IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS AGENDA  
Friday, March 6, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

6th Judicial District  
Faches Center  
951 29th Ave SW  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>PRESENTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Call to Order</td>
<td>Richard LaMere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Approval of February 6, 2020 Minutes <em>(Action Item)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Next Board meeting will be April 3, 2020, North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF), 313 Lanedale, Rockwell City, Iowa</td>
<td>Richard LaMere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(A meeting notice will be posted on the DOC website: <a href="https://doc.iowa.gov/">https://doc.iowa.gov/</a>)</td>
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</table>

Welcome District Director Bruce Vandersanden

Director’s Update Beth Skinner, Director

Office of Victim and Restorative Justice Programs Mary Roche, Director of Victim Programs

Legislative Update Cord Overton, Communications Director

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/](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/UCltY2PABjitQpT4Op2w3kTw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCltY2PABjitQpT4Op2w3kTw)

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:  
Creating Opportunities for Safer Communities  
(Office) 515-725-5701 - 510 East 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 - (FAX) 515-725-5799  
[https://doc.iowa.gov/](https://doc.iowa.gov/)
IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES
Thursday, February 6, 2020

DOC Central Office
510 E 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa

Board Members Present: Vice Chair Rebecca Williams, Webster Kranto, Dr. Mary Chapman, Mark DeJong, Lisa Hill and Larry Kudej (via phone).

Staff Present: William Sperfslage, Sally Kreamer, Dr. Jerome Greenfield, Doug Bolton, Sarah Fineran, Jeremy Larson, Kris Weitzell, Michelle Dix, Steve Dick, Cord Overton, Michael Savala

Visitors Present: Dr. Mindi TenNapel, Steve Michael, Randolph Davis

Call to Order, Vice Chair Rebecca Williams
- Vice Chair Rebecca Williams called the meeting to order.
- The next scheduled Board of Corrections meeting is March 6, 2020 at the Sixth Judicial District Faches Center at 951 29th Avenue SW in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- Vice Chair Rebecca Williams asked for a motion to approve the January 3, 2020 minutes. Mark DeJong made a motion and Dr. Mary Chapman seconded the motion. All members were in favor of approving the minutes, motion passed.

(A meeting notice will be posted on the DOC website: https://doc.iowa.gov/)

Welcome – Director Beth Skinner
- Director Beth Skinner welcomed everyone to the DOC Central Office. The February meeting always coincides with our Legislative Breakfast. There was a good turnout this morning.
- The next Governor’s Criminal Justice Reform FOCUS Committee will take place at the end of February.
- There have been three Governor’s Reentry Roundtables in conjunction with Iowa Workforce Development at NCF, FDCF and ASP. One incarcerated individual was hired on the spot at the ASP event. There will be three more events upcoming.
- All DOC staff received a letter last month regarding a required training in Implicit Bias required by the Racial Disparity Policy. This in house training is modeled after a program used by the Courts. The Racial Disparity Report will be completed within the next month and will identify any disparities within the Department. The Deputy Directors can then address concerns within their respective areas.
- The DOC is working with the National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG), looking at three areas: Reentry, Behavior Health and Employment. This group will make recommendations to new directors and the Governor to improve operations. There have been meetings various stakeholders within the system as part of a thorough review. The final report should be completed within the next month.
- The DOC is working in a partnership with Harvard and Arnold Ventures to review parole and probation conditions of supervision to ensure they are evidence based and useful to reduce what
The DOC is part of the Prison Research and Innovation Initiative Grant through Urban Institute and Arnold Ventures along with four states other states: Colorado, Delaware, Missouri and Vermont. The five-year project, which will focus on ICIW as the women’s prison in the study. CJJP will provide research assistance. The goal is to pilot strategies that promote the wellbeing of people incarcerated in or working at our prisons.

Director Skinner was introduced to the Senate as part of the confirmation process. The next phase will be a subcommittee bill and move forward towards an approval vote. Always appreciate all of your support. Thank you for all that you do.

**Prison Population Forecast – Dr. Mindi TenNapel, CJJP**

Sarah Fineran, DOC Research Director, was the primary author of the Prison Population Forecast while employed by CJJP. Dr. Mindi TenNapel has taken over this role and can speak to the newest information in the most recent report shared with the Board.

