

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

Minutes of the

INCARCERATION ISSUES COMMITTEE

Monday, August 29, 2016

Dakota Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Center, 440 McKenzie Street
New England, North Dakota

Senator Ron Carlisle, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present: Senators Ron Carlisle and John Grabinger; Representative Kim Koppelman; Citizen Members Leann K. Bertsch, Thomas Erhardt, Rozanna Larson, Scott Steele, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem

Members absent: Senator Terry M. Wanzek; Representatives Ron Guggisberg and Jon O. Nelson, Citizen Members Judge Douglas Mattson, Presiding Judge Frank Racek, Aaron Roseland, Chief Justice Gerald W. VandeWalle, Randy Ziegler

Others present: Senator Rich Wardner, Dickinson, member of the Legislative Management
Mike Schatz, State Representative, New England
See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

It was moved by Senator Grabinger, seconded by Ms. Bertsch, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the July 25, 2016, meeting be approved as distributed.

Chairman Carlisle called on Ms. Barb McGillivray, Director of Women's Services, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, for testimony (Appendices [B](#), [C](#), [D](#), and [E](#)) related to the women's correctional facility. She said when she began working for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Dakota Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Center (DWCRC) housed six inmates. She said the department has the capacity to house between 225 to 235 inmates at various facilities throughout the state, with 125 available beds at DWCRC.

Ms. Rachele Juntunen, Warden, Dakota Women's Correctional and Rehabilitation Center, said by the time the majority of female inmates come into the system, their addiction is chronic. She said the majority are intravenous drug users with very little support.

In response to a question from Chairman Carlisle, Ms. Bertsch said, at times, women of Native American heritage make up 40 percent of the female inmate population.

In response to a question from Representative Koppelman, Ms. Bertsch said the majority of the female inmates will receive treatment at Tompkins Rehabilitation Center; however, inmates must have a minimum custody level to do so.

In response to a question from Chairman Carlisle, Ms. Juntunen said inmates at DWCRC have industry programming that is similar to the male inmates housed at the State Penitentiary.

In response to a question from Chairman Carlisle, Ms. Bertsch said DWCRC is contract housing.

In response to a question from Representative Koppelman, Ms. McGillivray said drug use rates have not changed, but the length of time individuals are imprisoned for drug offenses has increased.

In response to a question from Chairman Carlisle, Ms. Juntunen said most of the female inmates incarcerated for selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a school were not aware of their proximity to a school when making the sale nor were they intending to sell to children. She said the DWCRC has become an addiction assessment center with nearly 70 percent of inmates staying for 90 days or less.

In response to a question from Chairman Carlisle, Ms. McGillivray said the majority of the female inmate population would do well on parole.

In response to a question from Senator Grabinger, Ms. Bertsch said the regional human service centers are not able to provide adequate services to the inmates upon release.

In response to a question from Representative Koppelman, Ms. McGillivray said the use of Pell grants from the federal government allowed inmates to take a full semester of credits while incarcerated. She said without the use of the grant program, a college education is out of reach for most inmates.

No further business appearing, Chairman Carlisle adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Samantha E. Kramer
Counsel

ATTACH:5