



IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS AGENDA
Friday, April 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Clarinda Correctional Facility, 2000 North 16th Street, Clarinda

TOPIC	PRESENTER
➤ Call to Order	Rebecca Williams, Chair
• Approval of March 4, 2022 Minutes (Action Item)	
➤ Next Board meeting will be May 6, 2022 ICA Conference / First Judicial District, Waterloo, Iowa (A meeting notice will be posted on the DOC website: https://doc.iowa.gov/)	Rebecca Williams, Chair
Welcome	Steve Weis, Warden
Director's Update	Dr. Beth Skinner, Director
Legislative Update	Nick Crawford, Legislative Liaison
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, March 4, 2022

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

Staff Present: Dr. Beth Skinner, Nick Crawford, Bruce VanderSanden, Melinda Lamb, Cathy McGinnis, Sally Kreamer, Sarah Fineran, Brian Foster, Laura Strait, Rob Metzger, Jodie Stoessel, Steve Dick, Greg Francisco, Jeff Myers, Drew Konicek, Dan Clark

Visitors Present: Larry Smith, Mark DeJong

Call to Order, Chair Rebecca Williams

- Chair Rebecca Williams called the meeting to order.
- There will be a closed session at the end of the meeting. Any public or press will be asked to leave during this session.
- Chair Williams asked for a motion to approve the February 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Larry Kudej made a motion to approve. Trent Keller seconded the motion. All present members were in favor of approving the minutes pending correction, **motion passed.**
- The next scheduled Board of Corrections meeting is April 1, 2022, at the Clarinda Correctional Facility in Clarinda, Iowa. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- (A meeting notice will be posted on the DOC website: <https://doc.iowa.gov/>)

Welcome - Bruce VanderSanden, District Director

- It has been two year since we last met in this building. There have been several changes during this time. The District has used this time as an opportunity to learn and grow. They have become agents of change through improving public safety.
 - The District has implemented a survey which showed that clients relied on the staff to help navigate their way through the pandemic.
 - The District adapted through virtual appointments and meetings. This helped remove transportation barriers and clients were more likely to make their appointments and speak more freely from their homes.
 - There has been a 10% increase in completions of domestic abuse programs.
 - There has been a lot of talk recently about the overuse of prisons. This is not the case in Sixth District where judges are utilizing more probation. Prison has a purpose, but it should be used more than necessary.
 - There is the impression that the prisons are full of individuals revoked for technical violations. This does not happen frequently and the District is working with the Central Office Research Department to provide data to prove it - less than 1% of probationers are revoked. The DOC is creating an early alert system to help staff identify clients who are at risk of violating their supervision.
 - Director VanderSanden shared challenge coins that were given to staff following the COVID pandemic. DOC staff have been very communicative throughout.
 - Next year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Sixth Judicial District. The Board is

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welcome to return for the ceremonies.

- Laura Strait spoke on the Agents of Change philosophy. This is about how work is conducted. Community Corrections understands they have a lot of discretion in the criminal process. They must articulate their roles in the process.
 - Looking for ways to eliminate barriers to reaching clients.
 - Working on a new branding campaign focusing on staff wellness.
 - Happy, healthy, thriving, engaged staff = happy, healthy, thriving clients.
- Rob Metzger highlighted the treatment programs within the District.
 - When faced with changes, the District reviewed their goals to identify the best routes to provide interventions.
 - It was determined that these should be offered from the start based on the level of need of each individual client.
 - There is an intensive intervention program, typically six months, to focus on relationship building, pro social relationships, etc.
 - The District also focuses on data collection because outcomes matter. A grant has been submitted with ODCP to measure outcomes.
- Chair Williams thanked staff for sharing this information. The initiatives are very encouraging. Are there meetings among the CBCs to integrate these across the state? The Directors have monthly meetings. During the pandemic, absent face to face meetings, the Directors have become more free with sharing ideas throughout the year. Everyone is very interested in data and identifying why things are the way they are. The districts have different challenges to success based on their setting and environment; some Districts are rural where others are urban which may impact the type of resources and services available. The Districts also collaborate in various initiatives. There are also quarterly meetings with District Directors, Wardens and Central Office.
- Mr. Keller appreciated what everyone was saying, especially with the recent medical and weather challenges. Mr. Keller also appreciated that former clients have demonstrated their appreciation for what the District has done for them. Is there any way to get them to speak to new clients? There was a client that came back and talked about the ribbon cutting for the RISE center. The District is even exploring the possibility of offering IPI at the District or other similar industries from the prisons. There will be another survey of the District population for issues other than the pandemic, or having former clients speak at the 50th Anniversary celebration. Mr. Keller believes that having the testimonial from former clients that have been successful sets a positive example for current clients. There are peer support representatives for Drug Court that act as mentors for others in the program. The District also has a partnership with RISE. Mr. Keller believes that this creates a safer community so that they do not attack DOC employees. There is an advisory group working on a humanizing campaign through the local library to humanize others with different backgrounds. Instead of checking out books, users could check out a human with a different background to gain insight from their experiences. This is in conjunction with the League of Women Voters who recommends a similar campaign for clients.
- Mr. Kudej is very impressed with the programming offered by the District. Positive programming takes quality employees. Does the District have similar issues as other locations with finding good staff? The District is working with the University of Iowa on internships where students are hired as temp workers based off of instructor recommendations. Some were lost due to restrictions on temporary workers, but several have gone to full time employment. There is also the goal to reach out to high schools and educate them on the field. The District continues to look at ways to break the barriers to employment and find staff with the right philosophy because this work is important.
- Chair Williams spoke with Director VanderSanden about Hope CDA prior to the pandemic and she appreciated that he had followed up with the organization. Director VanderSanden discussed the process of working to find employment for clients that were more appropriate