The Prison Population Forecast predicts an increase in population of 2.4% by the end of FY2020. This presumes no changes during the legislative session that impact incarceration. Changes to laws often lead to an increase or decrease in this projection.

In addition, given no change to current practices, trends suggest a 17.7% increase in the prison population by end of FY2029. Any change in the recidivism rate will affect this projection. The breakdown of type of admission impacting this projection follows:

- 0.2% increase in new admission
- 54.8% increase in returns to prison

The study has shown that parole and work releases have increased, while discharges have decreased. Length of stay has shortened by 19.6% over the past 10 years.

There was no breakdown on male versus female projections included in the report. The full report includes breakdowns by race; however, these populations are much smaller.

There are recommendations included in the report that could influence population trends.

During the timeframe reviewed, there is apparent disparity in the sentencing level versus convicting rate.

*Documents from this presentation can be found on the DOC website, attached to the November 1, 2019 DOC Board Meeting Handouts.*

**Budget Update – Fiscal Manager Steve Dick**

The DOC is currently on track for the FY2020 budget.

- Drugs/pharmaceuticals have been higher than originally projected.
- The radio project at ISP has incurred higher than projected equipment costs.
- ICON and County Confinement are nearing their budgetary limit.
- Utilities and insurance rates can change more than anticipated.

Funds will be transferred from canteen and telephone accounts to the education program.

The Department continues to fill vacancies.

- The vacancy rate is just under 5.5%, which is normal considering the workforce size.
- Medical vacancies since the beginning of fiscal year have reduced from 33 to 16.7, with the majority at the IMCC facility. Ms. Williams asked if a program to hire at the LPN level and encourage continuation of education is possible. There are tuition reimbursement programs where a person must work for the state for some time before being eligible but requires long-term employment. UIHC, a hiring competitor, offers a similar program.
  - We have discussed an advisory group within the DOC to help improve ways to hire and retain quality staff. Will continue this work in the Spring.
  - There are currently 90 vacant security positions, of which 41 are filled or in process.
  - CBCs have made gains in vacant positions – from 66 to 55.
  - State agencies are limited when it comes to tracking and adjusting for staff who leave positions to the private sector.

The Governor’s Recommendations for the upcoming year include realignment of a position, a position for security threat and drug interdiction, and a pilot program for treatment positions at the
prisons and CBCs. If there is proven success with the pilot program, we may see more positions in the future.

- There are proposals for capitols projects at the CCF kitchen and building automation systems.

**Prison Telephone Rates – Fiscal Manager Steve Dick**

- Prison telephone rates were discussed at the last meeting due to a news article about jail phone rates. The FCC has a set rate of $.21 per minute for prepaid and debit calls and $.25 for collect calls. The Iowa DOC has a set rate of $.11 per minute, established in 2014, for prepaid phone calls. The DOC does not allow collect phone calls. Rates are reviewed regularly to determine if there is a need for change.
- The percentage of the funds the DOC receives from the telephone system funds offender education.
- The FibroScan equipment to test for hepatitis also purchased with these funds.
- Currently conducting an RFP for offender tablets, which would receive some funds from this account as well.

**Public Comments, Public**

- Dr. Jerome Greenfield spoke about health care costs, which are soaring nationwide.
  - The prison age is increasing and this population develops chronic medical issues. One individual with a blood disorder that costs the department $50K per month. Dr. Greenfield has sought meetings with physicians at UIHC to identify other care or medication options that are effective and cost prohibitive, and patient assistance programs which are often denied due to incarceration.
  - Also looking for telemed options to reduce travel costs when possible. The DOC currently has no openings for physicians, psychiatrist, nurse practitioners or dentists. One psychology position is vacant.
  - Last year met the pharmacy budget. The DOC has been approved for 340B pricing drugs at a markedly reduced cost. This is offset by an increase in individuals receiving prescription medications.
  - Hepatitis C and HIV patients are decreasing.
  - Documentation and files show the level of care that we need to provide and the cost increases. There will need to be a discussion regarding this budget.

**Open Discussion, Board Members**

- Three Board members attended the recent Reentry Roundtable at ASP. Mr. Kudej appreciated the work that Warden Larson did to arrange the program. DOC staff are doing an excellent job.

