

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

JBC Budget Hearing

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

1:30pm - 5:00pm

1:30 – 2:15 Introductions and General Overview

2:15 – 2:45 Common Hearing Questions for All Departments

Departmental Goals and Objectives

1. What are your department's principal goals and objectives? What are the metrics by which you measure success or failure?
2. Given the change in the Administration, have there been any changes to your department's principal goals and objectives since last year?
3. What progress did you make during the last year in achieving your goals?
4. How is the additional money provided to your department in FY 2007-08 being used to achieve your goals? What improvements is your department making in its outputs?
5. Please identify your department's 3 most effective programs and your 3 least effective programs. Explain why you identified them as such. Explain how your most effective programs further the department's goals.
6. Are there programs that your department is required to perform that do not further your department's goals or have outlived their usefulness? If so, what are they and by whom are they required? Why don't they further your department's goals?

Costs and Savings from Complying With Specific Bills and Orders

7. What are your department's anticipated costs, anticipated savings, and potential benefits from complying with Executive Order D 028 07, Authorizing Partnership Agreements with State Employees?
8. Provide an estimate of the costs your department will incur in FY 2007-08 in carrying out the provisions of H.B. 06S-1023. Provide an estimate of your department's savings in FY 2007-08 as a result of not providing services to individuals who are in the country illegally.

2:45 – 3:15 **Overview and General Questions**

9. How much of the increase in the incarceration rate shown in the graph on page 5 is driven by sentencing changes?
10. What is the Department's plan for homeless parolees?
11. What is the Department's plan for community reintegration for women in order to reduce recidivism?
12. The Colorado Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) serves about 4,134 of the 8,186 parolees in the State. Please discuss the program and its efficacy.
 - a. What programs or services does the TASC program offer parolees?
 - b. What communities in the State does the TASC program serve and where are the offices located?
 - c. What is the cost of the TASC program?
 - d. What is the cost-savings to the State of the TASC program?
13. Last year, the JBC added \$124,000 through the Governor's Recidivism Reduction and Offender Diversion package for TASC. This replaced the loss of federal funds for this program, resulting in no net increase.
 - a. If the General Assembly were to expand this program by adding General Fund dollars, would it further reduce the bottleneck for parolee services?
 - b. Will we continue to see lower recidivism rates and further savings?

3:15 – 3:30 **Break**

3:30 – 4:00 **Decision Items**

Decision Item #2 – Parole

14. What would be the ratio of parolees to parole officers if this decision item were to be approved? Is this driven purely by caseload or is it trying to make headway in the ratio? If not, is it a strictly budgetary decision or has the department determined that the current ratio is acceptable?

Decision Item #3 – Parole Wraparound Services

15. Do these services include mental health services? Does this extend the amount of medications parolees would get beyond thirty days?
16. How long would a parolee be in the program? How do they select parolees for this program? Do they monitor this to determine the effectiveness?

Decision Item #4 – Mental Health Increase

17. Is this recognition that we should have been providing more services to existing inmates or is it strictly caseload driven? What is the ratio of providers to inmates for inmates with moderate to severe mental illness? What is the national average? How long will it take us to reach the standard? How is the standard established? What is the consequence of not achieving the desired ratios?

Decision Item #9 – Maintenance and Food Service Operating Increase

18. How has the Department absorbed the increased cost for maintenance? Have they used any vacancy savings to pay for these needs in the past? What are vacancy savings used for?

Decision Item #12 – Provider Rate Increase

19. Why did OSPB approve a 1.5 percent increase for private prisons and a 0.95 percent increase for community corrections? What is the logic?

4:00 – 4:05 **Numbers Pages**

20. Has the decrease in inmate caseload resulted in only needing a 6 percent increase in General Fund this year?

4:05 – 4:40 **Issues**

Estimated Prison Bed Shortage

21. How does the Department plan to manage the projected prison population growth given the shortage of prison beds, and does the Department envision relying upon private prisons or state-operated facilities to accommodate the shortfall?
22. How does the Department propose resolving the bed shortage issue?
23. Will the Governor's Recidivism Reduction and Offender Diversion package eliminate the need for new beds in the Department? If so, when will that occur? Are the impacts of those packages incorporated in the bed forecasts that LCS and DCJ make?

Five-Year Capital Construction Funds Request

24. Please discuss the Department's five-year capital construction plan, and specifically, how the State can fund the Department's capital construction needs and whether any alternative funding sources exist for prison expansion projects.

Shortage of High Custody Beds

25. Please discuss Department's short-term and long-term management plan for its high-custody inmate population, given the shortage of high-custody prison beds prior to and after CSP II is built.
26. How many administrative segregation inmates are there? How many were there in 2006? If the number dropped, why did it drop?

Percentage of Private Prison Beds

27. Please discuss the increasing percentage of private prison beds and whether the Department is comfortable with the estimated increase that is projected to occur over the next five years, assuming that no additional state-operated prison beds come on line (excluding CSP II and the DRDC expansion).
28. Will prison costs rise with the aging prison population? What types of special needs do aging inmates present to the Department?
29. How does the Department deal with reintegration issues associated with aging inmates being released? Do these inmates require a different reintegration strategy than younger inmates? If so, what types of issues?

External Capacity Footnote Flexibility

30. Please discuss the possibility of providing funding flexibility within the in-state private prison line item, and specifically how the Department would foresee using such flexibility.
31. What would be the expectations if additional flexibility is given? Will the Department promise some type of results from the flexibility, for example, decrease in recidivism rates? What type of conditions should be placed, i.e. reporting of actions taken?

Options for Reducing the Department of Corrections' Caseload

32. How many sex offenders are currently on lifetime parole supervision? How many disappear? Do they comply? Do they recidivate?

4:40 – 5:00 **Parole Board**

General discussion of Parole Board issues.