

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Joint Budget Committee

FROM: Steve Allen, JBC Staff, 303-866-4961

SUBJECT: Member Questions About the Department of Corrections

DATE: April 8, 2013

During 2013 figure setting for the Department of Corrections, the Committee asked several questions about the Department of Corrections. This memo responds to those questions:

1. Senator Lambert asked whether a recent court case had altered therapy and treatment of sex offenders.

Answer: Staff directed this question to DOC and to two attorneys who work with sex offenders. None know of any recent cases.

2. Senator Lambert asked whether there are inefficiencies in the way that DOC releases offenders from private prisons. Are these offenders released directly from the private prison or are they brought back into DOC for transportation to their release point?

Summary of an answer provided by DOC: Until recently offenders were not released directly from private prisons but were brought into a DOC transitional unit (typically Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility or Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center, Unit 5).

Towards the end of last year DOC began permitting direct releases from Cheyenne Mountain Reentry Center (CMRC) in Colorado Springs. The majority of those released from CMRC are paroling or discharging to the Colorado Springs area. Releases to Denver and other locations are still going through Colorado Territorial Correctional Facility to get a ride to Denver and beyond.

Few offenders actually release to the areas where private prisons other than CMRC are located. Public transportation via bus lines is extremely scarce in these areas, so most private prisons utilize CDOC Central Transport to get offenders to Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Denver for release.

3. Rep. Gerou asked about the contract that Colorado Correctional Industries (CCi) had with the Department of Corrections to perform various work at Fort Lyon Correctional Facility (FLCF).

Summary of an answer provided by DOC: The Department paid CCi \$29,638.66 per month under this contract. Among other things, the contract required Colorado Correctional

Industries to:

1. Provide supervision and control of CCI inmates during working hours.
2. Pay all inmate wages to assigned inmates.
3. Provide lawn and ground maintenance inside and outside the fence.
4. Provide snow removal inside and outside the fence.
5. Provide trash removal service to FLCF facility.
6. Refurbish and maintain FLCF resident housing, contract directly with resident housing population, and collect revenue through payroll deductions.

The Department notes that supervision of CCI offenders was the largest part of the CCI costs. Since the end of FY 2011-12 and the closure of Ft Lyon as a correctional facility, CCI is still performing some maintenance but is no longer being paid for that work.