**Adjournment, Board Members**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Johana Herdrich, Executive Assistant
Sixth Judicial Department of Correctional Services

District Facts

- From FY15 – FY18 probation recidivism for the 6th DCS was 11.6% and it was 19.3% statewide. In other words, the probationers sentenced in FY15 successfully completed their sentence at a rate of 88.4%.
- The cost of sending someone to prison is $90.03/day and placing them on probation is $5.38/day. Pretrial supervision is estimated at $2.19/day.
- For every ONE offender in prison, the 6th DCS has SIX on supervision. (statewide average is for every one offender in prison there are 3.4 on community based supervision)
- The state appropriation only covers 76.4% of the 6th DCS annual budget.
- The starting wage of a residential officer is $19.92/hr. Target Corporation (department store retailer) has plans to pay its employees a minimum wage of $15/hr. by the end of the year 2020.
- The 6th DCS had 211 staff in 2011 compared to 180 staff in 2019 (during that time, the 6th DCS opened another residential facility).
- In FY19, the 6th DCS worked with 6,970 criminal justice-involved individuals.
- As of October 2019 there are 8,459 inmates in the prison system and 40,418 offenders in the Iowa CBC system.
- Average hourly wage of a resident in a 6th DCS residential facility is $10.98.
- The 6th DCS has approximately 139 sex offenders on lifetime supervision, and 22 sex offenders under supervision for registry violations.
Sixth Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services

Annual Report - Fiscal Year 2019
(July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)

The Five Year (2015-2020) Strategic Plan

Strategic Priority #1: Focus resources toward individuals most likely to reoffend

Strategic Priority #2: Focus on evidence based and research-informed practices for improved offender success

Strategic Priority #3: Focus on staff professional development

OUR VISION
An Iowa with no more Victims

OUR MISSION
To enhance community safety and facilitate positive change in adult offenders

OUR VALUES & BELIEFS
Professionalism: Every person will be treated with dignity and respect
Resourcefulness: People can change with the use of evidence based practices and interventions
Interdependence: Collaboration is essential to success
Dialogue: Teamwork is vital as evidenced through effective communication
Efficiency: Staff is our greatest asset and through our efforts we make communities safe

Bruce Vander Sanden, District Director

Full report located on our Website: http://www.sixthdcs.com/publications
PRETRIAL INTERVIEWS

This program was established as an alternative to the traditional bail bond system. As a service to the court, arrestees are objectively assessed for likelihood to appear for court. A standardized interview that looks at issues related to stability (residence, employment/support, family ties, criminal record, community protection, etc.) is conducted at the jail. Information is verified and a recommendation is made to the court regarding release.

Release recommendations are not made when the information cannot be verified, with the exception of offenders whose backgrounds include records of failure to appear, absconding from supervision and/or escape. For those offenders and certain others designated by policy, a bond recommendation is made.

1,899 Pre-Trial Interviews were completed

Linn County participated in a research study related to the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), a risk assessment used during the pretrial stage. It is a race and gender neutral, non-interview tool. This collaboration included a randomized controlled trial to evaluate the PSA and its impact on pretrial decision-making. The PSA was discontinued 12/31/18 due to legislation terminating its use.

PRETRIAL RELEASE WITH SUPERVISION

Release With Supervision (RWS) provides pretrial supervision for some arrestees prior to disposition of their criminal charges, to ensure all court appearances and obligations are met. Probation/Parole Officers supervise RWS offenders to help ensure that offenders meet all court appearances and to inform the Court of significant violations of release conditions during the pretrial period.

- New Admissions: 1,365
- Closures: 1,098
- Active on 6/30/18: 316
- Offenders Served: 1,620

MENTAL HEALTH JAIL DIVERSION/PRETRIAL RELEASE

Potential defendants seeking admission to the program typically meet the following criteria:
- Arrested for felony, aggravated or serious misdemeanor offense(s).
- Diagnosed or thought to have a serious mental illness.
- Agree to participate in all aspects of the program, including signing all applicable releases of information.

