



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

JAMES DZURENDA
Director

BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE
Secretary of State

ADAM LAXALT
Attorney General

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS**

MINUTES

The Board of Prison Commissioners held a public meeting on Tuesday, May 15th, 2018.

The meeting began at 9:30 am the following locations:

Meeting Location:	Old Assembly Chambers State Capitol Building 2nd floor 101 N. Carson Street Carson City, NV	Video Conference:	Grant Sawyer State Office Building Room 5100 555 East Washington Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89101
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1. Call to Order

Action: The meeting was called to order by Governor Brian Sandoval.

Attendance: Governor Brian Sandoval; Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske; Attorney General Adam Laxalt

Department Attendees: James Dzurenda - Director; John Borrowman - Deputy Director Support Services; Kim Thomas - Deputy Director Programs; Harold Wickham - Deputy Director Operations; Sheila Lambert, Policy, Programs and Grant Administrator

Public: Refer to [Item 1 Exhibit](#)

2. Public Comment.

Action: Public Comment heard from Carson City resident, Paul Corrado, who provided a handout of his testimony. Mr. Corrado commented on providing laptop computers to inmates and offered to donate \$2,000 for them. He proposed a grant for pre-release testing. He asked about ID theft measures. He went on to discuss eliminating the \$5,000 per volunteer for workman's compensation insurance. He commented on DNA testing for prisoners and then discussed the alternatives to violence project. He also recommended making credit classes part of the money smart class from the FDIC and making it easier for inmates to get their annual credit reports. Refer to [Item 2 Exhibit](#)

3. Acceptance and Approval of Minutes – March 1st 2018 meeting.

Action: Attorney General Laxalt pointed out a name correction needed in the minutes. Attorney General Laxalt moved to approve the Minutes with the correction and Secretary of State Cegavske seconded the motion.

Acceptance and Approval of Minutes was passed unanimously with the correction. [Link to 3/1/18 Minutes](#)

4. Presentation and Discussion of Report of Chief Medical Officer pursuant to NRS 209.382 – Chief Medical Officer or designee – For Discussion Only. This item was not presented at this meeting. However it will be on the next Board of Prison Commissioners meeting agenda. Governor Sandoval stated that in the future, the materials/reports are still needed even if there is not going to be a formal presentation.

5. General update – James Dzurenda, Director – For Discussion Only.

a. Telemedicine

Deputy Director John Borrowman discussed that partners in the community are willing and interested to increase participation in this; however the lack of broadband available is a hindrance to this project. He explained that there are several miles worth of fiber optics that would need to be installed to connect the last miles between current fiber optic highways and NDOC facilities. He said they are working with the Governor's Office of Science Innovation and Technology (OSIT) and discussed alternatives. There

have been meaningful discussions with the Department of Administrations Enterprise IT Services (EITS) division. They do see telemedicine being expanded hopefully in the next budget cycle; however it does require an infrastructure solution. Governor Sandoval clarified the rural locations and asked about the microwave process. Deputy Borrowman explained that data transmission is currently sent via cable to a sending port and then it gets uploaded to a microwave tower that transmits it to a receiving tower where the data is put back onto fiber optic cables to complete the transmission to the receiving facility. The economy of scale would be to lay fiber optic cables the last mile to the institutions. The last mile is a conceptual figure of speech they are using which could mean as much as 20 miles. Governor Sandoval said he knew that the town of Beatty is connected to the Internet somehow via their electric company and thought this might be looked into. Deputy Borrowman stated that they have not yet received their estimates from a private provider; however, the provider has stated if they do lay down the additional cable, it would increase their customer base outside of NDOC which would enable them to distribute that cost onto others so that it would not be exclusively NDOC paying for it. Secretary of State Cegavske said that this has been discussed in legislature for years and she thought this was worked out with the community colleges and University system but evidently it hasn't expanded all the way out yet. Governor Sandoval said he was going to reach out OSIT and speak with Mister Mitchell about the situation. He said increasing the telemedicine is a great opportunity.

b. Overtime and Budget

Director Dzurenda compared the fiscal budget from last fiscal year when they were 13.9 million in overtime costs to this budget year at 11.0 projected, almost \$3 million less this fiscal year. He said that they are working on policies and procedures, monitoring and guidelines on requirements for shakedown cell inspection searches and things that play a factor in safety and security that may cost over time. They are listing out mandatory minimums that will be required so everyone can see what they will not go below so the staff sees that they are not jeopardizing safety and security, as that is a priority.

