



Iowa Department of Corrections

Anamosa State Penitentiary Incident Timeline

As of May 7, 2021

The following is a chronology of the Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC) response to the recent escape attempt and staff deaths at the Anamosa State Penitentiary. Updated information will be shared throughout the follow-up process with the Governor's and employees as appropriate.

- March 23, 2021** *Incident at Anamosa State Penitentiary*
- ◆ The incident occurred in a break room. Facility placed on restricted movement.
 - ◆ Agents with the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI) were on site to conduct the investigation into the incident. Along with Warden Larson, they met with families discuss the investigation process.
 - ◆ Suspects were moved to ISP that evening.
 - ◆ Director Skinner spoke to the families to express condolences as well as ask permission to release names and information.
 - ◆ Staff Victimization and Support (SVS) staff from various locations were on site at ASP for several days following the incident.
 - ◆ Director Skinner sends email update to all DOC staff.
- March 25, 2021** *Iowa COPS*
DOC staff began coordination with Iowa COPS regarding the organization of services and communication with the families. Iowa COPS organizes services for officer deaths in the line of duty.
- March 25, 2021** *Director's Update*
Message to all DOC staff with known specifics about services for CO McFarland and RN Schulte.
- March 28, 2021** *Funeral Services Information*
Information regarding funeral services for both staff (on March 29th) were shared with all DOC staff.
- March 29, 2021** *Funeral Services*
Funeral services for CO McFarland and RN Schulte occurred.
- March 30, 2021**
Deputy Director met with ASP's AFSCME President to discuss observations and concerns about ASP operations and current leadership. Deputy Director also met with ISP Warden Gibbs and assigned him a lead role in conducting an internal review of the ASP incident. Warden Gibbs selected a team of qualified staff with experience in conducting security audits.
- March 31, 2021**
Warden Randy Gibbs (ISP) arrived at ASP to assist with operations.
- April 2, 2021** *Tool control audit and assessment*
Each facility was ordered to conduct a an in-depth analysis on tool control procedures and processes to be submitted to Deputy Director Sperflage by April 9th.
- April 2, 2021** *Suspension of Work Programs*
Director Skinner announced an immediate suspension of all inmate work programs that require the use of tools.
- April 2, 2021** *Population Transfers to Reduce ASP Population*



April 2, 2021

Medical inmates from ASP Infirmery and all approved transfers from ASP to other facilities completed.

Director's Update

Video update from Director Skinner shared with all DOC staff. This update outlined immediate plans for the Department including:

- ◆ Creation of a Director of Prison Security focused on assessing and improving the security of our prisons.
- ◆ Assessment by an independent correctional security team, in addition to the investigations being conducted by DOC, DCI and OSHA related to this incident.
- ◆ Assessments and make investments in additional fixed cameras, body worn cameras, IT related security measures, equipment upgrades and replacement, additional tool control measures both for work crews and IPI shops, additional CERT officer team members, and increased training around personal safety.
- ◆ Swift operational adjustments across the Department, immediate halt to all work programs and inmate labor related to tool control, and for Security Directors and Deputy Wardens to complete a fresh assessment of the procedures around these programs that involve tool control, with a brief submitted to Central Office within a week.
- ◆ Feedback Forums in every prison for staff to voice their concerns beginning at ASP.
- ◆ Review of the Classification and Custody levels of inmates and the types of programs offered.

April 5, 2021

Internal Operational Escape Review

On April 5-8, 2021, a team of Iowa DOC staff were tasked with conducting an operational review at ASP relating to tool control, operational practices and procedures within the facility. The team focused on DOC policy and ASP procedure review then comparing how the facility employs their practices relating to policy and procedure.

April 6, 2021

Interim Warden Assignments

- ◆ Warden Randy Gibbs was assigned as interim warden of the Anamosa State Penitentiary.
- ◆ Warden Jeremy Larson was assigned as interim warden of the Newton Correctional Facility.
- ◆ Warden Kris Weitzell was assigned as the interim warden of the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility and North Central Correctional Facility.
- ◆ Deputy Warden Chris Tripp will serve as the interim warden of the Iowa State Penitentiary.

April 8, 2021

Warden at FDCF & NCCF

The Warden Vacancy was posted on DAS Deadline of April 19.

April 8, 2021

Director of Security Operations

The Director of Security Operations was posted on DAS with a deadline of April 18.

April 9, 2021

Out of State Review of ASP Operations

Deputy Director Sperflage met with officials from MN and SD, requesting their assistance in reviewing the ASP incident and facility operations. They agreed to send three experts each to conduct the review beginning April 13.



- April 12, 2021** *Draft RFP for Systemwide Operational Review*
A draft of the RFP was submitted to for review. Once the RFP is ready to release for system audit, a press release to announce it is open for responses may be helpful.
- April 12, 2021** *OSHA onsite at ASP*
OSHA Investigators arrive to investigate staff murders. Escorted by Safety Director.
- April 13, 2021** *Out of State Review of ASP Operations*
A team of six (6) out of state auditors (3 from Minnesota and 3 from South Dakota) arrived at ASP to audit operations.
- April 14, 2021** *OSHA departs ASP.*
- April 15, 2021** *Out of State Review of ASP Operations*
The review team departed ASP.
- April 18, 2021** *Director of Security Operations*
Director of Security Operations posting closed. Applicants were reviewed and interviews scheduled on April 23rd.
- April 19, 2021** *Warden at FDCF & NCCF*
Posting closed for the Warden at FDCF and NCCF
- April 20, 2021** *RFP for Systemwide Operational Review*
RFP posting on April 20th to the small business site.
- April 20, 2021** *ASP Newsletter*
ASP began review to reinstitute the facility newsletter.
- April 21, 2021** *RFP For Systemwide Operational Review*
The RFP For Systemwide Operational Review was posted to the Department of Administrative Services Procurement site (RFP07212380058). This posting is valid until May 5, 2021.
- April 23, 2021** *Director of Security Operations*
Interviews conducted for this position via Zoom.
- May 7, 2021** *Director of Security Operations*
Announcement made the Board of Corrections the selection of Brian Foster of the Wisconsin DOC as the Iowa DOC Director of Security Operations.