

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, February 02, 2012
- TIME:** **Chairman Goedde** called the meeting to order at 3:07 P.M. and asked the committee secretary to take a silent roll.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Andreason, Pearce, Fulcher, Winder, Toryanski, and Malepeai
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator LeFavour
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies, and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS:** **Chairman Goedde** stated that for the record, **Senator Andreason** intended to vote yea for **S1269**. Let the record reflect that change.
- PRESENTATIONS:** **Senator Goedde** welcomed **Director Brent Reinke** from the Department of Corrections to the committee.
- Director Reinke** thanked the committee for the opportunity to present and introduced **Shane Evans** the Director of Education and Treatment and a Major in the Department of Corrections.
- Director Reinke** stated that today's report will come from the year-end annual report. There is also an insert that covers the Correctional Institution's education program. Each committee member has received a copy of the report and insert.
- Director Reinke** highlighted the folder's cover state "Mission First Safety Always" because the prison population is getting harder and more gang oriented, it is important for the staff to seize and live into that mission. He then spoke to the trends in the inmate population, staff, and gangs. Supporting document related to this presentation has been archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (See Attachment #1). **Director Reinke** encouraged the committee members to review the material so if necessary they could answer any constituent's question. He then turned the podium over to **Shane Evans** to present the education portion.
- Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Shane Evans** , to the committee. **Mr. Evans** reviewed the education brief that was in the folder. He spoke to the highlights that the institution is celebrating this year. The educators across the state continue to provide extensive services with a finite level of resources. There were 26 graduations across the facilities of the state. There were 522 Graduation Equivalency Degrees awarded and four high school diplomas. The trend is up from last year. About half of the incarcerated population come in without a high school diploma and half of that population only have a sixth grade reading level. The correction institutes works to get prisoners to a functioning level of literacy. CWI has partnered with the prison to teach large machine operation to qualified candidates for their reentry for employability. Research has shown that if they can go out and support themselves and their family with dignity, respect and a livable wage they are more likely to change their ways and not return to the system.

The long standing Incarcerated Youth Grant from the Federal Government is no longer available. He stated that this could be a trend as some other federal grants are getting reduced. The reduction in funding will impact the vocational training programs that are currently in place. **Mr. Evans** thanked the committee for their time and will take questions at the end of the report.

Director Reinke then returned to the podium to continue to review the annual report folder. Idaho correctional center industries opened a sewing shop in the Pocatello facility and will be making all the prison attire for the state's prison population. The correctional industries give the prisoners a skill so when they are released they have some training. Correctional Industries (CI) works to produce goods for the state as well as fulfilling contracts from private entities. The idea for the program is not to work for the prison but to have skills when they are released from prison. He named all the different types of products that CI is manufacturing. He invited the committee to take a tour of the industry facilities.

Director Reinke then highlighted the website for the Department of Corrections. At that site people will find answers to their many questions. There is a tremendous amount of information at that site.

He concluded his presentation with employment figures for the department. There is about a 23 percent turnover rate of correctional officers per month. To train each officer they invest approximately \$16,000 to get them ready to supervise prisoners. There is also a 13 percent turnover in management. He is working with the Finance Committee to come up with some solutions to remedy the turnover.

Other legislation actions for the department include three pieces of execution legislation. These are based on the lessons learned from the November 2011 execution. Finally, contraband legislation will also be introduced to manage those problems.

The gang affiliation population in Idaho has been growing about .05 percent every 30 days. There is a significant influx of gang members in Idaho's correctional system. There are 18 percent of the incarcerated prisoners in a gang and over 50 percent of maximum security prisoners are in a gang or a serious threat group. Maximum security is a segregated facility, meaning one bed per cell, this is helpful for the institution. **Director Reinke** thanked the committee for passing the legislation to allow this set up to occur. He noted that the maximum security population is growing, so they will need more segregated facilities. Harden criminal population is going up. He is not sure why, it may have to do with California's realignment of prisons, which is a concern for all northwestern states' law enforcement and correctional institutions.

Director Reinke relayed good news that the prison population is under the projections by approximately 2,000 inmates, Things are working well with the legislature and department.

Senator Toryanski asked **Director Reinke** what types of products are being produced. Considering the lesser cost of production it is perceived in the community that correctional industries don't fairly compete with the private sector to get contracts? **Director Reinke** stated that correctional industries cannot sell to the private sector but will work with others to manufacture items. There is a great amount of prisoner labor that is used throughout state agencies to repair and remodel capital projects. No tax dollars are used to run the industrial segment of the correctional department. Furthermore none of the revenue earned goes to run the correctional institution; this is a self-supporting stand alone operation that trains inmates for reentry to society. All work of the correctional industries is within Idaho Code.

Senator Andreason stated that there are private prisons in the state that are being run by the state. Are there more problems with the private or public run prisons or are they about the same? **Director Reinke** replied there are a lot of similarities. One of the issues that the department has struggled with is how to manage the contracts from private prisons. They have learned from past mistakes and are doing a better job. The challenge that IDOC has is that they do not own the contract. That contract is owned by Idaho Department of Administration yet the IDOC is responsible for the contract. When they start procuring services from those contracts it becomes cumbersome due to not knowing what the contracts state resulting in some violence incidents in the private prisons. IDOC is learning their role with private prisons and things are getting much better.

Senator Fulcher acknowledged and commended the work of the people at IDOC. He then asked if those prisoners that are gang members actively participate in the educational programs. Is the increase of gang activity related to an increase in drug activity? **Director Reinke** commented to the second question is that is correct. Correctional workers are in a compromised position with the gangs. There is so much contraband being brought in, especially phones and the staff's families are being threatened. There is an increase of meth and cocaine making its way into the facility. These contraband equal power and it puts people inside and outside the facility at risk.

