



KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR  
ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
BETH A. SKINNER, PhD, DIRECTOR

**IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS AGENDA**  
**Friday, October 1, 2021, 9:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89553366172>

TOPIC	PRESENTER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Call to Order <span style="float: right;">Chair, Rebecca Williams</span></li> <li>    • Approval of September 10, 2021 Minutes (<b>Action Item</b>)</li> <li>➤ Next Board meeting will be November 5, 2021, <span style="float: right;">Chair, Rebecca Williams</span> Iowa Department of Corrections Central Office, 510 E 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa (A meeting notice will be posted on the DOC website: <a href="https://doc.iowa.gov/">https://doc.iowa.gov/</a>)</li> </ul>	
Welcome	District Director Dan Fell
Director's Update	Sally Kreamer, Deputy Director of Community Based Corrections
Public Comments	Public
Open Discussion	Board Members
Adjournment	Board Members

*The Board of Corrections agenda is posted on the DOC Web Site at <https://doc.iowa.gov/> under the Board of Corrections Tab.*

*This meeting will be live-streamed via the Department's Youtube Channel for members of the public that would like to observe. You can also view previous Board of Corrections meetings at this site.*

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCItY2PABjitQpT4Op2w3kTw>

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:  
**Creating Opportunities for Safer Communities**



## IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES Friday, September 10, 2021

Newton Correctional Facility  
307 S 60th Avenue West  
Newton, Iowa

**Board Members Present:** Chair Rebecca Williams, Vice Chair Webster Kranto, Larry Kudej, Trent Keller, Dr. Lisa Hill and Jim Kersten.

**Staff Present:** Beth Skinner, Sally Kreamer, Randy Gibbs, Sarah Fineran, Steve Dick, Shawn Howard, Sean Crawford, Jennifer Larson, Lindsay Epperson, Peggy Borseth, Sarabeth Schurr, Sheri Anderson, Tyler Granberg, Wendy Lyons, Sarah Rippenkroeger

### Visitors Present:

### Call to Order, Vice Chair Rebecca Williams

- Chair Rebecca Williams called the meeting to order.
- Chair Williams asked for a motion to approve the July 9, 2021 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Kranto made a motion and Mr. Kudej seconded the motion. All present members were in favor of approving the minutes, **motion passed**.
- The next scheduled Board of Corrections meeting is October 1, 2021, at the Eighth Judicial District. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- (A meeting notice will be posted on the DOC website: <https://doc.iowa.gov/>)

### Welcome - Shawn Howard, Newton Correctional Facility Warden

- Warden Howard welcomed the Board members to the Newton Correctional Facility (NCF) - Correctional Release Center (CRC). He began his role as warden of the facility on July 27th and is excited; these are great facilities and great staff.
- The primary initiative of NCF is the delivery of the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP).
- The CRC population is currently lower, but the numbers are slowly increasing.
- Those in attendance were able to see the Homes For Iowa (HFI) project on the drive to the facility. This program is set to dramatically increase over the next 1½ to 2 years. HFI creates homes for Iowa communities and gives offenders skills they can use to find good paying jobs.
- Thank you to everyone for being here today.

### Director's Update - Dr. Beth Skinner, Director

- Today's prison count is 7,842, which is 13% over capacity. Prior to the COVID pandemic, the prisons were about 22% over capacity. The DOC continues to work with the Board of Parole. Since March 1st, there have been 3,209 paroles and 1,233 work releases.
- Reports show that Recidivism has decreased by 1%. This is the first decrease in six years. The rate of increase had been slowing the past two years, but this is the first decline. The DOC hopes to continue this trend. There have been many great initiatives implemented