for their skills rather than just close to the facilities. There has been a huge evolution with employers over the past 30 years when it comes to hiring former offenders; previously businesses were reluctant to speak about hiring clients and now they are openly discussing their successes. He would like to see a similar progression with landlords.

Sixth District Sex Offender Program - Dr. Malinda Lamb and Cathy McGinnis

- There are about 1,668 clients on special sentences in the field and 65 in the residential facilities statewide. Sixth District supervises 384 of these individuals, the majority male.
- The unit monitors individuals on pre-trial supervision, not yet convicted of a crime.
- The goal is to see no more criminal behavior or victims as well as complete treatment programs and implement new skills. Supervision level will be based on risk assessments.
- All treatment is done in house. It is referred to as the Good Lives Model. This is based on the belief that all people, regardless of status and crime, have a goal to have a good life. At some point, clients may have tried to meet their goals in an unhealthy way and it is our goal to find a healthy way to seek them going forward.
- Treatment received in prison does translate to community supervision to determine dosage.
- Anyone convicted of a sex offense in Iowa goes on the Sex Offender Registry. This is a tiered level system based on conviction code. The tier determines how often they must update information with the Registry (1, 2 or 4 times per year) to include address, job, internet identifiers and vehicle. Registrants traveling out of state, must research restrictions for the location where they plan to travel.
- The registration lasts either ten years or life depending on Iowa Code requirements. There is a provision outlining requirements for those seeking to be removed from the Registry. There is active legislation that would impact status modification requirements.
 - This is important because clients cannot be discharged from supervision until they are removed from the Registry.
 - There are also DHS laws that impact those who are on the Registry that may impact home lives when minors are present.
 - Housing can be an issues for sex offender clients. Many cannot purchase a home and are reliant on finding a landlord willing to rent to them. There are also restrictions on the 2000 ft compliance standards.
 - There are also issues for those on a lifetime registry that nursing homes and care facilities are not willing to allow sex offenders to be admitted. This limits end of life care.
- Mr. Kudej asked if this is a program that the District developed independently or if it is used successfully in other states or a combination of both? The District switched to the Good Lives Model four years ago to work with a more appropriate program. A statewide committee reviewed several programs. This model is used throughout the Department in both the Districts and prisons.
- Mr. Kudej asked if there has been data collected to determine if the program is successful. The District is engaged in a study with Creighton University to measure results for those who have been out of the program for some time to measure success.
- Mr. Kudej asked about the study that he worked with former Director Bartruff on sex offender end of life care options. There was no action taken by the legislature at that time. There is a need to identify agencies or landlords who are willing to enter into agreements with sex offenders who are appropriate for the clients. The usual locations are not easily accessible to other needed services.
- Mr. Keller asked how information can be provided to the public about child endangerment concerns. District staff do reach out to families and have discussions regarding any minor contact and require signed statements.
- Vice Chair Webster Kranto asked for additional information on the Special Sentence

requirements. And for lifetime supervisions, what are the typical employments or how are they supported? Some work at fast food restaurants or manufacturers. Some have pursued education and done well. Staff work with clients on how best to present this information in advance so it is not a surprise.