- Released from jail to program: 41
- Successful Discharge: 14
- Revoked/Returned to Jail: 6
- Mental Health Assessments: 76
- Total Jail Day Saved (FY'19): 8,227

PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATIONS

Presentence investigations are prepared as mandated by the Code of Iowa and as ordered by the Court. The purpose of the report is:

1) to provide background information on defendants to assist the judiciary with determining appropriate sentences; and
2) to provide information to assist appropriate case planning and correctional programming for defendants.

653 Pre-Sentence Reports were completed

Presentence Investigations include a variety of information such as criminal record, medical/psychiatric history and defendant's attitude that enables the Court to make an educated decision on sentencing.

Additionally, in reports completed on persons convicted of sex offenses, the defendant's sexual history and relevant evaluations/assessments are included.

PROBATION / PAROLE SUPERVISION

As the largest program in Community Corrections, probation serves as a major alternative to prison and jail incarceration. Offenders released from prison, or from residential facilities to parole are done so on conditional release. The average daily cost of supervising a probation/parole offender in the community is $5.38 versus $90.03 (FY 2018) for an incarcerated offender.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probation</th>
<th>Parole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Admissions: 1,911</td>
<td>New Admissions: 211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closures: 1,895</td>
<td>Closures: 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active on 6/30/19: 2,606</td>
<td>Active on 6/30/19: 329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offenders Served: 4,628</td>
<td>Offenders Served: 547</td>
</tr>
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**NOTE:** Totals above include all probation cases (sex offenders, low-risk probationers, intensive supervision, etc.).

**NOTE:** Totals above include all parole cases (sex offenders, intensive supervision, special sentences, etc.).

Offenders on probation and parole undergo:
- Risk Assessments - Iowa Risk Revised (IRR) assessment and Dynamic Risk Assessment for Offender Reentry (DRAOR) to determine the appropriate level of supervision; may include placement in the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP)
- Needs Assessments - to identify offender needs
- Reentry Case Planning – developed with active offender participation to confront factors contributing to criminal behavior and to enhance offender strengths
- Referral to local treatment agencies
- Employment counseling and community placements
- Payment plan monitoring (i.e.: victim restitution, court costs, etc.)
SELF-SUPERVISED PROBATION PROGRAM
This program was developed to divert low-risk offenders from traditional supervised probation in response to a legislative mandate to reduce services to misdemeanants offenders which is also in adherence to Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). The self-supervised offender must fulfill court-ordered obligations; a Department of Correctional Services staff verifies and reports compliance/non-compliance to the sentencing Court.

- New Admissions: 1,123
- Closures: 1,163
- Active on 6/30/19: 1,039
- Offenders Served: 2,202

MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
The program began in May 2004 for low and minimum risk supervision cases. The probationers are selected for this program as a result of risk scores identified by the Iowa Risk Revised (IRR) assessment. Probationers are required to meet with the supervising agent as required and complete monthly reports. Probationers are monitored for completion of financial obligations, court-ordered requirements, and law violations.

- New Admissions: 205
- Closures: 174
- Active on 6/30/19: 294
- Offenders Served: 469

INTERSTATE COMPACT
The Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICACOS) is a formal agreement between the 50 states and 3 territories that seeks to promote public safety and victims' rights by systematically controlling the interstate movement of certain adult probationers and parolees.

- New Admissions: 61
- Closures: 66
- Active on 6/30/19: 106
- Offenders Served: 175

SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM
The District provides treatment programs and surveillance (including GPS) to those offenders who commit sex crimes. Treatment is enhanced by the use of polygraph and psychological assessment. Offenders are responsible for paying for their own treatment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intensive Supervision - Sex Offenders</th>
<th>Special Sentence - Sex Offenders</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Admissions: 61</td>
<td>New Admissions: 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closures: 61</td>
<td>Closures: 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active on 6/30/19: 226</td>
<td>Active on 6/30/19: 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offenders Served: 286</td>
<td>Offenders Served: 133</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The SOP Unit conducts ongoing treatment groups, which include primary sex offender treatment, aftercare and treatment opportunities for lower functioning/MD/DD offenders. The offender treatment track is determined by validated sex offender specific risk assessment scores.