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- since FY2018 which lead these numbers to continue to decline.
- Chair Williams asked what years the SRR grant was implemented. Director Skinner returned to Iowa in 2018 to head this program. Chair Williams asked if this reduction is an outcome of the SRR grant. Several implemented initiatives that are affecting recidivism were a result of the SRR grant.
  - There are currently three COVID positive individuals incarcerated and 20 staff. 74% of individuals incarcerated have been vaccinated and 57% of staff. Vaccinations continue to be offered to both groups if they would like to receive it, as well as offering during intake. Education about the vaccines are offered, including consultation with medical staff, in order to make informed decisions.
  - Director Skinner provided answers to public questions posed during the August Board of Corrections meeting.
    - *Do inmates have to be vaccinated to receive personal visits?* No, they do not.
    - *Are there incentives for staff or offenders to receive vaccines?* No.
    - *How often are staff tested and inmates for COVID?* Only if they are exposed or they are experiencing symptoms.
  - The DOC is grieving the recent loss of three staff members. Roderick Daye with Fifth Judicial District was a Probation/Parole Officer, Jeremy Ribbey from Clarinda was a Correctional Trades Leader, and Tyrone Tillman from the Fifth Judicial District was a Residential Officer. Their families and friends will be kept in our thoughts.
  - Governor Reynolds announced a \$10M award to Homes For Iowa. This is a public / private partnership with IPI and other private industries. The DOC is very proud of this program. Deputy Director of Prison Industries Dan Clark is available for Board members to tour the operation following the meeting. This is a win-win program, giving people the skills they need to get into the workforce and have successful reentry and lower recidivism, as well as affordable housing for Iowans. Part of the award will be invested in material costs, construction of a permanent shop, moving equipment set up and scaling up of the program.
  - Wardens and Central Office staff are working to recruit more people to work in Corrections. The DOC is currently hiring correctional officers and nurses using radio ads, social media, Nebraska football games, billboards, partnering with community colleges, veterans groups, Chambers of Commerce, and updating the careers page on the DOC website to get the right people to fill those positions.
  - CGL is the company conducting the review of the Iowa prison system. They have visited with staff and are compiling data. Classification, placement, risk assessments, tool control, post staffing, policies, movement, security practices, staff morale and programming are areas included in this review. The hope is information will be available in the next couple of months.
  - Vice Chair Kranto asked if this is an annual report. Following the murders, the DOC conducted a review of the operations at ASP in terms of security practices. This is a third party agency that was hired to review all of the prisons, including ASP, to ensure they are operating as efficiently and securely as possible. Brian Foster is doing an excellent job as the new Security Chief. The DOC seeks to do everything possible to keep staff and offenders safe.
  - Cord Overton has left the DOC and is now working for Rep. Grassley as his Chief of Staff. Nick Crawford will fill this position beginning September 21st. Nick will be an excellent fit. He most recently worked for LS2. He has a great deal of communications and government experience. Cord will be missed, but he is on to the next step in his career.

#### **SSP Program - Sally Kreamer, Deputy Director Community Based Corrections**

- Mary Roche, Victims Services Coordinator was not able to attend the meeting.
- Deputy Director Kreamer acknowledged the staff who volunteer their time to do the Support

Services Program. This program supports staff in a variety of life and work situations. The group has been extremely busy taking care of others the past two years with COVID and the murders of Robert MacFarland and Lorena Schulte. When facilities experienced outbreaks, this group would provide snacks, posters, and letters of encouragement. Following the murders, they were working with staff, filling in at the facility, and finding outside agencies available to provide counseling.

- This group participates in training, but this is volunteer work.
- Mary Roche will be asked to come back and present to the Board members on our Board of Corrections at a future date. In the meantime, the Board is asked to acknowledge the members of this team. Those who were able to join via Zoom were asked to speak.
- Jennifer Larson from ICIW has been part of the SSP for eight years. There were only two on the team at ICIW when the ASP incident occurred. They have been at ASP several times to assist wherever possible. They assisted with fundraisers at ICIW for ASP, delivering snacks, drinks and other items for staff to Anamosa. The SSP team also assists with debriefings after critical incidents at ICIW. The SSP team wants staff at ICIW to know they are supported and someone is there for them.
- Sheri Anderson from NCCF joined the SSP team within the past year. Sheri had not completed training when the murders happened, but was able to assist at ASP in the laundry and kitchen, as well as providing breaks for staff or covered shifts so that their staff could attend funerals and other activities. NCCF also sent snacks, water, drinks, and other support items to ASP as well as facilities during outbreaks. SSP will send cards, plants or do home visits to staff through medical conditions and deaths. Several on their team at NCCF were able to complete the 20 hours of training just last week.
- Psychologist Sarabeth Schurr from MPCF has worked at the facility for 26 years and been on SSP since 2000. There are 15 to 20 SSP team members currently active at MPCF. This group goes beyond just major critical incidents. Sarabeth has mowed yards, taken people to doctor's appointments, and made referrals for mental health counseling. Sarabeth helped scan documents at ASP to keep paperwork going in Health Services.
- Sarah Rippenkroger at ISP was not able to speak, but posted this message in the Zoom chat: I would just like to add that Anamosa has wonderful staff. They were all so thankful for the additional hands in their institution. I responded to several requests for help during their Covid outbreak, and then when the murders took place. SSP is a wonderful program and has helped so many. I have made several friends that are still in contact with me.
- Deputy Director Kreamer thanks the members of this program. Like Sarabeth said, it's not just cards and letters. It's taking meals over, mowing people's lawns, helping with child care, and so many areas. Corrections is a family and we are here to take care of each other.
- Mr. Keller thanked the SSP team for everything that they have been doing. It is a wonderful mission to go out and serve the public and to help the staff and inmates. He takes his hat off to them and thank God for you. Continue doing the good work and we will do our best to help.
- Mr. Kudej asked for a well deserved round of applause. Well done.
- Chair Williams and Vice Chair Kranto echoed everything Mr. Keller said.