Mr. Evans took the podium to speak to the education of gang members. He stated about 16 percent of the prison population refuses to participate in the educational programs and a majority of those are gang members. The staff works hard to engage the prisoners to take *The Pathways to Success*. Every 90 days the "refusers" are asked if they would like to try the educational opportunities. Often that repetition gets them into the program.

Chairman Goedde asked **Mr. Evans** if the recidivism rates are correlated to those who do and those who don't go through the education programs.

Mr. Evans replied absolutely, both in local and national numbers. Idaho has a better recidivism rate than most states. The IDOC is trying to front load the education opportunity so that the prisoner will have less prison visits.

Chairman Goedde asked if he had any numbers to share. **Mr. Evans** said about 37 percent across the population are in the education programs.

Senator Andreason asked **Director Reinke** if the IDOC sees a problem with losing correctional officers to Oregon or other nearby states. **Director Reinke** stated that IDOC is losing correctional officers to different positions or career opportunities. Payroll is the biggest issue as to why the state is losing employees. Oregon pays correction officers about \$4-\$5 more per hour than Idaho's pay rate.

Having no more questions **Chairman Goedde** thanked **Director Reinke** and **Mr. Evans** for their presentation.

PRESENTATION:

Chairman Goedde welcomed **Sharon Harrigfeld**, Director for the Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) to the committee. She introduced **Richard Duke** the Principal of Nampa Juvenile Facility.

Director Harrigfeld stated that in Juvenile Corrections there is a lot of hope. The department has developed a code for kids, stating that IDJC rehabilitates children. The mission is to reduce juvenile crime and partnership with communities. That is done through prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

In 1998 a need assessment for juvenile space was completed and the projected amount of children to be served was about 730 juveniles in custody in 2008 and for 2012 the number would be 830. Today, in 2012 there are 336 juveniles in custody. By working into the mission the IDJC has saved the state approximately \$29 million.

Director Harrigfeld then relayed to the committee the work of Juvenile Corrections as outlined in the power point presentation. See supporting document related to this testimony. They are archived and can be accessed in the office of the Committee Secretary (see Attachment #2).

At this time 95 percent of all juvenile correction work is done at the local level. IDJC works with counties, schools, and prevention programs to curb juvenile offenses. There are 5,500 juveniles that are on probation and 200 that are in detention facilities and there are clinicians at all the detention facilities. All facilities include education to the 336 juveniles in custody. Those kids are active all day beginning at 6:00 A.M. until 9:00 P.M. doing schooling and drill work. They only have about an hour of free time.

She then continued her report speaking about the budget and explained the functions unique to the three different institutions in the state. There are 67 percent of the juveniles that are in the facilities are felony offenders and 33 percent are committed because of misdemeanors. There are 13 juveniles housed out of state because they have developmental or mental needs the facilities in Idaho cannot provide. The IDJC works to improve the quality of life for the juveniles that they serve and that is done by working on juveniles reading and math skills.

Director Harrigfeld then turned the podium to **Richard Duke**, Principal of the Nampa Facility, to update the committee on the educational component. **Chairman Goedde** welcomed **Mr. Duke** to the committee.

Mr. Duke thanked the committee for the opportunity to present. He will speak to the work that is done in Nampa. He assembled some statistics for the committee to review. The program is entitled Juniper Hill High School and it follows the curriculum required by the state. It is an accredited program located in all three of the facilities. Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED), high school diplomas, and dual credits are offered to the incarcerated students. There is a large faction of students that qualify for an Independent Education Plan (IEP) meaning that there is a large special education population with emotion and mental issues. These juveniles demand a lot of the teachers' time and energy thus becoming a concern for IDJC. This population is on the rise. He has been with the agency for three years and during that time they have been trying to mirror their programs as to what is going on in the public schools. These kids need extra attention as to not fall through the educational cracks, IDJC education is their last hope. IDJC increased the usage of technology that is all the buildings because their students respond well to that type of education.

Goals for the educational facilities are to get more professional training for teachers in technology and to reclassify positions from security to education. Doing those goals will broaden opportunities for the students. Recent data shows the before and after of students' successes in reading and math scores from using the new methods that have been adopted. These programs help kids but also motivate teachers. The challenges that come with working in IDJC is it is a very tough environment to work in because of the diverse needs all in the same classroom. There are a variety of education levels in one classroom. The facilities are working to find a classroom structure where kids will learn and continue to respond.

There is a need for qualified and professional personnel. The teachers at this site work year around with few breaks. That is a challenge for recruiting and retaining teachers. Since the school operates on a master schedule and their students arrive at the facility at various points in the semester, there is little consistency in student's school curriculum due to lapses in continued attendance. **Mr. Duke** thanked the committee for their support and then asked for questions.

Senator Fulcher acknowledged the work and challenges of educating students in the Correctional Facilities. For the record many thanks go to **Sharon Harrigfeld**. It is hard to grasp the work you do so know that you truly are appreciated.

Chairman Goedde asked for more questions or comments from the committee. He addressed **Ms. Harrigfeld** stating there was a juvenile detention track and all have an educational component. He asked her to expand that information

Ms. Harrigfeld stated all twelve of the detention facilities have educators. They are funded with the funds from the school districts where the facility resides. Each student has at least four hours of education which is funded with the average daily attendance (ADA) model.

Chairman Goedde thanked **Ms. Harrigfeld** and reminded the committee that JFAC is taking testimony from committee chairmen on February 16 and 17. The committee will be having some discussion next week in regards to funding the education budget.

ADJOURN:

Having no more business, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:03 P.M.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

LeAnn South
Secretary