



Prison Safety Initiatives and Legislative Updates

June 19, 2018

Prison Safety Update

Developed Strategic Plan Workgroups from all disciplines in the following areas:

- Increasing Hiring and Retention
- Improving Training for New and Veteran Employees
- Reducing Contraband in Prison Facilities
- Enhancing Security Policies and Practices
- Improving Communications with Staff

Increasing Hiring and Retention

- ▶ Developing targeted recruitment strategies for facilities with highest vacancy rates
- ▶ Implementing pilot to conduct interviews at 10 facilities
- ▶ Initiating exit surveys at facilities
- ▶ Establishing a Facility Enhancement Fund to provide funds for professional development and morale improvement activities
- ▶ Broadcasting 30-second video to promote corrections as a profession and to enhance recruitment

Improving Training for New and Veteran Employees

- ▶ Updating Basic Correctional Officer curriculum, with expansion to six weeks anticipated in January 2019
- ▶ Continuing implementation of Field Officer Training Program, with more than 450 FTOs selected and trained. More than 50 new hires have completed the 120-hour hands-on training program
- ▶ Developing priority schedule of supervisory training
- ▶ Conducting situational awareness in-service training in for Prisons. Completed 4-hour situational awareness training for Correction Enterprises staff

Reducing Contraband in Prison Facilities

- ▶ Installing Managed Access radio frequency technology to detect, intercept, and block use of unauthorized cellphones at two facilities
- ▶ Initiating use of mobile Managed Access technology at select other facilities
- ▶ Halting delivery of original envelopes to offenders
- ▶ Developing database for tracking intercepted contraband

Enhancing Security Policies and Practices

- ▶ Piloting personal body alarm “man-down” technology at three facilities – radio use for all staff and lanyards for visitors
- ▶ Purchasing radios and batons to fully equip certified case managers in facilities
- ▶ Deploying stab resistant shirts for 13,000 certified staff. Delivery complete at two facilities, and underway at a third.
- ▶ Initiating pilot use of tasers for supervisory staff at four close security prisons

Enhancing Security Policies and Practices

- ▶ Updating offender assignment policy. Future projects include streamlining assignment process, implementing a skills assessment, and training assignment coordinators.
- ▶ Revalidating the male classification instrument, with technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections. Recommendations anticipated in late summer 2018.

Legislative Update

Senate Bill 750 ratified 6/15/18 and pending the Governor's signature

- 4% salary increase for all staff assigned to prison facilities

Session Law 2018-5 (Budget Bill)

- Greater of 2% salary increase or new minimum \$31,200 annual salary for other employees
- New minimum correctional officer salaries
 - Correctional Officer I – \$33,130
 - Correctional Officer II – \$34,220
 - Correctional Officer III – \$36,598
- \$15 million for man-down technology and camera surveillance upgrades

Other Legislation

- ▶ **House Bill 969 Enhance Prison Security**
- ▶ Status: Passed House and Senate, pending Governor's signature
- ▶ Makes it a Class F felony for an inmate who is convicted of willfully throwing bodily fluid, excrement or unknown substance at an employee in the performance of his/her duties
- ▶ Makes it a Class I felony for an inmate who is convicted of willfully exposing genitalia to an employee in the performance of his/her duties
- ▶ Sentences imposed for above-named offenses shall run consecutively to any other sentence being served
- ▶ Prohibits any person from providing forbidden articles or tools for escape. This conduct is punishable as a Class H or Class F felony, depending on whether the article is used to effect an escape, assault or insurrection.
- ▶ Prohibits any prisoner from possessing forbidden articles or tools to effect an escape or to aid in an assault or insurrection. This conduct is punishable as a Class H felony.
- ▶ Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2018



Closing Remarks/Questions