

# NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Minutes of the

### CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Teleconference Meeting  
Thursday, December 6, 2007  
Harvest Room, State Capitol  
Bismarck, North Dakota

Representative Chet Pollert, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Members present:** Representatives Chet Pollert, Ralph Metcalf, Alon Wieland; Senators Tony Grindberg, David O'Connell, Bob Stenehjem

**Others present:** See attached [appendix](#) for additional persons present.

**It was moved by Representative Wieland, seconded by Senator Grindberg, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the November 5, 2007, meeting be approved as distributed.**

#### CORRECTIONAL FACILITY REVIEW STUDY

Chairman Pollert called on Mr. George M. Camp and Mr. Jeff Buck, Criminal Justice Institute, Inc., to present information regarding the [status of the correctional facility review study](#). A copy of the information presented is on file in the Legislative Council office. Mr. Camp said the project continues to remain on schedule.

Mr. Camp discussed placement parameters for inmates at the remodeled or new facilities based on the facilities' design to house 1,000 inmates. He said all maximum security inmates should be housed in the remodeled or new facilities. He said placement of medium security inmates should be a higher priority than placement of minimum security inmates for remaining beds at the remodeled or new facilities. He said the James River Correctional Center can house approximately 400 inmates.

Mr. Camp said it will take 1,000 operating beds and 85 "flex beds" for a total of 1,085 beds to safely house 1,000 inmates in the remodeled or new Bismarck area facilities. He said the flex beds are required for medical and disciplinary purposes, inmates on temporary leave status, and to provide prison administrators with flexibility in moving inmates within and between facilities. He said there are currently 660 operating beds and 52 flex beds at the State Penitentiary and Missouri River Correctional Center.

Mr. Camp said the capacity for the following major inmate program needs and service requirements should be increased to address the increase in inmates:

- Mental health interventions and support.
- Substance abuse treatment.
- Vocational training.
- Employment skill development.
- Reentry and transitional preparations.
- Gang renunciation.
- Cognitive skills (countering criminal thinking).

Mr. Buck said the remodeled or new facilities should be contemporary and focus on reentry and other programs that are essential in today's environment. He said existing issues at the State Penitentiary include outdated facilities with limited space, no fire access road, no direct housing support for treatment, and outdated locking systems in high security housing. He said the large housing units are hard to supervise and do not allow for manageable groups and treatment programs. He said existing issues at the Missouri River Correctional Center include a number of substandard buildings, the distance to the Penitentiary, limited facilities for programs and support, and utilization of the facility for inmates with a rating higher than minimum security.

In response to a question from Senator O'Connell, Mr. Camp said the remodeled or new facilities will require additional staff because of the increase in inmates that will be housed in the facilities. He said the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is currently understaffed and the base level of staff should be increased.

Mr. Camp said upcoming tasks of the project team will include refining program needs, estimating space requirements, and formulating a model design concept for housing 1,000 inmates.

In response to a question from Representative Metcalf, Mr. Dave Krabbenhoft, Director of Administration, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, said the department's current inmate count is at 105 percent of operating capacity. He said the flex beds are an important tool for inmate management.

Chairman Pollert said the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

The meeting adjourned subject to the call of the chair at 10:50 a.m.

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Becky Keller  
Fiscal Analyst

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Jim W. Smith  
Director

ATTACH:1