

Good afternoon,

Thank you for inviting Department of Corrections (DOC) Director Colette Peters to provide an agency overview to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation on Monday. This info is being provided to address the follow-up items that surfaced during the meeting.

1. With respect to education and promising results that impact recidivism, by race, provide a breakdown of who is participating in education.

DOC has a total of 2,987 adults in custody (AICs) who have an education need and 1,016 (34 percent) of them are currently enrolled. Below is a breakdown of enrollment numbers as well as numbers based on need.

- Adult Basic Education enrollment (do not have a high school diploma or GED):
 - Asian AICs are 2% of total enrolled students.
 - Black AICs are 11% of total enrolled students.
 - Hispanic AICs are 22% of total enrolled students.
 - Native American AICs are 5% of total enrolled students.
 - Pacific Islander AICs are 1% of total enrolled students.
 - White AICs are 59% of total enrolled students.

- Data for each race based on need:
 - 31% of Asian AICs with an education need are currently enrolled in education.
 - 38% of Black AICs with an education need are currently enrolled in education.
 - 31% of Hispanic AICs with an education need are currently enrolled in education.
 - 45% of Native American AICs with an education need are enrolled in education.
 - 34% of Pacific Islander Asian AICs with an education need are currently enrolled in education.
 - 34% of White AICs with an education need are currently enrolled in education.

2. What can DOC do to help with outreach to increase participation?

DOC's new Education and Training Administrator started in June of 2020. With COVID-19 and the education contracts being front and center, the department is now turning to the following plan for the Education and Training Unit in 2021.

- Conduct AIC survey to identify barriers and other reasons AICs are unable or choose not to participate in education programming. This information could then be used to make decisions on how to increase participation in education.
- Work with intake staff and institution counselors to ensure the need for and benefits of education is consistently emphasized in case planning and in behavior change plans.
- Ensure AICs have education information and support they need and make it available in various forms of media (e.g., Spanish, sign language).
- Incentivize meaningful education gains by awarding AICs work assignments with higher PRAS points for completed educational programming.
- Create a brochure outlining DOC educational opportunities and provide audio/visual information on institution AIC television stations.
- Engage AIC tutors to lead group discussions with other AICs about education and encourage them to get involved.
- Find ways to provide more and varied hours of education to accommodate work schedules.
- Obtain funding to support online educational opportunities.

3. How many AICs have been released to commutation due to COVID-19?

As of January 28, 346 adults in custody have been released.

4. Does DOC have any statistics related to recidivism rates on any of these releases?

DOC has prepared for recidivism research for the COVID-19 commutation population by designating the commutations with a special termination code in the DOC database. Due to the need for a sizeable cohort and a comparison group, the Criminal Justice Commission has not yet started tracking the outcomes of those releasing on commutation. The analysis of recidivism trends will begin in July 2021, after the earliest commutations have been in the community for a year. This will be compared to individuals released around the same time without commutation.

5. What efforts has DOC taken to help increase AIC ability to have audio and video contact with family and friends during the COVID-19 pandemic?

There was a cost reduction, but it was mainly from the change in contractor. DOC initially had a price reduction from \$7.50 to \$5.88. DOC has adjusted video call schedules based on facilities abilities to accommodate more sessions. This is a facility by facility action, not universal. DOC has limited the ability to conduct back-to-back video calls to ensure more AICs have the opportunity to use the service. The previous vendor provided some free calls. When DOC transitioned to the new vendor, they provided two (2) free 15 minute calls and one (1) free video call per AIC during the holiday season.

A demonstration of the impact can be seen in the data. DOC had an 80 percent increase in video call volume. Below is the comparison of how many video calls occurred during the same time period in 2019 vs 2020. (This time period was selected as July was the implementation date of the new system.)

- July - December 2019
58,707 video calls
- July - December 2020
106,028 video calls

Phone calls were reduced from \$0.16 to \$0.09 and phone usage increased by 46 percent.

- July - December 2019
Phone: 22,549,865 minutes
- July - December 2020
Phone: 32,976,790 minutes

6. What is the cost to send electronic messages?

AICs pay \$0.25 to send each message. There is no charge for them to read messages. Family and friends pay \$0.25 for each message they send to AICs.

If there are any additional questions, please feel free to contact me.



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