#### **FY2022 Telephone Rebate Expenditures -Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager (Action Item)**

- This is an action item for approval of the telephone rebate forecast expenditures for FY2022. The fund is dependent on revenues and if additional funds are received an amended proposal would be brought for Board approval. All expenditures must be for inmate benefit.
- Many of the items have been included in previous years including \$500,000 for inmate education (including GED/HiSet, general literacy) at all nine facilities, the inmate law library annual subscription, translation services and one staff person housed at ISP to administer the phone accounts.

- The limited number of free offender emails, or omails, would continue into FY2022 until the facilities return to full in person visiting. The proposal is for five months or \$200,000.
- The tablet program management has been on this fund previously and is still in progress. This budget item would pay for the tablet program administration through the ICN.
- Mr. Kudej asked about the Ombudsman's Office concerns about how this fund is spent and what the DOC charges prisoners for calls. He asked if this proposal is reviewed by the Ombudsman's Office before presenting to the Board. Fiscal Manager Dick reported that these are not approved by the Ombudsman's Office. All expenditures are in direct relation to either the administration of the fund or of direct inmate benefit, which is what Iowa Code requires. As far as telephone rates, the DOC continues to monitor. Once the tablet program is deployed, the rates will again be reviewed. Some of the phone rate is dictated by provider charges and the DOC does not receive a huge cut, but the volume of calls impacts what is available in the fund. The DOC anticipated a reduction in the number of calls in recent years, but there has been an increase.
- Chair Williams asked what the current rate for phone calls is. The Iowa DOC currently charges \$.11 per minute for calls within the US. Rates outside of the country are adjusted by the provider.
- Chair Williams confirmed that during COVID the DOC has been providing free video visits to the incarcerated population. There have been some free phone calls provided as well during the pandemic. This continues until visitation has opened.
- Mr. Kudej asked if the position paid for out of the fund is responsible for other duties at the facility. Mr. Dick stated that administering this account is the sole purpose of this position.
- Vice Chair Kranto asked for additional information on the Inmate Tablet Program Management. The DOC placed a request for proposal (RFP) 1½ - 2 years ago to deploy tablets to incarcerated individuals. The initial award was contested. A second team scored the RFPs and the second award has been contested. This program will give all offenders a tablet to use for education, music entertainment and treatment.
- Vice Chair Kranto asked if these are connected to the internet and if there is structured programming. There is no open internet on these devices, and is confined to internal servers that allow the facility to limit what users can access.
- Mr. Keller asked what qualifications an inmate would need to get a tablet. The vision is for the entire population to have a tablet. There may be times when this needs to be adjusted either in a temporary or permanent manner.
- Chair Williams asked what the opposition is to the tablet program. Mr. Dick outlined that there are two vendors seeking the contract. As this is currently contested, details are limited.
- A motion to approve the Telephone Rebate Expenditures was made by Mr. Kudej, which was seconded by Vice Chair Kranto. The Telephone Rebate Expenditures for FY2022 was **approved** with unanimous approval.

