

CORRECTIONS COMMISSION MEETING

South Dakota State Penitentiary
Sioux Falls, SD
Conference Room (3rd Floor)
June 7, 2010

Members Present: Judge John Brown, Judge Patricia Riepel, Brad Drake, Representative Richard Engels, Representative Lance Carson and Senator Julie Bartling (via phone)

Others Present: Tim Reisch – Secretary of Corrections, Laurie Feiler – Deputy Secretary, Brady Kerkman – Policy & Compliance Manager, Kristi Bunkers – Director of Juvenile Community Corrections, Doug Weber – Director of Prison Operations

Members Absent: Senator Craig Tieszen, Paul Aylward and George Prest

Agenda Item Number 1: Review/Approval of Minutes from March Meeting:
(Minutes Provided)

Committee Chair Julie Bartling called meeting to order at 8:38 am. Chair Bartling moved to review and approve minutes of March meeting. Representative Lance Carson moved to approve minutes, second by Representative Richard Engels. No discussion held. Motion carried.

Agenda Item Number 2: Adult Reentry Initiatives:

Deputy Secretary Laurie Feiler discussed Adult Reentry Initiatives, along with the recidivism rate. Statistics were provided to show recidivism rates historically at 12, 24 and 36 months from release and by crime of commitment. Deputy Secretary Feiler also discussed the target percentages to reach a 50% recidivism reduction goal in five years. The need for community based programs and stable housing and employment was discussed. Intake and release planning assessments were also discussed. The 2nd Chance Act Grant and the Governor's Reentry Council were highlighted as significant tools with the Adult Reentry Initiative.

Deputy Secretary Feiler pointed out that to meet the 50% recidivism reduction goal there needs to be changes made in offender behavior, policy and operational changes. There is also the need to identify and track the outcomes. The department is partnering with Department of Labor and the Job Search Assistance Program (JSAP), along with Lutheran Social Services or Consumer Counseling for services for money management with offenders. Also a process has been developed to link offenders to the Department of Social Services to apply for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) upon release, Military and Vets Connections and vocational rehabilitation services. As for policy and operational changes, the Interstate Compact Bond was decreased from \$500 to \$50. DOC's detention policy providing the parole agents with seventy-two (72) hours to decide what to do with a parole violator can now be waived by the offender, allowing more time which can help provide opportunity to come up with a plan other than prison.

Brad Drake inquired whether 50% in five years is a legitimate goal and Secretary Tim Reisch explained that he believes it is possible. Chair Bartling asked about the impact of losing an educator at SDSP and if it is causing any issues, which Warden Weber confirmed that it has not created any issues. Warden Doug Weber also stated that offenders with no GED or diploma are required to enroll in an education program to receive their GED and that all needs continue to be met.

Agenda Item Number 3: Juvenile Reentry Initiatives:

Presentation presented by Kristi Bunkers.

Kristi provided background on South Dakota's juvenile revocation rate and juvenile incarceration rate, along with information on the importance of having strong reentry efforts. The Correctional Program Assessment Inventory process at STAR Academy was discussed to help determine steps that could be taken to help reduce recidivism.

Kristi provided an overview on juvenile facilities emphasizing the importance of staff training to address recidivism and for evidence-based, cognitive behavioral interventions. To support these evidence based efforts, Juvenile Community Corrections will be using the case management tool, EPICS. EPICS focuses on relationships and how time with offenders is spent. All JCAs will go through EPICS training, along with a training session for JCA supervisors. The program is not specific to juveniles and can be effective for adult offenders as well. A refresher training session on risk assessment for staff is also being considered.

Kristi also discussed the 2nd Chance Act and the initiatives focused in Rapid City and Sioux Falls, specific to West Farm. The Juvenile 2nd Chance Act grant aims to help kids transition back into the community and targets employment, education and cognitive behavior programming.

Judge Patricia Riepel inquired to whether juvenile corrections staff meet with families as well as working with the juveniles. Kristi stated that efforts are made to work with families to help juveniles return to their family and community.

Agenda Item Number 4: Juvenile Assessments/Intake Process:

Kristi Bunkers discussed the primary roles of the juvenile corrections agents (JCAs) and that they have primary responsibilities for the intake and placement process. Kristi described the intake process and what it includes. She also discussed the evaluations and tools that are done during intake to determine what programs are needed to help provide the best services for a juvenile. Kristi talked about some of the assessments used in identifying sexual offender risks, such as the Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol (JSOAP II), the Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool (JSORRAT II) and the University of Rhode Island Change Assessment (URICA).

Kristi also discussed the change in the interpretation of Medicaid status, the impact of this change and adjustments as a result.

Agenda Item Number 5: Rapid City Minimum Unit Update:

Secretary Reisch gave an update on the Rapid City Minimum Unit. Once the housing unit is complete this facility will house up to 280 inmates and the capacity can be expanded to 420 inmates when triple bunked. Inmate crews have started the demolition of the interior walls of the front office area to build parole offices. Secretary Reisch stated that all efforts are being made to have the project be completed as energy efficient as possible.

The department put the major renovations on hold until July 1, 2010 to comply with SDCL 11-6-19. Engineers continue to work on bidding out the project. Bids packages are expected to be ready by August. The initial engineer's cost estimate is \$7.3 million, but a clearer picture will be available when the construction bids are opened. Secretary Reisch stated that the parole offices are scheduled to be complete by November of 2010 and the housing unit by November of 2011.

Representative Engels asked if DOC will have to participate in the cost for rebuilding the bridge. Secretary Reisch stated that there is no operational purpose for the department that requires an upgrade of the bridge, therefore there should not be any cost incurred by the state.

Representative Engels also asked if there was an available estimated cost from the lawsuits and delays. Secretary Reisch stated that the biggest cost from the lawsuits and delays is the continued office and leased bed costs at about \$40,000 a month. Since the project was scheduled to start in July 2009 and has been pushed back about a year, the cost adds up to about half a million dollars including the cost of the parole building rent and other expenses.

Agenda Item Number 6: Election of Officers:

Chair Bartling opened nomination for Chairperson. Judge Brown nominated Chair Bartling. Judge Brown moved nominations be ceased, second by Representative Engels. All approved, nomination carried.

Chair Bartling opened nomination for Vice Chairperson. Representative Engels nominated Senator Tieszen. Representative Engels moved nominations be ceased, second by Judge Riepel. All approved, nomination carried.

Agenda Item Number 7: Determine Date/Time/Location for the Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be held on September 13, 2010 at STAR Academy.

Secretary Reisch suggested a few topics for discussion for the next meeting, such as: tour of STAR Academy, the restitution collection process and how we facilitate this collection by individuals on aftercare specifically.

Agenda Item Number 8: Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am by Chair Bartling.