

Department of Corrections

FY 2023 Operating/Program Review Responses Summary

A series of questions were submitted relating to the **population data** included:

- the number of individuals processed monthly at the Regional Processing Units
- the percentage of the population broken out by the type of stay, i.e. pre-trial, pre-sentenced, sentenced
- the profile of the charges of the incarcerated population, i.e. misdemeanor, felony, or unreported
- recidivism rate by fiscal year¹

SERVICE DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE

- During the budget process, the agency identifies, prioritizes, and then assesses the goals and objectives for the enhancement of service delivery and performance.
- The agency was asked a series of questions relating to its goal: to provide diversionary and alternative-to-incarceration programs.
- The agency provided information relating to FY 2021 and 2022 monthly in-house populations in comparison to alternative-to-incarceration populations². The Department delineated the number of General Fund (GF) sworn and civilian employees assigned to the alternative-to-incarceration programs (AIP). Additionally, the agency provided a detailed listing of alternative programs, the requirements for each, along with the number of participants within calendar year 2022³.
- *Goal: To provide inmate rehabilitative and reentry services.*
- The agency provided an update as to the status of alternative jail placement programs and policies that are established to divert individuals charged with misdemeanors (specifically trespassing, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest) from being committed to jails, especially if the individual is under the influence or has behavioral health issues. It was noted that the Justice Reinvestment Act issues citations for these aforementioned charges, or allows for an individual to be released on personal recognizance, thereby diverting them from jail stay. Additionally, the department offers a Pretrial Release Program and engages the Mental Health Court and Health Department to address behavioral health issues.
- The Department detailed the number of employees assigned to the Re-Entry Unit, the number of inmates who completed their sentences and were released back into the community, and the percentage of which that had established after care plans and were referred to after care services.
- DOC provided updates to the following programs and services which are provided:
 - Transitional and permanent supportive housing
 - Partnering with the Department of Social Services to initiate engagement for necessary social services proactively, while the inmate is staying at the facility, prior to release

¹ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Pages 1-2

² For the purpose of reporting, alternative-to-incarceration includes individuals in Home Detention, under electronic monitoring, case management, Community Release Center (CRC), and Community Service programs.

³ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Pages 2-4

- English for Speakers of Second Languages (ESOL)
- Service contract administration
- Facility/space needs associated with the expansion of the Community Corrections services
- Voter Registration efforts⁴
- *Objective: Increase the percentage of offenders placed into the Community Release Center (CRC).*
- The agency highlighted the number of employees working at the Work Release Center, in conjunction with the vacancies. It also provided a summary of workload indicators, accomplishments and impediments for the Center⁵.
- *Objective: Increase the percentage of the acute mentally ill inmates who transition from the behavioral unit to general population.*
- The Department provided an updated table relating to the minimum, average, and maximum monthly averages for juvenile and mentally ill populations. It included another table laying out the average length of stay for mentally ill vs. non-mentally ill inmates⁶.
- The agency noted that while no new program or policies have been implemented to combat the deficit in available resources to address the needs of the mentally ill inmates, it continues to work with the District Court's Mental Health Court and medical vendor to provide appropriate mental health care. A clinical case manager who works in conjunction with the vendor's mental health staff was hired. This position is responsible for coordinating necessary services with the vendor.
- The department outlined its existing partnerships with outside entities and programs that ensure continuity of services upon release/re-entry to the community⁷.
- Corrections discussed the success of the implementation of the Behavioral Modification Strategies and the update to the functionality of the Behavioral Health Unit and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. It was noted that approximately 40% of the general inmate population is diagnosed or estimated to have some type of substance abuse issue⁸.
- The agency provided an updated table of existing annual costs (and subsequent annual increases) to provide medical care for inmates. It noted that mental health disorders, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease were still the main issues presented by inmates⁹.
- The Department listed and described all of the existing partnerships with other government agencies¹⁰.

DEPARTMENT IDENTIFIED CRITICAL ISSUES

- The Department identified succession planning, recruitment and retention as the first critical issue that needs to be addressed over the next five fiscal years.
- The second critical issue identified was Employee Wellness.
- Technology Infrastructure was cited as the third.

⁴ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Pages 5-7

⁵ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Pages 7-8

⁶ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Pages 8-9

⁷ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Page 9

⁸ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Page 10

⁹ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Page 11

¹⁰ Agency Responses to FY 2023 Operating / Program Review, Page 11-13

- The aging facility (35 years old) needing extensive renovations, replacement of failing systems, and deteriorating infrastructure was identified as the fourth issue to be considered and addressed during planning and budgeting efforts.
- Spacing limitations due to construction projects agitate the jail overcrowding.
- Space constraints and needs to expand the Alternative-to-Incarceration Programs.

The full text of the issues, status, and plans to address the issues at hand are located within the 1st Round Responses to FY 2023 Budget Questions, pages 34-39.