During this fiscal year there were:
- 159 sex offenders on electronic monitoring
- 129 polygraph exams completed (91 State, 38 Federal)
- 18 psycho-sexual exams completed

ELECTRONIC MONITORING
Electronic monitoring equipment is used to augment supervision of offenders who require daily monitoring of their activities or are required by law to be monitored by this system. There are three different types:
1) Radio Frequency; 2) SCRAM Remote Alcohol; 3) Global Positioning

- Radio / Video Frequency 9
- SCRAM (Alcohol Monitor) 58
- GPS 216
- Federal Home Confinement 16

TREATMENT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES (TASC)
The Treatment and Accountability for Safe Communities program began in 1987 as part of a five-year federally funded grant. The TASC program has one certified alcohol and drug counselor who provides these services in Linn and Johnson Counties.

128 TASC evaluations were completed

TASC staff performs a substance abuse evaluation for offenders who are currently under correctional supervision. From the evaluation, offenders are referred to the most appropriate clinical intervention to address their needs. The offender is then responsible for attending and completing the recommended treatment. This past year we added the capacity to do evaluations for parole and probationers in county jail, with goal of reducing barriers to successful community re-entry where appropriate.
HIGH RISK UNIT (HRU)
- Provides support services to both field and residential units
- Conduct checks in all six counties of the District
- Ensure offenders are complying with the conditions of supervision
- Detect violations and allow for interventions before new victims are created
- Collaborate with local law enforcement (i.e., information sharing, special projects)
- Execute warrants and apprehend absconders
- Supports department approved programs (i.e., WARN, Drug Court)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arrest New Charge</th>
<th>Transport Courtesy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest Violation</td>
<td>Transport Medical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>299</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furloughs</td>
<td>Transport Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>254</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visit</td>
<td>Warrant Absconder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,432</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visit Attempted</td>
<td>Warrant Violation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>608</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Agency Assist</td>
<td>Warrant New Charge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Field Check</td>
<td>Warrant Check Attempted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IOWA DOMESTIC ABUSE PROGRAM (IDAP)
IDAP formerly Batterer’s Education Programming is provided for individuals who are convicted of Domestic Abuse Assault within the Sixth Judicial District. Programming includes an intake/orientation session followed by attendance at 24 groups. In the men’s programming, facilitators use the 24-week Achieving Change Through Value Based Behavior (ACTV) curriculum; an approach that uses components of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy where the men define their values and work toward learning how to live a life consistent with those values.

- New Admissions: 292
- Closures: 259
- Active on 6/30/19: 838
- Offenders Served: 1,131

Groups for women offenders use the Moving On curriculum, an intervention program designed specifically for women to assist them in developing personal and social resources that mediate the impact of risk for future criminal behavior. An alternative program is offered when severe mental disorders, medical concerns, or other uncommon factors preclude an individual from participating in ACTV or Moving On Groups; they can receive individualized services from local providers or District staff. Two trained co-facilitators conduct groups. Group participants pay a $500 tuition fee.

DRUG TREATMENT COURT
The Drug Treatment Court (DTC) was established in 2007 within the Sixth Judicial District from funding appropriated by the state legislature. DTC consists of 5 core phases and aftercare supervision. The minimum amount of time needed to complete all 5 phases is 12 months, and many individuals will require more time than this to complete the program. The phases begin with assessment and evaluation, referral for appropriate level of service, and case plan development. These 5 phases are followed by a minimum of 6 months in Aftercare Supervision. Failure to meet the outlined expectations is addressed during hearings with a variety of sanctions, including anything from volunteer hours to jail days.

- New Admissions: 22
- Closures: 42
- Active on 6/30/19: 26
- Offenders Served: 69

Offenders are assisted in accessing community resources to address their treatment needs as well as a need for a supported living situation. Other community referrals include those to mental health treatment, transportation assistance, medical treatment facilities, domestic violence intervention counseling, family counseling services, and parenting group. DTC program was awarded a 5 year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration worth approximately $1.9 million.

MENTAL HEALTH REENTRY PROGRAM
The Mental Health Reentry Program was designed to provide a high level of service and intensive supervision for individuals returning to the community from prison or jail and have been diagnosed with chronic mental illness. This service provided additional support during the transition from institution to the community for offenders with additional / special needs.

