



Iowa Board of Parole Strategic Plan FY 2019 and Beyond

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I. Introduction

In September 2019, the Iowa Board of Parole undertook a strategic planning exercise to identify areas of focus for future development of the Board and its members.

II. Mission Statement

To enhance overall public safety by making evidence-based and informed parole decisions for the successful re-entry of offenders into the community to become productive and responsible citizens.

III. Goals

- Utilize evidence-based practices in the decision-making process.
- Promote supervised release at the appropriate time and level.
- Enhance a collaborative working relationship with stakeholders in the criminal justice system.
- Foster a deliberation system that respects the interest of the public, victims, and offenders.
- Be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Iowa.
- Be vigilant in acquisition of knowledge and process improvement.
- Continue as a nationally-recognized leader among paroling authorities.

IV. Strategic Priority--Reduce recidivism while managing the prison population through:

A. Training and Professional Development

- i. Utilize the collective wisdom and resources of the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI), including participation in the annual training conference and other nationally recognized paroling/corrections associations.
- ii. Participate in facility and field location visits to gain better understand operations and facilitate open and active communication across agency boundaries.
- iii. Review intervention programs utilized in Iowa and similar states and explore if those programs would be beneficial to our offender population.
- iv. Utilize a current compilation of intervention programs that include their primary area of focus.
- v. Continue the practice, when feasible, of including an educational.

component in each business meeting to learn about and remain up to date on current practices, research, data, and legislation that affects paroling activities.

B. Analysis and Data Sophistication in Conjunction with Department of Corrections

- i. Review recidivism rates and identify patterns.
- ii. Review revocation activity to identify patterns.
- iii. Evaluate and continue to develop evidence-based policies and practices.

C. Stakeholder and Public Outreach

- i. Enhance and maintain the Board's website for purposes of providing accessibility to information pertaining to Board operations, meetings, and schedules.
- ii. Enhance partnership with Department of Corrections policy makers.
- iii. Enhance partnership with the Community Based Corrections system.
- iv. Enhance the notification system for registered victims.
- v. Assist the Governor, when requested, to collect and make recommendations for clemency and commutation of offender sentences.

D. Population Review Program in Conjunction with Department of Corrections

- i. Develop and enhance the Board's methods for identifying cases and target populations to review via periodic internal reviews of the prison population.
- ii. Review candidates at the appropriate time for release consideration.
- iii. Research and evaluate alternatives to traditional revocation.

V. Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Status

Reduced or status quo budgets will most likely reduce the amount of screening days for the Board to review releases and, therefore, fewer releases.

VI. Fiscal Year 2019 and 2020 Appropriations and Concerns

Reduced appropriations will impact FY 2019 and FY 2020. The most likely impact will be a reduced amount of screening days for the Board to review releases, and therefore, fewer releases.

VII. Potential Adverse Consequences of Legislation

Any unfunded mandate, for the development of new processes, risk assessments, etc., will have adverse consequences on the Board's operation. This effect will be magnified if the budget is reduced any further or if additional appropriations are not provided to make up for increased costs such as staff salaries and benefits.

VIII. Conclusion

The Iowa Board of Parole, along with staff members, in cooperation with the Department of Corrections and with the Governor's Office approval, will focus its time, energy, and effort on the strategic priorities outlined in this document in a fiscally responsible manner.