

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Commissioner's Office

PO Box 112000
Juneau, AK 99811
PHONE: (907) 465-4652
FAX: (907) 465-3390

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OVERVIEW

Mission: To protect the public

- Unified department: oversees sentenced and pretrial prisoners; one of six states with a unified system.

Deputy Commissioners:

Dwayne Peoples (Juneau)

- Responsible for: budget, administrative function oversight, medical services; serves as Legislative Liaison

Sam Edwards (Anchorage)

- Responsible for: department operations, population management, Arizona contract.

Divisions:

Division of Institutions; Director Garland Armstrong

- 12 institutions
- Total 3,122 beds; 3,232 emergency capacity
- 15 contract jails with 153 beds
- Seven Community Residential Centers with 614 beds
- Seven contract treatment centers with 26 beds
- Corrections Corp. of America holds 1,060 prisoners at Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona
- Electronic Monitoring (EM) supervises 194 offenders in Anchorage, Ketchikan and Fairbanks. 95 percent commit no new crimes.
- Out-of-state placements: 17 (14 in federal prisons for protective custody, 2 in Washington for dialysis treatment).

Division of Probation and Parole; Director Donna White

- 13 field probation offices
- Supervising 5,560 offenders

Division of Administrative Services; Director Shar Griffin

Since December 4, 2006:

- Assembled management staff including special assistants
- Held first executive meeting to outline goals and direction
- Held ethics training for executive staff
- Formed a committee to outline a new statewide offender program plan; the goal: to allow prisoners to transfer without losing their place in a program
- Amended media policy to include review of victim impact; pending review, signature.
- Worked with Matanuska-Susitna Borough and AHFC through Assembly prison site selection vote

Works In Progress:

- Staffing review: ensure staff work where their position is budgeted.
- Move Electronic Monitoring (EM) to Division of Probation and Parole (move staff to ACC, impact 75,000 overtime hours annually)
- Move CRCs to Division of Probation and Parole; field staff can better manage caseloads outside facilities.
- Population Management: review soft bed usage
- Analyze medical costs and reasons for increases
- Revise Arizona transport protocols; focus on quarterly use of U.S. Marshal's Service jet
- New prison design and construction
- Programming task force
- Point Mackenzie

Goals:

- Thorough review of hiring/promotion process
- Reorganize, consolidate, relocate Anchorage Central Office
- Examine regional expansion needs
- Promote team concept
- ACA accreditation: 1. policy review including reference and compliance with standards; 2. audit training plan; 3. audits. Value of accreditation with ACA: consistent statewide operations, nationally recognized standards, Clear oversight dropped in part as department moves toward accreditation.

Challenges:

- Aging facilities ... except for Anchorage Jail, facilities are 18 years or older.
- Aging prisoner population
- Recruitment ... of 780 CO positions, 726 filled; new prison will challenge system.
- Population management
- Overcrowding ... in FY 06 averaged 250 over capacity, FY 07 mid-year 150 over capacity with 70 recently moved to Red Rock.