



## IOWA BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MINUTES Friday, September 27th, 2024

**Board Members Present:** Chair Rebecca Williams, Vice Chair Webster Kranto, Trent Keller, Jim Kersten, Denise Bubeck, Jay Nelson, Alexa Perez

**Staff Present:** Director Skinner, Nick Lamb, Sally Kreamer, Paul Cornelius, Jennifer Andeson, Jennifer Rathje, Maureen Hansen, Steve Dick, Bob Fairfax, Roxann Scheffert, Darin Cox

**Visitors Present:** Susan Smeldon, Larry Smith, Michelle Alfano, Richard Nordin, Amanda Littrel, Mary Cohen, Darcy Schultz

### **Call to Order, Chair Rebecca Williams**

- Chair Williams asked for a motion to approve June 7, 2024 meeting minutes.
- Jay Nelson would like a correction on the June 7th minutes. Right before public comments while discussing volunteers the question was asked if there had been consideration for the level of supervision for volunteers depending on the custody level of the institution. The response was "It did not matter about the size of the institution" Custody level has nothing to do with size of institution, the minutes should reflect "Does not matter what the custody level is, they are going to continue as a department to supervise at the same level no matter what."
- Chair Williams would like a motion to revise the June 7th minutes. Can I have **motion** from a board member? Trent Keller called for a **motion**. Alexa Perez **seconds motion**.
- Chair Williams calls for the June 7th minutes to be revised by Beth and approved.
- Our next board meeting will be Friday November 1st and that will be in person at the office. (A meeting notice will be posted on the DOC website: <https://doc.iowa.gov/>)

### **Welcome - Director Beth Skinner**

- Welcome to Jen Rathje, our new legislative liaison. She came from the Department of Education and we are very excited to have her with us. She has got a lot of experience and a lot of knowledge. She is going to be our main person across the street. Welcome Jen, and welcome to the board.
- In June I traveled to Anamosa and held a feedback forum. Their staff had the opportunity to talk with about the good things they are doing and any concerns they may have. Very productive Forum.
- On June 20th, we had the Employee Recognition Ceremony. We got to recognize all the amazing things that our staff are doing. There were 171 Life Saving Awards that were given out. We also gave out Excellent Safety Volunteer of the Year, Humanitarian Award, Special Recognition, Agency Employee of the Year, Supervisor of the Year.
- In July I hosted another feedback forum at the Second District. It was a great forum. Great opportunity to meet with staff and hear about the great things that they are doing and meet with leadership.
- Another thing that we did in July, if you have seen Governor Reynolds press release, the Iowa Department of Corrections, along with Iowa Prison Industries, Homes for Iowa are going to build five new homes for disaster impacted communities.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:  
**Creating Opportunities for Safer Communities**

- Celebrated in July Probation, Pretrial and Parole supervision week. All the districts had various events to support their staff and stay thank you for the work that they are doing.
- In August we were at the Iowa State Fair where we had a great turn out. We will continue to do that every year. A great way for us to recruit and work with our communities.
- In August another site visit at the Fifth District and a tour of Fort Des Moines, Fresh Start, and got to talk with staff. Great feedback forum again.
- September 18th we were at Brushy Creek Park for Corrections Emergency Response Team Challenge. There we had 16 teams from all over the state doing various competitions. Team Fort Dodge won the challenge.
- Chair Williams' states a resounding request, that these all sound like great events and I'm always hugely in favor of invitations because we do have board members from all over the state and I think we can all benefit from going to those types of events. I will just renew my request for that.
- Director Skinner states she would love to have you there and the team would love the support. Trent was at the award ceremony. We will make sure to have a good cadence everytime we have events like this and to invite the board members.

### **Budget Updates - Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager**

- We are closing out the fiscal year, FY24, and finalizing that in the next couple of days with getting reports into the state's financial system. We finished in good order on the positive side.
- FY25 everything is looking good and we always have deficits to climb out of and we are working towards that with the districts and institutions making strides.
- The new health insurance and dental insurance rates came out and we are lower than we had been projected. That will be some savings that will contribute towards meeting the budget at the end of the year.
- We are now working towards the FY26 proposal for the Governor's office and the Department of Management request is due at the end of day Monday.
- There are three documents that were shared with the board members. The first, General Fund FY26 Budget Request, is a status quo request. The only change from what was given to each of the institutions, districts, and central office appropriations is our distribution of our department-wide funds that we did in the current year. We are putting those where they reside so that they all start with their full appropriation. This is a status quo budget, a total of 442 Million. \$290,151 will be asked for in general fund dollars.
- Jim Kerstens mentions that this time last year we had to do a status quo budget, like all agencies are asked for by the Governor. At the end of the day what was our net increase after the legislature adjourned because it was not status quo, but I can not remember what it was. I just know that they have a different kind of approach to budgeting this year, they have an excessive amount of money in their savings accounts. So anything we can do as a board to support trying to get additional funds for the department. We would like to without stepping our bounds. We know that there is a huge need for infrastructure, technology-wise for the department as well as staffing. Steve Dick mentions he appreciates that very much. We did get a 2.76% increase from FY 24 to FY25. In the current year we received 2.76% more which equates to not quite 12 million dollars.
- We will have additional conversations with the Governor's office and others as to identifying any needs that we might have. Beth will have those conversations. She will be glad to have your support.
- Jim Kerstens asks that with the changes in the Federal Rules about long distance charging, what kind of overall net impact negatively was that on the department on an annual basis? Steve Dick states we have identified we actually receive a small percentage of each call that is made. I believe we were charging 11 cents a minute, we got 3 cents a minute towards the general need for an inmate. That is used across the department for different things. I'll bring this up at the next meeting for how we will spend those funds this year.
- Jim Kerstens asked how much is that? Steve Dick answers that we typically get around 1

million dollars. Some of the things we spend that on is we send \$500,000 to our education department to fund relationships with the community colleges for secondary education, vocational education. We also fund a position that we have with Workforce Development and the DOT for reentry types of relationship, and also the inmate library which is about \$83,000. There is about 1 million dollars we are spending on an annual basis that is right now coming from that fund. This will be one of those things where we make requests for replacement funds. Jim Kerstens thanks Steve for his response.

