**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**
***ADMINISTRATION***
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Dear Governor, Chief Justice and 2016 Legislators:

The South Dakota Corrections Commission met three times during calendar year 2015. The first meeting was March 30 at the South Dakota Women's Prison in Pierre, SD and included a tour of the facility and Pierre Community Work Center. The second meeting was June 29 at the Black Hills Correctional Transition Center in Rapid City, SD and included a tour of the facility and the Canyon Hills center located in Spearfish, SD. The third and final meeting was held on November 2 at the Yankton Community Work Center and included a tour of the facility. Commission members also attended parole hearings and the meeting of the Board of Pardons and Paroles at Mike Durfee State Prison and toured the facility on November 3.

The focus of the Corrections Commission is to assist the Department of Corrections (DOC) in examining various criminal justice issues, developing initiatives and to approve the use of certain funds from the prison industries revolving fund to enhance, develop, or expand prison industries.

## 2015 DOC Related Legislative Bills:

Michael Winder, Communications and Information Manager for the DOC provided an overview of the 2015 state Legislative session and two new laws that will impact the Department of Corrections at the March Commission meeting.

**SB 29 An Act to create auxiliary members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.**
Bill creates a new section to South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 24-13 to allow members of the Board of Pardons and Paroles to serve as auxiliary members of the Parole Board for a period of four years following the conclusion of their regular term on the Board. Auxiliary members would not have to appointed by the Senate, but would have the same statutory powers and privileges as other Board members with some exceptions (no more than one could serve on a single hearing panel and no auxiliary members could serve as a hearing officer or Board chairperson).

**SB 73 An Act to improve public safety regarding juvenile justice.**
Bill is the product of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative work group; requires focusing placements on youth who pose a public safety risk and preventing deeper involvement in criminal justice system for youth with lower-level offenses and improving

outcomes by expanding access to evidence-based interventions in the community.

## Department of Corrections Topics Reviewed by the Commission:

**Updates on the Public Safety Improvement Act:**
The updates included information on the current status of Earned Discharge Credits (EDC) for parolees, Tribal Pilot project, validation of the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R), Community Transition Program Housing contract, Evidence Based Practices training, and other changes in the management of offenders on parole, status of the county reinvestment fund and establishment of performance measures by the oversight council.

**Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act (Senate Bill 73):**
Secretary Kaemingk presented the Commission with various updates and information regarding the Juvenile Justice Reform Initiative. Commission members received information from Doug Herrmann, Director of Juvenile Services on key policy areas of the Act which involve the DOC. Some of these include diversion placement of juveniles, development of community based intervention services, performance measures, and recommendations provided by the Oversight Council. Commission members had an opportunity to tour a juvenile contract facility where some DOC juvenile offenders are placed. The Commission also received an explanation regarding educational funding for juveniles placed in state custody.

**STAR/Custer Transition Update:**
Secretary Kaemingk briefed the Commission on the closing of the girl's campus, located in Custer State Park and moving the female juvenile offenders to the STAR campus. While the male and female offenders will for the most part be separated, the consolidation allows the DOC to more efficiently utilize its staff and other resources. The consolidation was driven by the declining number of juvenile offenders placed in DOC custody. The east campus was turned over to the Department of Game Fish and Parks for their utilization and possible future development.

**Briefing on Implementation of Restrictive Housing:**
The Commission was briefed on the implementation of a new restrictive housing unit established at the South Dakota State Penitentiary by Secretary Kaemingk. The unit houses inmates meeting criteria that identify them as requiring a restrictive housing environment. Inmates placed on restrictive housing status are provided programming opportunities and individualized plans for progression with a goal to transition the inmate back into the general population. The DOC will work to reduce the number of inmates that release/discharge directly from restricted housing back into the community.

## Commission Membership Changes in 2015:

State statute requires the Commission be composed of two senators and two representatives from each political party. Representative Mathew Wollmann was appointed by the House Majority Leader to replaced Representative Lance Carson who

did not seek re-election to the House of Representatives. Judge Randall Macy was selected by the Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court to replace Judge Robin Houwman who was assigned to serve as a criminal court judge.

In accordance with the Corrections Commission by-laws, the election of officers was held during the March meeting. Senator Craig Tieszen was re-elected as Chair and David McGirr was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

The other standing members of the Commission include, Mark Anderson, Tim Bottum, Senator Jim Bradford, Judge John Brown and Representative Pat Kirschman.

The Commission voted to approve certain revisions to the bylaws during the November meeting.

The Commission is committed to assisting and supporting the Department of Corrections in its mission to protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to DOC custody by the courts, to provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation.

Respectfully,

Senator Craig Tieszen, Chair
South Dakota Corrections Commission

c.c.
Secretary Kaemingk
Corrections Commission