*Documents from this presentation can be found on the DOC website, attached to the September 10, 2021 DOC Board Meeting Handouts.*

**Budget Request - Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager (Action Item)**

- The DOC will submit a status quo budget request for FY2023. Part of this request will annualize some funds from the FY2022 budget that were dispersed to specific sites, including the Treatment Pilot Project (Second District, Seventh District and MPCF) and Department Wide Duties funds and positions.
- The DOC is in the process of adding a statewide recruiting position to assist with advertising, hiring and retention for all locations. There is also the need for a training specialist to assist with statewide training programs. These would be established from existing funds and annualized for future years.
- The status quo budget request also asked that funds for the Central Pharmacy be removed from the IMCC budget into a separate budget line.
- This status quo budget, once approved, will be loaded into the budget system for FY2023.

- Mr. Kudej asked where the Second and Seventh Districts are located. Second District encompasses Ames, Fort Dodge, Mason City and Marshalltown. Seventh District encompasses the areas east of Iowa City including Davenport.
- Vice Chair Kranto asked if status quo means that this is a template or that there is no additional need. Mr. Dick clarified that there may be additional needs. The DOC has been asked to submit a status quo budget asking for no additional dollars. There are items listed that would be requested if additional funds are available.
- Potential additional requests totalling approximately \$5M include:
  - \$500K for Pharmacy due to increasing medical costs.
  - ICON Enhancements for upgrades to the system.
  - Food and utilities based on the consumer price index measuring increases.
  - County Confinement costs are higher than previous years due to the pandemic and increased time in county jails.
  - Expiring grants impact four different districts who anticipate a loss of funding for treatment programs, mental health reentry, drug and mental health courts and staff.
  - Phase 2 of the treatment pilot program would expand the pilot that began in FY2022.
- Mr. Kudej asked if there would be a priority when these additional requests are submitted to the DOM. The DOC will submit the status quo budget, but the additional requests will be submitted separately though other discussions with DOM. If additional requests are allowed, these would be brought before the Board for approval.
- Mr. Kranto asked how the DOC would prioritize additional requests if half of the funding were received. Mr. Dick suggested that priority would be given to expenses that would be seen regardless, such as increases to pharmacy, food and utilities, and county confinement, versus new projects.
- The DOC did submit various projects for federal funds to the Governor's Office to improve technology and infrastructure to create a safer atmosphere totalling approximately \$50M. Items included in this list are also included in the Capitals and TRF requests. These substantial lists were reviewed and include building improvements, security and body cameras, wifi expansion, and a treatment building expansion.
- Mr. Kranto is glad to see movement forward with the air conditioning project. ASP and MPCF are the only facilities where some units have no air conditioning.
- Chair Williams asked if there may be additional TRF or Capital expenditures requests once the statewide review report is completed. It is unclear what requests could be made once the report is received, but additional needs would be communicated to the DOM and Governor's office.
- Mr. Kudej clarified that the DOC is requesting approval for the status quo budget, the TRF request and the Capital expenditures request.
- Chair Williams asked for a motion to approve the DOC FY2023 budget request. Mr. Kudej - Vice Chair Kranto.
- A motion to approve the FY2023 DOC Budget Requests was made by Mr. Kudej, which was seconded by Vice Chair Kranto. The Administrative Rules Change was **approved** with unanimous approval.
- Mr. Kudej inquired about the letter that is generally provided along with the budget requests. The reference to additional requests if funds are available is not included in the letter as with previous years. Other departments including DHS did this as well. Mr. Dick stated that these items are not included this year, but conversations will continue.

*Documents from this presentation can be found on the DOC website, attached to the September 10, 2021 DOC Board Meeting Handouts.*

**Public Comments - Public**

- None.

**Open Discussion - Board Members**

- None.

**Adjournment - Board Members**

- The meeting was adjourned by Chair Williams.

