



# Iowa Department of Corrections

## Anamosa State Penitentiary Incident Timeline

### As of December 20, 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 (ASP). Updated information will be shared throughout the follow-up process as appropriate.

- March 23, 2021** *Incident at Anamosa State Penitentiary*
- ◆ The incident occurred in a break room. Facility placed on restricted movement.
  - ◆ All work programs stopped at ASP.
  - ◆ 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 the Iowa State Penitentiary (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 (Iowa Concerns of Police Survivors)*  
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 Correctional Officer (CO) McFarland and Registered Nurse (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 Union 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**  
ISP Warden Randy Gibbs 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 Sperfslage by April 9th.
- April 2, 2021** *Suspension of Work Programs*  
Director Skinner announced an immediate suspension of all inmate work programs system wide that require the use of tools.



**April 2, 2021**

*Population Transfers to Reduce ASP Population*

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

**April 2, 2021**

*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 prisons.
- ◆ Assessment by an independent correctional security team, in addition to the investigations being conducted by DOC, the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and OSHA related to this incident.
- ◆ Assessments and investments in additional fixed cameras, body worn cameras, information technology related security measures, equipment upgrades and replacement, additional tool control measures both for work crews and Iowa Prison Industries (IPI) shops, additional Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) 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 (FDCF) and North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF).
- ◆ 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 Sperfslage met with officials from Minnesota and South Dakota, 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 Request for Proposal (RFP) for System Wide 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 System Wide 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 System Wide Operational Review*  
The RFP For System Wide 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.
- June 4, 2021** *Warden Announcements*  
The Board of Corrections approved the Department's selection of Kristofer Karberg as the Warden of the Anamosa State Penitentiary, and Nicholas Lamb as the Warden of the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility. Both of these candidates were recommended to the Board by a department hiring committee.
- June 8, 2021** *Fiscal Year 2022 Budget*  
Governor Reynolds signed House File 861 Justice System Appropriation bill allocating an additional \$3M for ASP to use on security improvements and staffing.
- June 10, 2021** *Deputy Director Prison Operations*  
Deputy Director of Prison Operations Bill Sperfslage retired. Randy Gibbs,



- June 14, 2021** Acting Warden at the Anamosa State Penitentiary, will assume this position.  
*ASP Warden*
- June 24-25, 2021** Warden Kris Karberg begins work at ASP.
- July 10, 2021** Iowa OSHA on site.
- July 26, 2021** In-person visiting resumed at all facilities.
- July 27, 2021** CGL on site to begin audit.
- August 2, 2021** Iowa DOC Security Audit Team arrived to begin ASP Security Audit.
- August 11, 2021** Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit at ASP.
- August 13, 2021** Department of Management (DOM) approves the ASP fence contracts and costs.
- August 26, 2021** Moss Group at ASP on Monday and Tuesday to conduct staff interviews as part of the external prison system review.
- September 7, 2021** Director Skinner conducted staff forums in the Visiting Room and met with Executive Team staff.
- September 24, 2021** Various groups will resume including Veterans Group, NAACP and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).
- October 8, 2021** Exec staff met with inmate council on Friday to discuss issues brought by the inmate population.
- December 6, 2021** CERT and CNT were at ISP for Emergency Preparedness training.
- December 15, 2021** ASP medical unit reopened with limited number of patients.  
CGL report received.