

MINUTES  
**JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room C310  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Senators Co-chairman Keough, Bair, Mortimer, Brackett, Nuxoll, Johnson, Thayn, Guthrie, Schmidt, Lacey  
Representatives Co-chairman Bell, Gibbs, Miller, Youngblood, Burtenshaw, Horman, Malek, Monks, King, Gannon  
**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None  
**CONVENED:** **Chairman Bell** called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

**PRESENTER:** **Kevin Kempf, Director, Idaho Department of Correction**  
**Management Services**

**Director Kempf** opened the budget presentation for the Department of Correction by introducing the Board of Directors for the Department; **Debbie Feild, David McCusky, and Cindy Wilson**. Management services is held as a top priority for the Director and members of the board, as such there is great change on the horizon for the management services. Positions that need reconsideration, and movement in the management ladder. Justice assessment program is a plan, to go from 12 programs into 5 programs, regarding the inmate transition into rehabilitation and release. Director Kempf urged the committee to understand the need to simplify and modernize the prison release system and create significant change with researched-based programs that work.

Reformation of restrictive housing or solitary confinement is necessary. Sending an inmate into segregation has been ineffective and may be considered an antiquated way to deal with offenders. Director Kempf strongly urged the need to research ways to hold offenders accountable in a meaningful way to produce change in the general population inmates. **Director Kempf** recognized that a presentation to the Budget Committee would not be complete and transparent without speaking on the Balla Attorney Fees Management Services.

**Director Kempf** spoke on the need for a better access control system. This refers to the systems in place currently that monitor the staff walking in and out of the facilities. These systems need to be updated and monitored to enhance the security features. Reorganization of the Decentralized Offender Programs is necessary to enhance security of staff members and provide the right housing necessary for offenders. The Closure of the Unit 24: the facility referred to as "Unit 24" was a temporary housing facility used to support the population of prison inmates. This facility was later deemed unsafe for staff members and inmates after a fire and inmate riot. This facility has been closed and investigation is ongoing. Food service

operations for our state prisons is another priority for the director as he explained the current food service provider is a third-party vendor “Trinity”. There is interest in moving away from the third-party, private vendor and making the food-service production a state responsibility.

**Director Kempf** continued the Budget Presentation by explaining the Security Retention Plan. In the past six months significant effort has been placed on a culture of leadership developing staff to understand how valuable staff is to the Department of Correction. Past economic trends reflect that as the economy grows, staff members flee the DOC pursuant of more fulfilling employment wether it be a raise in wages or otherwise. However, the most recent economic boom resulted in the smallest turnover the DOC has seen in historic trends. Staff members are staying with the Department of Correction, and growing in value.

### **State Prisons**

**Director Kempf** continued the Budget Presentation for the Department of Correction by listing significant updates needed in particular hardware and software used by the DOC including: new security cameras, access control security, and electronic doors. Director Kempf provided an example of the food production and delivery service made available to inmates and stressed the importance of food safety and security concerns for the food service providers.

### **Community and Out of State Placements**

The County and Out-of-State Placement Program provides funding to house and provide medical care for offenders placed in county jails and in out-of-state prison facilities. In FY 2009, this program was moved from Prison Administration and established as a separate program.

### **Correctional Alternative Placement Program**

**Director Kempf** explained the needs associated with the Correctional Alternative Placement Program (CAPP) and the differences between the FY 2016 fund delegation and FY 2017 request. At the highest point in FY 2016 the CAPP program would need an additional \$1,142,100, and the FY 2017 request is still under revision by the Governor, The Executive Budget will reflect most recent forecasts. Plans to defund Out-of-State for FY 2017 will reduce the General Fund Base by \$2,933,700. Director Kempf was proud to share that due to the accomplishments of those involved with the Justice Reinvestment all inmates housed in out-of state facilities will be returning and will return by April 1. The County jail beds usage realties are lower than previous expectations and the Department of Correction will be enthusiastically returning \$859,700 to General Fund.