Respectfully Submitted,

Johana Herdrich, Executive Assistant

# Iowa Board of Corrections Meeting

Deputy Director's Update

October 1, 2021





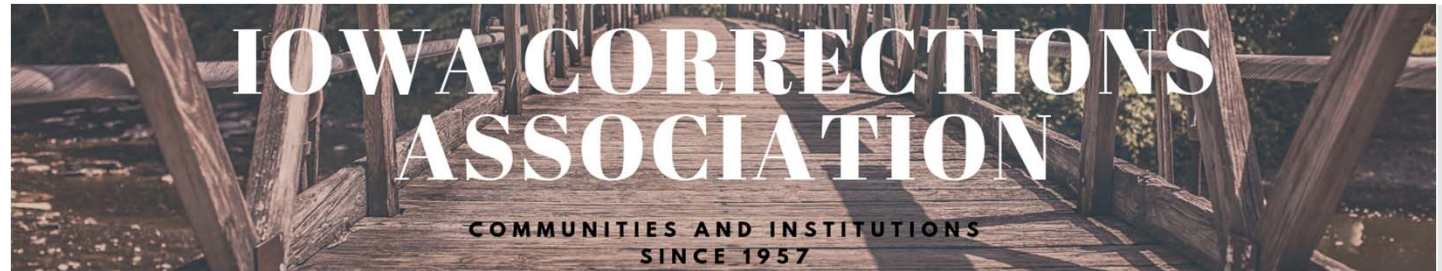
# Population Updates

- Today the prison count is approximately 7,858
- Since March 1st, 2020 we have had 3,299 parolees and 1,265 work release clients released and the prison count has declined by 637 inmates.
- Since March 1st, 2020 the BOP has completed 19,752 reviews, about 40% of those reviews have resulted in approved release decisions.

# COVID Updates

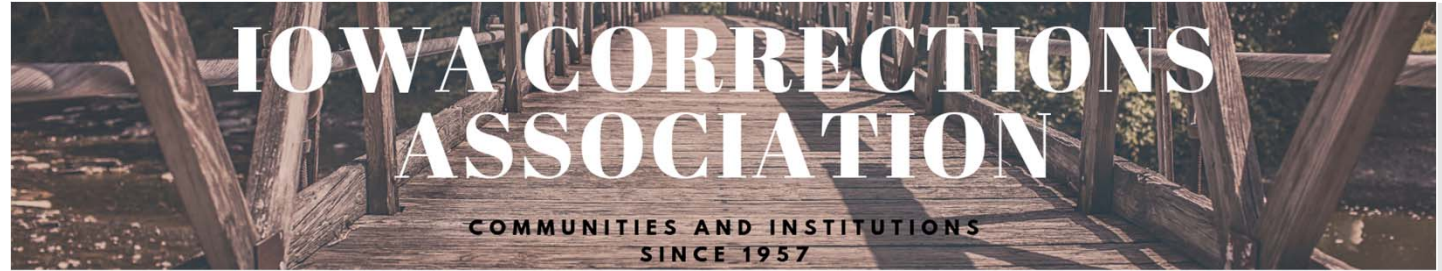
- There are currently 4 offenders who are positive for COVID-19.
- 17 staff are currently positive for COVID-19
- 85% of the prison population is fully vaccinated.
- 58% of prison staff are fully vaccinated.

# Iowa Corrections Association (ICA) Conference



- 2021 Fall ICA Conference
- September 29, 2021 12:00 PM - October 01, 2021 12:00 PM
- Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Okoboji

# Iowa Corrections Association (ICA) Conference



*Lowell Brandt ICA Member*

*Larry Brimeyer Award for Exceptional Leadership*

*Outstanding Correctional Program*

*Outstanding Citizen*

*Outstanding Public Official*

*Outstanding Victim Assistance*

*Outstanding Women in Corrections*

Mike Teachout ~ CCF

Rich Hutton ~ NCF

RJVidamos ~ ICIW

Kelly Jones ~ ICIW

## Awards

Janet Barrett (NCCF)

Jay Nelson (MPCF – retired)

Waterloo Mental Health Reentry Unit

Jessie Goodwin with Kingdom Living

Dr. Amie Zarling, ISU

SVSS

Courtney Arringdale, Mike Gluesing & David Southwick (ICIW)

## Memorials

Robert Henderson ~ 1st District

Cindy Studnicka ~ 1st District

Norman Montgomery ~ 1st District

Rober Morck ~ 1st District

# News Around the DOC

- Conversion to Workday
- NCF Crisis Negotiations Team takes 3<sup>rd</sup> Place
- ISP K9 Sgt Mike Barnes finished 13<sup>th</sup> in a National K9 competition
- Upcoming Emergency Preparedness / Tactical Training at ISP
- Communications Director Nick Crawford joins the DOC team