- New Admissions: 84
- Closures: 83
- Active on 6/30/19: 31
- Offenders Served: 114

This program was discontinued in April, 2019 following the retirement of the agent assigned to it. The treatment services division continues to provide targeted support for those on supervision with special needs.
RESIDENTIAL

The District has four residential facilities:

- **Gerald R. Hinzman Center** in Linn County (capacity - 86) provides services to male and female offenders. Male offenders include: probationers and federal clients.
- **Hope House** in Johnson County (capacity - 58) provides services for male state work release, 2nd and 3rd offense drunk drivers and probationers.
- **Lary A. Nelson Center** in Linn County (capacity - 93) provides services for male state work release (returning to the community from a State institution as ordered by the Iowa Board of Parole); male 2nd and 3rd offense drunk drivers as ordered by District Court.
- **ANCHOR Center** in Linn County (capacity – 26) in October 2018, ANCHOR Center transitioned to an all-female facility housing probation, parole, state work release, OWI and federal clients. The ANCHOR Center for Women is a gender responsive, evidence based and trauma informed residential program that aims to stabilize and empower, justice involved women to live crime free lives and maximize their potential.

| New Admissions: | 634 |
| Closure: | 573 |
| Active on 6/30/19: | 330 |
| Offenders Served: | 904 |

Serving Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, and Tama Counties

NOTE: Other services provided see full annual report @
http://www.iowabc.org/publications

Field Employment Services • Veteran’s Independence Project (VIP)
Women Offender Case Management Model (WOCMM)
Victim Services • Volunteer Assistant Program
WHAT ARE VOIS PROGRAM OPTIONS?

**VICTIM SERVICES:** The Office of Victim & Restorative Justice Programs, or OVRJP, is here to provide assistance, information and support to those harmed by offenders in our custody or on supervision. Call 1-800-778-1182.

**VICTIM OFFENDER DIALOGUE or VOD:** Sometimes, survivors of crime want to meet with the offender in their case. A face-to-face facilitated meeting is an option. VOD is a voluntary program that involves careful planning and preparation with a trained facilitator.

This program adheres to the national standards and principles for Victim-Centered VOD which can be found on the following website: www.navac.website/VOD.

**OTHER FACILITATED COMMUNICATION OPTIONS:** Many survivors would like to communicate, but are not interested in meeting with the offender. Our office can assist with “indirect” communication such as letter writing, or presenting a list of questions. Letters and lists of questions are then presented to the offender by a trained facilitator and feedback can be provided to the survivor.

**HOW DOES THIS WORK?** Anyone interested in any VOIS service or program can simply contact the Office of Victim & RJ Programs: 1-800-778-1182 or email mary.roche@iowa.gov or ed.cummings@iowa.gov

**IS THERE A COST?** All services through VOIS are free and confidential.

MORE ABOUT VICTIM OFFENDER DIALOGUE:

Once you contact our office, a trained facilitator will contact all parties involved and assess if VOD is the best option. If all parties agree, individual preparation sessions take place until all parties feel ready, concerns are explored, and safety issues are addressed.

**COMMON REASONS SURVIVORS CHOOSE VOD:**

- To express the loss, trauma and other impacts of the offense directly to the offender,
- To be more fully informed about the incident, about the offender, and have questions answered.
- To experience a greater sense of healing.

**POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR OFFENDERS:**

- To gain a greater understanding of the harm suffered by victims.
- To have an opportunity to acknowledge the harm, express accountability, and find out how to, potentially, “make things right.”
- To repair some of the harm caused by the offense.

**APOLOGY LETTER BANK:** VOD is a victim-centered program and only accepts referrals from victim/survivors. An alternative for offenders who wish to express an apology may participate in the Apology Letter Bank program. Victims may contact our office to see if the offender in their case has submitted a letter.