Director Dzurenda discussed the 200 inmates are still in Saguaro prison in Eloy, Arizona. They still need to stay there while the current housing projects that will gain NDOC up to 400 beds continue. In Nevada there still are 217 inmates in nonconventional housing that is not affecting over time. He said they are also working on ADA projects at NNCC so they have to remove proximally 90 inmates at a time to work on specific areas.

- c. Capacity Analysis (*See Item 5 Exhibit 5c*) Director Dzurenda discussed that the more inmates they received the more they have to house. He said they look at 3 things at intake: parole violations, probation violations, and new commits from the County courts and jails. He said all of these items have increased since February. He said monthly inmate discharges have gone down. The Parole Board's grant releases in March were 353 and in April there were only 203, which is a significant drop in inmates being released. He said traditionally in the summertime the intake numbers tend to go up. [Item 5c Exhibit](#)

Director Dzurenda said that overtime has significantly decreased in emergency room visits to outside hospitals. This plays a large factor in overtime costs. This is due to NDOC currently having more staff that can provide emergency medical services in the prison, such as sutures, that they have not had in the past 2 years. He said although fewer inmates are going to the hospital, more are staying in the hospital for greater length of time.

- d. Quarterly LCB Report – Core Civic/Saguaro ([Item 5d Exhibit](#)) Director Dzurenda said this is constantly monitored. The majority of inmates in Arizona are in single cell status so if they have to be moved back to Nevada that takes up two beds in Nevada which increases their overflow. He said they do look at compassionate returns from Arizona such as an inmate whose grandmother/caretaker was put into hospice so that he could be near his family. He said they have recently connected video visitation between Las Vegas and Arizona so that family can still see their loved ones. Director Dzurenda said there

are currently 200 minimum-security beds open so they have been reviewing classification to see if they could lower inmate scores so they could move to these beds; however this has not made a difference as most inmates are medium security. Director Dzurenda said more violent inmates are coming into the system, which are medium or high security. He said they reviewed inmates on ICE detainees and is waiting for confirmation from ICE as to the inmates status; if they're going to let them go at the end of their sentence or if they're going to be deported. If they are going to be deported, then they have to stay in medium custody, not minimum.

Director Dzurenda said as of today the current population was 13,229 and there are 272 inmates past their parole release dates waiting for housing which falls under parole and probation. Governor Sandoval asked why it was taking so long for the construction at Southern Desert Correctional Center. Director Dzurenda said that as each phase finishes early, it's difficult to get the contractors for the next phase to come and begin early as they have other jobs they are working on in the community. Director Dzurenda offered contractors the option of working 24 hours a day.

Governor Sandoval brought up the issue with the parole board. He asked if there were more parole revocations than traditionally and why are there not as many inmates being paroled. He brought up that legislature spent the money to put parole and probation officers in the prisons to case manage these inmates so that when they come before the parole board they'd be more amenable to a grant of parole. Director Dzurenda said having the PNP officers in the prisons just went into effect this January and February. He said that each month the parole grants have gone down but he does not know why. He said that since October the parole and probation violators have increased. Governor Sandoval asked if they had analyzed what these revocations are for; are they technical violations? Director Dzurenda said the department does receive the reasons for the violations and revocations but they have not researched any data backwards to compare the reasons; however they will begin to do so now.

Sheila Lambert explained that with the opening of the community day center they had expected reductions in violations particularly when it came to substance abuse. She said they are currently running reports to identify why people are technically violated with no new charges. The Community resource center was meant to get individuals into various programs, treatments, and activities that should have reduced new offenses.