# News Around the DOC – CCF Activities

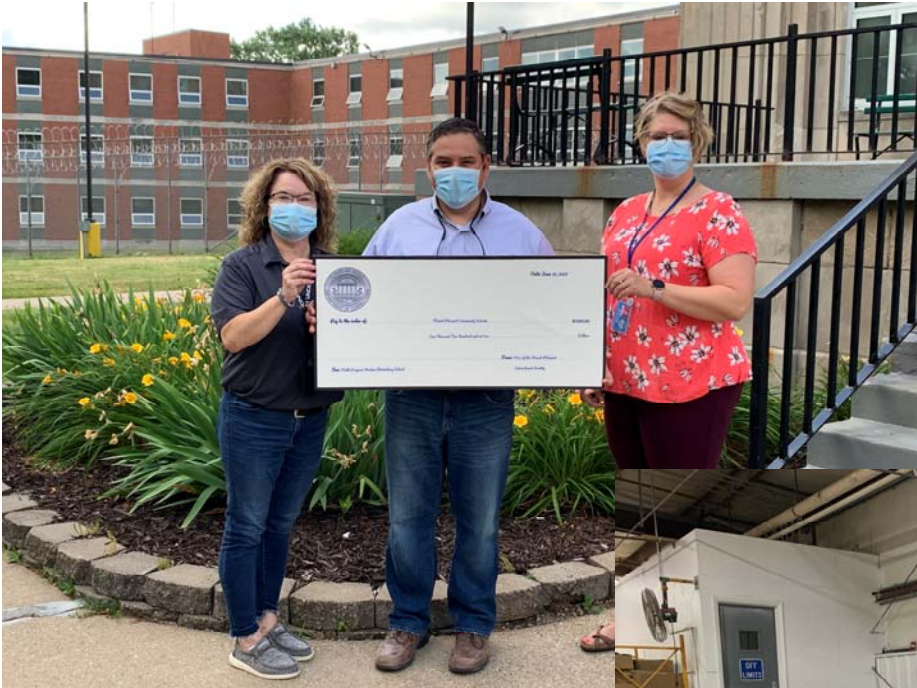


News  
Around the  
DOC – Sixth  
Judicial District



**RISE Wenzel Program at Correctional Services Complex**

# News Around the DOC – MPCF





# News Around the DOC - IMCC

## IMCC Pumpkin Drive



IMCC CO assisted in apprehension of knife wielding man at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics



News  
Around the  
DOC -  
IMCC



# News Around the DOC - Lake City Tornado



# News Around the DOC – Interstate Compact Meetings

The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision held its Annual Business Meeting virtually on September 29th, 2021.

The following rule amendments were passed and are scheduled to take effect on April 1st, 2022:

- Change of the ByLawArt2Sect2 - adding the National District Attorney Association (NDAA) as an ex officio member
- 1.101-Revise Definition of 'Resident'
- 5.108-Probable Cause Hearing in the Receiving State
- 2.110, 4.111, 5.101, 5.102, 5.103 & 5.103-1 - Expand timeframe for issuing a warrant to a standard 15 business days when an offender fails to arrive/return as instructed or is subject to retaking
- New Warrant Status Tracking/Audit Tool - enhancement of the Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS).

# News Around the DOC



Official LODD Fallen Hero

**ROBERT LEVI MCFARLAND**

**Department:** Iowa Department of Corrections

**Cause:** Other: Beating

**End of Watch:** 03/23/0021

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Official LODD Fallen Hero

**LORENA YANIRA SCHULTE**

**Department:** Iowa Department of Corrections

**Cause:** Other: Beating

**End of Watch:** 03/23/2021

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Official LODD Fallen Hero

**ROBERT JOHN VIDIMOS II**

**Department:** Iowa Department of Corrections

**Cause:** Physical-related incident

**End of Watch:** 11/16/2020

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Official LODD Fallen Hero

**MICHAEL DONOVAN TEACHOUT**

**Department:** Iowa Department of Corrections

**Cause:** Physical-related incident

**End of Watch:** 11/28/2020

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Four Iowa DOC recently lost staff members will be added to the Washington DC Official Line of Duty Fallen Heroes Memorial in 2022.

# Recruiting Efforts



Thank you!