FOR ALL VOIS PROGRAM OPTIONS, CONTACT:

Mary Roche, LMHC – Director of Victim & Restorative Justice Programs
Waterloo Women’s Center for Change – 1515 Lafayette Street, Waterloo, IA 50703
1-800-778-1182 or 319-292-0940 or email: mary.roche@iowa.gov
Or, contact Ed Cummings – Victim Services Specialist
515-725-0039 or email: ed.cummings@iowa.gov
Victim Services in Corrections

Mary Roche, LMHC
Director of Victim & Restorative Justice Programs
Iowa Department of Corrections
mary.roche@iowa.gov
319-292-0940

Office Location: Waterloo Women’s Center for Change
1515 Lafayette Street, Waterloo, IA 50703
Overview: Office of Victim & Restorative Justice Programs (OVRJP)

- Victim Registration & Notification
- Managing and protecting victim information
- Victim Safety
- Victim Offender Intervention Services
- Staff Victimization and Support Services (SVSS)
- Staff Training specific to trauma/victimization and victim rights and services
- Collaboration with BOP, VWC’s, other victim services
Victim Notification - DOC

- Escape from custody or supervision
- Expected release date from custody
  - parole, work release, discharge
- Placement into custody of another government agency
  - Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE), Federal custody, local custody
- Escorted visits (funeral or death bed visit)
- Furloughs
- GPS monitoring of sex offenders
- Death
“Permissive” Notification

- Offender Movement
  - Provided through the VINE program (www.vinelink.com)

- Media Contact

- Major change in offender custody status
  - Law changes affecting sentence calculation
  - A specific offender’s change in status
BOP & DOC Registration Stats:

10,000+ victim registrations maintained by DOC and BOP

2018: 1,640 new registrations processed
OVRJP Stats: Victim calls/emails

- Average call volume: 1500/year
  - Offender information
  - Safety concerns
  - Reentry concerns
  - VOIS/VOD interest

- Emails: unknown – stats not collected
Victims’ Safety Concerns

- At offender intake
- Throughout incarceration
- Parole Hearings
- Release Planning
- During Release
- Community Supervision

★ = critical time
Offender Risk vs. Offender Threat

**Risk Assessments**

Purpose: offender programming and supervision

Focus: community at large

Concern: recidivism (criminal offense behavior)

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**Threat Assessments**

Purpose: decisions affecting a specific target

Focus: current/previous/potential victims or “target”

Concern: safety of target
OVRJP: Focus on Safety

- **Victim Wrap Around**
  - Safety planning for pending releases from custody
  - Threats leveled by offenders
  - Stats: 12 VWA’s completed since 2018 with over 40 victims served

- **Victim Input Statement**
  - Allows victim communication of concerns while the I/I is incarcerated, and when planning for release.
  - Focuses on current and future safety concerns.
  - Paper form and Website online form.
OVRJP: Focus on Safety

- **Contact policies**
  - Determining phone/mail and e-mail contact
    - Developed a checklist for Classification Teams
  - NCO’s, DOC Policy and BOP Conditions
    - Developed a Handout for the incarcerated

- **Collaborate with BOP**
  - Referrals from BOP
  - Sharing information re victims’ safety concerns
Restorative Justice-based Services

- **Victim Offender Intervention Services (VOIS)**
  - Face-to-face Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD)
  - Indirect communication
    - Letter-writing
    - “Shuttle” Dialogue
  - Stats: 9 VOD cases in 2018
  - Letters presented to I/I’s: 6

- **Victim Panel presentations**
  - Awareness/educational purpose
  - By request
  - Stats: 3 victim presentations 2018 + CVRW event

- **Apology Letter Bank**
  - No stats (yet)
Staff Support Services
SVSS

- Peer Support model
- Support provided for
  - On the job critical incident follow-up
  - “Return to Work” support
  - Personal or professional crisis
- Training and continuing education
- Team development and maintenance
Training/Presentations

- Life Skills Classes
- Trauma Informed Care
- SVSS Training
- Colleges/Universities
- IBTSA – Pre-Service

- Survivor of Homicide Advocate Training
- CBC – Victim Rep Training
- State & National Conferences
  - NAVAC
  - Victim Justice
Other duties:

- Chair Victim Advisory Council
- Previous Vice Chair of the NAVAC – and conference planning committee
- Manage website for NAVAC
- Board member of CVAD
- Reentry Collaboration
- Contact/visitation apps and requests for review
- Member of NIC Post-Conviction Victim Services Forum
- ICOTS – oversee notifications
- CVRW Annual Event
- Other, other, other
Future Plans

- Victim Services Specialist – Hired!
  - VOCA Grant-Funded Position
- Increase the use of Victim Wrap Around
- Co-facilitation of Victim/Offender Dialogue
- Increased capacity for Apology Letter Bank
- Improvements with SVSS
Questions?

Thank you