



Iowa Department of Corrections

GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR CHRIS COURNOYER

BETH SKINNER, PHD, DIRECTOR

IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES Friday July 10, 2026

Board Members Present: Trent Keller, Jim Kersten, Becky Williams, Alexa Prez, Jay Nelson, Randel Ponce

Staff Present: Director Skinner, Paul Cornelius, Joel McAnulty, Cary Fox, Laura Scheffert, Mike Heinrich, Amber Connolly, Dawn Hansen, Deanne Krumm, Jen Rathje, Jen Anderson, Jennifer Reynoldson, Drew K., Bob Fairfax, Steve Dick, Dwain Caldwell, Joshua McNeil, Kendrick Howard, Rob Metzger, Elizabeth Dehne

Visitors Present: Kyle Horn, Joseph Barron, Justus, Mike Vondran

Welcome - Director Beth Skinner

- The department has had the opportunity through BJA Grant to implement evidence-based practices, quality improvement, and program inventories for rehabilitation.
- Director Skinner provided an update on population management and highlighted working alongside the Board of Parole.
- Director Skinner highlighted facility programs of Fort Dodge and Mount Pleasant. Fort Dodge has a new pilot program called Compete that is an incentivized living unit program. Mount Pleasant completed its second year of the "We Got Your Back" program, which is where incarcerated individuals create backpacks filled with essentials for children entering foster care.
- Director Skinner provided an update on the legislative session that recently adjourned.
- Jay Nelson made a public comment regarding the habitual offender bill.
- Trent Keller made a public comment regarding the backpack program and asked about it being expanded to other facilities. Mr. Keller also inquired about the Compete Program and the criteria required for the program.
- Randel Ponce made a public comment about expanding the backpack program beyond corrections, and into other agencies.
- Becky Williams made a public comment regarding programing and how soon that starts or incarcerated individuals.
- Director Skinner provided an overview of the classification system and programming
- Trent Keller made a public comment regarding job fairs and participation at the Iowa State Fair.

Budget Discussion – Steve Dick

- An overview of the FY26 financial close-out was provided. Expenditures sit at a standard 97%. Reallocations between facilities and districts are underway to ensure all locations finish in the black.
- An overview of capital projects and infrastructure was provided. Primary ongoing capital focus is the camera upgrade project.



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- Trent Keller made a public comment inquiring if any of the funds can be used for air conditioning. Steve Dick explained that all the funds are delegated and appropriated for certain projects and can not be moved to other projects.
- Jim Kersten made a public comment inquiring about the allocation of farmland funds and remaining property to sale.
- An overview of correctional officer vacancies was provided. The department has around 120-135 statewide vacancies. This is a decrease from the highest peak that was around 240 vacancies.
- Trent Keller made a public comment regarding salary increase.
- The FY27 budget has been finalized by legislature.
- Jay Nelson made a public comment regarding the tablet project and inquiring about finalization.

District Director Hires – Joel McAnulty

- Drew Konicek is the new District Director of the 1st District. He has spent much of his career in the 6th District. He is excited to move back home to the 1st District and grateful for this opportunity.
- Jennifer Reynodlson is the new District Director of the 6th District. She has spent much of her career between two districts, the 5th and 2nd Districts. She is excited for this opportunity.

Administrative Rule Update/ Red Tape Review: Jen Rathje

- Red tape review progress update was provided. Finalized reviews for Chapter 1 and Chapter 20.
- Next steps for rules chapters are submitting regulatory analysis to the legislative service agency. The target date for full enactment is end of year.
- Trent Keller made a public comment regarding the update to the victim notification change.
- Trent Keller made a public comment regarding the legislative tours.

Public Comments – Public

- No public comments were made.

Open Discussion – Board Members

- Voting on Vice Chair and Chair occurred. This will be done yearly at the start of fiscal year.
 - Trent Keller has been voted for the Board Chair and Jim Kersten has been voted for Vice Chair for the Board. *Motion approved for both positions by all.*
- New board member Randall Ponce was welcomed. Randall is a chaplain and volunteer coordinator at the State Training School.
- There is one open seat for the board to maintain the 7-member capacity.
- Discussion regarding location of October meeting.

Adjournment – Board Members



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- Motion to adjourn meeting granted by Jay Nelson and seconded by Alex Perez. *Motion approved.*

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Dehne, Executive Assistant