## Community Corrections:

**Director Kempf** explained to the budget committee the difference in FY 2016 delegation of funds and the FY 2017 requests to adequately meet the needs of the Community Corrections within the Department of Correction. Originally, the JFAC body appropriated \$500,000. However, the department's ongoing training plan anticipates needing \$295,000, and will be requesting to use \$205,000 remaining for training costs associated with the Justice Program Assessment. Director Kempf will be requesting to convert four positions from the Unit 24 closure into Probation and Parole Officers for additional Probation and Parole staff. As a safety precaution, the department will be requesting new radios for district 7. Various law enforcement agencies in Eastern Idaho need to upgrade their technology's encryption protection, which at the present time makes it impossible for officers to radio for assistance. Security cameras, updated control systems, fire alarms, and vehicles will all be items requesting consideration in the FY 2017 request.

## Education and Treatment

**Director Kempf** addressed concerns pertaining to the decentralizing the Offenders Programs. The DOC is going to defund the Program Manager, and distribute in headquarters at the Idaho Correctional Institution-Orofino, then immediately following the Correctional Program Coordinator in headquarters became a Probation/Parole Officer.

## Medical Services

Medical services inside the DOC has always been population driven and as such, the initial request anticipated in FY 2016, was higher than reality. Director Kempf enthusiastically promoted how the DOC will be returning \$417,200 to the General Fund. for FY 2017 however, the request accounts for a projected 3% per diem increase and forecasted inmate population growth, due to the out-of-state inmates' return. This means more inmates under medical per diem. Director Kempf made attempts to address the Hepatitis C concerns inside Idaho Prisons. Investigation and evaluation of alternative treatments are being explored, there should be several different ways to provided treatment at a lower cost. Until conclusive decisions are made the DOC is requesting \$5,469,800 Onetime General Funds to cover the cost of treatment. This will be for approximately 43 inmates.

[Department of Corrections](#)

**PRESENTER: Kevin Kempf, Director, Department of Correction and Sandy Jones, Executive Director, Pardons and Parole**

**Special Hearing: Justice Reinvestment, Implementation, Status, Cost Savings, and Use of FY 2016 Appropriations**

Justice Reinvestment is a data-driven approach to improve public safety, reduce corrections, and related criminal justice spending and reinvest savings in strategies that can decrease crime and reduce recidivism.

JRI Strategies:

Putting resources towards the safety of society from high-risk offenders is simply more important than using the same resources towards low-risk offenders. It is important we learn to do less with low-risk offenders. New electronic devices and online supplements is an effective low-cost way to observe and supervise low-risk offenders. The Justice Program Assessment found that the therapeutic communities were not serving the purpose intended and the programs were therefore cut from the program. [Justice Reinvestment](#)

**PRESENTER: Sandy Jones, Executive Director, Pardons and Parole  
Commission for Pardons and Parole**

The Idaho Commission for Pardons & Parole is charged with the responsibility for parole (inmates selected for release by the commission after serving at least the minimum portion of their sentence), commutation (modification of an offender's sentence), and pardon (forgiveness of a sentence). The commission's goal is to provide the highest degree of protection to society while providing offenders the opportunity to become responsible members of society. The five commission members are appointed by the Governor to five-year terms and are subject to confirmation by the Idaho State Senate.

**Director Sandy Jones** presented the overview of the Budget Request for the Department of Pardons and Paroles. The presentation included accomplishments and challenges of the Department and the implementation of JRI and the evidence decision making model. Pardons and Parole works closely with the Department of Justice as the JRI is best implemented. The Director then invited a member of the Board and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at Boise State University. She extensively explained the Parole Commission's hearing process and the time consuming 125 cases in 5 days that have to be prepared and heard. [Pardons and Parole](#)

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to be brought before the committee **Chairman Bell** adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

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Representative Bell  
Chair

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Christi Cox  
Secretary