Governor Sandoval asked given the current increase in numbers, are they going to have to consider building a new prison? Director Dzurenda looked at the 10 year plan for capital improvement last year and would have told you yes then; however at this time he does not think it will be necessary. He said there are minimum-security facilities that, with upgrades, could be made into medium security facilities for the ICE detainees which will open up 200 to 400 beds. He said his capital improvement projects include adding mental health and medical housing in northern Nevada that will move 200 to 400 inmates out of the regular population. Director Dzurenda said once he gets these projects approved and also opens unit 8 at Southern Desert that will equal approximately an entire facility's number of beds. Attorney General Laxalt asked if Director is looking at sending more inmates to Arizona to alleviate the overcrowding issue. Director Dzurenda stated that once the other buildings are open and inmates are moved back from the overflow housing into the remodeled housing units, they will actually be able to bring inmates back from Arizona. Attorney General Laxalt thanked Director Dzurenda and said he has been incredibly innovative in this space and that he appreciates his efforts. Secretary of State Cegavske also thanked Director Dzurenda.

6. Re-Entry update – James Dzurenda, Director – For Discussion Only.

a. Statewide Recidivism Reduction

Sheila Lambert shared that the recent recidivism report since Director Dzurenda came on board and with the support of the Governor's office that recidivism has reduced by 1.6%. In terms of dollars that is a savings of \$2.8 to \$4 million of just over 200 inmates not coming back to the prison system. Over 85% of inmates who recidivate have some sort of substance abuse issue associated with their crime. NDOC is working to expand and enhance current substance abuse programs to continue to improve the recidivism rate.

b. Second Chance Act Grant

Sheila Lambert explained that year 2 expires September 30th and NDOC is confident they will receive year 3 of the funds. Ms. Lambert and Elizabeth Coleman represented the Director at the Bureau of Justice meeting in Washington, DC. Because the success of NDOC's efforts, they are now mentoring and partnering with other states like Alaska on their initiatives. Working with the Department of Health and Human Services with great support from Dr. Ravine, they will be standardizing their mental health assessment to the Locust, the same that DHHS uses for continuity.

c. Birth Certificates

This initiative has been operational for the past quarter. They are working with Mexico and Puerto Rico partnerships. Director Dzurenda said they were originally only given two contract staff to work on this initiative but now are utilizing inmate welfare funds to begin hiring staff to increase this effort. Director Dzurenda said he has personally met with staff at the detention centers in Clark County and statewide juvenile services to discuss starting at their point with obtaining birth obtaining certificates. This will help speed up the process.

Ms. Lambert wanted to add to the record that through the Bureau of Justice and Crime Institute Nevada has been selected to conduct a statewide forum on public safety in September 2018. The forum will revolve around recidivism and the inmates that the programs are appropriate for.

Governor Sandoval asked if inmates are being signed up for Medicaid so that they can receive behavioral health and substance abuse counseling they may need as part of their release plan to be successful. Ms. Lambert explained that there is a pilot program in northern Nevada, for inmates in the re-entry program, where their Medicaid eligibility is being evaluated. A number of those inmates are being placed within Freedom House or Ridge House where various community partners can help continue that care. They have just started this program in southern Nevada and are looking to expand this to every corner of Nevada.

7. Administrative Regulations – James Dzurenda, Director – For Possible Action. (*See Item 7 Exhibits*) Since Secretary of State Cegavske had to leave the meeting early, they took item 7 before item 6. Governor Sandoval said they would only discuss substantive issues on the AR's since punctuation and grammar could be handled after the meeting. Secretary Cegavske said Chief Deputy Secretary of State Scott Anderson would represent her on this agenda item. Chief Deputy Secretary Anderson had several questions that Director Dzurenda clarified. Attorney General Laxalt moved to approve all the proposed AR's with the inclusion of the suggested revision to AR 209. Governor Sandoval seconded the motion and it passed.

http://doc.nv.gov/About/Administrative_Regulations/Administrative_Regulations/

8. Public Comment – There were no additional public comments.

9. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY, MONTH OF MARCH 2019

Governor Steve Sisolak

Secretary of State Barbara K. Cegavske

Attorney General Aaron D. Ford

Transcribed by Cynthia Keller, Executive Assistant, Nevada Department of Corrections