year recidivism rates from 2004 to 2010 and shows the rates have gone down nicely in the last 2 years.

The next slide looks at the goals for five years and shows the actual rate for 2010 releases. 2008 releases provide the baseline numbers we looked at that caused, then-Secretary Reisch, to come forth with a 50% reduction goal. 2009 was a transition year when we began planning for the initiative and wrote and received the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Act grant, but no programmatic changes occurred at that time. The first year programmatic changes were implemented was 2010. The target was 28.1% and we exceeded that at 25.9%. Next year, our goal is 25% based on the five-year plan.

The last slide shows recidivism rates by sex. Both male and female rates have decreased, but the female rate decreased by 5 percentage points. DOC is just in the process of compiling the latest data into a sharable format. We do not yet have the rates by county or race ready for distribution and hope to have that ready by the next meeting.

Chairman Tieszen stated the rates look good, we have a ways to go, and the challenges apparently become greater as we move forward, but we do see movement in the right direction. It is a good sign.

## **Update on Staff Turnover Rates, Secretary Dennis Kaemingk**

Secretary Kaemingk provided an update to the information on the employee turnover rate in Corrections briefed to the Commission by Governor’s Chief of Staff Dusty Johnson and Bureau of Personnel Commissioner Sandy Zinter at the last Corrections Commission meeting. The turnover rate was the highest at the penitentiary in Sioux Falls and second highest at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. Typically, the turnover rate is the highest in summer and fall. This year, that did not stop in the fall. The turnover rate stayed quite high into December and early January. If you analyze where we were at SDSP and had we gone forward through June, we would have been looking at a 40% turnover rate for correctional officers at SDSP and 34.5% at MDSP. Secretary Kaemingk is happy to announce that things are looking better.

Higher turnover causes training, recruitment and overtime expense. He believes some of the causes of turnover were no salary increase for 3 years and the availability of jobs elsewhere. Working with inmates and juveniles is difficult, and DOC has a young and transient workforce. We have hope with the numbers we have seen since the second week in January through today that turnover is slowing. We are looking at 1 CO in MDSP and 1 at SDSP so far this month. Three things have helped. The Secretary is thankful to Governor Daugaard and the Legislature for passing the DOC budget adjustments. One of the things that helped immensely was the pay grade adjustment for correctional officers, sergeants, and youth supervisors. The one-time bonus employees will receive at the end of this month and the 3 percent annual salary increase have provided hope that DOC will see a reduction in the number of people leaving DOC's workforce. Secretary Kaemingk believes the 40% rate will tick down by the end of June.

Chairman Tieszen indicated that he would like that confirmed at the June Corrections Commission Meeting to see if the things are in transition wage-wise and because we addressed a couple of pay grades.

Secretary Kaemingk believes moving the correctional officers from the N11 to N12 pay grade made a great difference in the turnover rate and he is hopeful that will continue.

#### **Training Academy Dedication and National Memorial, Secretary Denny Kaemingk**

Secretary Kaemingk advised the Commission that on April 12, the anniversary of Ronald "RJ" Johnson's murder, the South Dakota State Penitentiary will dedicate its training academy in his name. Warden Weber and his staff suggested this, and it is a great opportunity to memorialize RJ Johnson. The dedication will be April 12 at 2:00 at the training center, which is located on the east side of the campus, on the west side of the driveway when you pull into the Jameson Unit. SDSP has completed some upgrades in the training academy in the form of painting and floor coverings. We challenged our employees and anyone else who would like to donate to this project to raise \$4000 for the monument which will be on the east side of the training center. We are using the granite from the former east wall for the base of the sign announcing the Ronald R. J. Johnson Training Center. RJ's likeness is being painted by an inmate. Secretary Kaemingk has seen the work in progress and it will be a very nice painting. This will hang in the training center entry. You are all invited to that at 2:00 on April 12. We know that Lynnette and a number of RJ's family will be there for the dedication as well.

In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as a National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and it will be held this year May 13 through May 19 in Washington, DC, with a number of activities. Our Honor Guard will be present, as will Warden Weber and Michael Winder, our Public Information Officer, Lynnette, and some of her family.

Chairman Tieszen asked if there was any further business or questions of DOC staff.

Chairman Tieszen indicated that the next meeting should be in Rapid City in conjunction with the dedication of the Black Hills Community Transition Center and ribbon cutting and tour the new facility. Tentatively, that will be the week before Memorial Day in May and we will get that date set shortly and send the announcement out to the members. Beyond that, we can consult with DOC on the locations for future meetings.

Senator Bradford indicated a wish to visit Springfield sometime, and Chairman Tieszen stated that Springfield will be put on the list of the rotation.

Judge Brown noted that on May 23, he has Stop DUI Court Graduation and he asked if that date could be avoided for the BHCTC dedication.

Chairman Tieszen asked if there was any more business.

Representative Lucas moved for adjournment and Senator Bradford seconded the motion, which motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.