Director's Update

- Director Skinner stated she is very proud of the Sixth District. This is where she began her career and Director VanderSanden is a great leader and supervisor. The District continues to lead the way in terms of innovation.
- Director Skinner will no longer provide COVID updates. Numbers have greatly declined and unless there is a spike there will be no details provided.
- Nineteen days from today will be the anniversary of the staff murders at ASP. There will be numerous staff wearing the Stronger Together shirts to represent their support of the staff and families impacted by this day. March 23rd will see the Correctional flag lowered and a moment of silence at the time of the incident. There will be a memorial service at ASP. Thank you to Sally Kreamer and Jennifer Guild who, since day one, became liaison to the families and have been an amazing support. Thank you for all that you have done.
- The DOC continues to work with Iowa COPS, who have been an asset throughout the funeral and grieving process. The DOC is preparing for the Officer Down Memorial in Washington DC, May 11 - May 17. Several staff will travel to Washington DC where our lost staff will be honored at the Officer Down Memorial.
- Sgt. Jeremy Sprague of the DMPD and President of the Iowa Peer Support Foundation provided training to various DOC staff on February 14th. The overall goals of the Foundation are to: (1) reduce first responder suicide, (2) reduce family discord (for staff), and (3) have the first responder survive to and thrive in retirement. This training was recorded and available to staff who were unable to attend.
- Director Skinner presented to the Justice System Appropriation Committee on February 23rd. Several topics were discussed including the budget request, the CGL report, changes made over the past year and recruiting/retention efforts.
- The Council of State Governments (CSG) and the Iowa Oversight Committee met for the first time to discuss the Justice Reinvestment Initiative on February 25th. Iowa is the first in the country to review the DOC response and changes made as a result of the pandemic and identify what does or does not work from these changes.
- DOC management staff met with AFSCME and the prison Union Presidents on February 28th. Discussion involved how to better the system. These meetings will continue as needed.
- Director Skinner recently presented to two different classes at Drake including the Justice Reform course and OLLI at Drake for lifelong learners. The goal is to get people excited about corrections and understanding the role in the community. This is a career.
- Director Skinner will participate in the planning committee meeting for the Summit on Iowa Courts Response to Mental Illness on March 7th. This is stakeholders discussing how best to address mental illness in the community and shore up services to meet the need.
- Mr. Kudej asked about the housing issue with hard to place end of life clients and if the DOC has conducted any follow up. Dr. Greenfield takes this as a serious issue. The DOC has reached out to DAS and out of state options where surrounding states have opened homes for these individuals. Mr. Kudej asked if Minnesota is one of these states. There have been some sent out of state.

Legislative Update - Nick Crawford, Communications Director

- Thank you to members of the Board for meeting today and to Sixth District for hosting.
- The final State agency has given their presentation to the Justice Systems Appropriation Subcommittee and the budget process should now begin.

- Funnel week has passed. Bills that have not moved forward will not advance or must be added as an amendment to another bill.
- Fiscal Manager Steve Dick presented to the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee on February 9th. He was able to present our requests to the RIFF, TRF and major maintenance lists.
- HF2529, the Psychiatric Residency Bill, has passed the House committee. The bill was amended to where the program would not be housed at IMCC in its entirety.
- HF2170 addresses IPERS earning limitations. Current law caps earnings for retired State employees at \$30,000 while still receiving IPERS benefits. This would increase the limit to \$50,000.
- Mr. Kudej asked if the DOC has taken any positions on bills. The DOC does not register on bills unless it is a Department bill in order to provide unbiased impacts.
- Mr. Kudej asked if the bills referenced are subject to the March 18th funnel. HF2529 is not subject to the next funnel and has already passed the process.

Public Comments - Public

- Mr. Larry Smith discussed visiting at the prisons. The Governor issued a statement that the pandemic would be treated as the flu going forward and the CDC stated that Americans are no longer required to wear masks. Approximately 80% of the inmate population and 50% of staff are vaccinated. Currently the visiting in prisons has been reduced to 50% capacity and 25% or less visiting than previous years. Visiting is allowed in person on some days and virtual on others. When will visiting return to normal?
 - There is a drain on staff time to maintain this process and prepare for visits. Visitors arrive in groups and are escorted to the visiting room. This is a struggle for staff and families both.
 - Visits are scheduled two weeks in advance. If you arrive five minutes after the scheduled start time, visitors must wait for the next visiting group to arrive.
 - Visits before the pandemic were four hours, but are now restricted to two hours.
 - A couple of the prisons have instituted Ameelio. This requires a photograph of the drivers licenses, front and back, to verify identity. This requires a smartphone and not all have a smartphone. These current regulations do not promote DOC policies of encouraging family contact.
 - When will these sanctions be lifted or return to previous practices?
- Mr. Smith discussed that volunteers are currently exempted from visiting the facilities. With the end of the pandemic, when will volunteer access be restored?
- Mr. Smith stated that the Stronger Together shirts are detrimental to the prison. Is this just the staff? Or the staff and the offenders? The inmates were affected as much as the staff. The inmates have no opportunity to obtain the shirts. Therefore, the inmates take this as staff against inmates. Mr. Smith believes the Stronger Together should be everyone together.
- Last meeting there was a report of 8,100+ inmates in the prisons. During a previous report, the prison population forecast was 9,300+. If the prison department is doing this to complete the program, there has to be something the prison can do to reduce the population.

Open Discussion - Board Members

- None.

Closed Session

- A motion to move the meeting to Closed Session was made by Mr. Larry Kudej, which was seconded by Dr. Lisa Hill. Meeting was unanimously moved to Closed Session.

Adjournment - Board Members

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Larry Kudej, which was seconded by Dr. Lisa Hill. The meeting was unanimously concluded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Johana Herdrich, Executive Assistant