- The handouts for Technology Reinvestment Funds (TRF) and Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Funds (RIIF) are funds that do not meet the status quo budget request; we can not ask for additional funds for these projects as they are not general funds.
- RIIF needs are major infrastructure needs throughout the state. We are asked to identify projects throughout a five-year cycle. The Infrastructure Appropriations Committee actually determines what may or may not be funded for both of the funds (TRF and RIIF).
- We have identified certain things for funding for FY26. I will highlight Fourth District for a new Residential Unit that will help with homelessness and treatment in the community. Air conditioning projects at Mount Pleasant and ASP. The perimeter security fence at Mount Pleasant. At Newton the hot and cold water loop system. Those are our highest priority and are the things we would ask to be funded first. The total that we'd be asking for for FY26 is a little over 228 million dollars.
- Jim Kersten and Denise Bubeck brought to our attention that the Board Members Packet was missing the Capital Budget Request document for RIIF. That will be sent to all board members after the meeting.
- Technology and Reinvestment Fund: This is over five years. We've prioritized items that are security and safety-driven towards the top of our lists. We have received money the last two years for camera systems upgrades and replacements. We're asking for an additional million dollars towards those projects.
- We want to make sure that we have consistent equipment and software throughout our department at all of our sites. This is a platform called Genetech that we're looking to implement and that's been in conjunction with the Department of Management and DOM DoITT.
- Also on the list are additional body cameras, tasers, forklift project, ASP taut wire system upgrade, fencing issue at ASP and more. A lot of these definitely deal with safety and security of our staff and our institutions. These are one-time dollars that are given through the technology fund not general funds. We've got a total asking FY26 of a little over 3.4 million dollars.
- Jim Kertens asks at some point when you sell the farmland you're gonna have a plan built to present to us about how that money should be invested in priorities for their department's needs. Is that correct? Steve Dick answers that is correct. There is farmland sale on today's talking points as well.

### **Newton Correctional Facility Farmland (Action Item)- Bob Fairfax**

- We are getting ready to sell the farmland at Newton and we need board approval to proceed with that process. It may be visually easy for the board if you can see the map of the farmland on the screen. The sales agent is Farmers National and they've divided it into four plats to maximize the value of the property for the department.
- Plat one is in the upper left-hand corner and is about 161 acres. I will move clockwise from the upper left hand corner to visualize the areas. The total value of all of these acres will be between \$8.5-\$9.5 Million depending on the value to the bidders at the time, and the farm values out there in the marketplace.
- Plat two is right below plat one which is one of the bigger plots. It's three and almost 400 acres of prime ground.
- Plat three which is at the very bottom is about almost 500 acres, this is the largest section that

- has woodland and farmland.
- Plat four, which is to the right around the institution and around the Prison Industry Program that is at the CRC. There's not a lot of crop ground in that, and it's about 276 acres.
- The total farmland being sold after the withholding for security and safety measures for the institution is around 1300 acres. What we're asking today is the board's approval to proceed forward with this. Once that is done, it will go out on the marketplace. Everything has been appraised and everything's been reviewed by Michael Savala, the AG's office lawyers review and Department of Administrative Services.
- Trent Keller asks if any other land is available that needs to be sold closer to the facility or is that all of the land to be sold? Bob Fairfax answers this is the land at Newton, which is most of the farmland. There is a small section of land that is where the Homes for Iowa program is located, and then just to the north of that, there's a little land expansion for the department which we will keep.
- Trent Keller has a follow up question on if this is going to be one buyer or parceled out to multiple buyers? Bob Fairfax states that the sales agent wants to maximize the land sale by dividing it into four parcels, as one person may want two parcels, while someone wants the entire land and will place a bid on that to which it will go through the Department of Administrative Services. Director Skinner will have final approval before any of the bids are accepted.
- Chair Williams states I expect this goes without saying, and we certainly don't want to have to build more facilities or have more space but that is always in the background correct? That we're not selling land that we would later regret? Director Skinner answers no, we have had some discussions around that, there's no concerns with that Becky. Chair Williams thanks Director Skinner for her answer.
- Chair Williams calls for a motion to approve the sale of the farmland at Newton. Board Member Trent Keller **approves motion** and Board Member Jim Kerstens seconds **approval for motion**.
- Chair Williams accepts the sale of the Newton farmland, **motion approved**.

### Homes for Iowa - Bob Fairfax

- Director Skinner had mentioned that we had the ability to help the Governor's office get some homes available for anybody affected by some of the natural disasters.
- The program is at the Newton Correctional Facility and we use Incarcerated Individuals workers from the release center. Each day will have between 65 and 80 of the Incarcerated Individuals working the job site. These homes are built in a field.
- There are 8 Incarcerated Individuals participating in an apprenticeship program. If not in the apprenticeship program, incarcerated individuals will receive a certificate for which job they specialize in.
- We're looking at by the end of this calendar year to have delivered 35 homes across the state.
- Delivered our 100th home to Perry, IA on August 13th.
- Job Fairs with contractors continue to be a valuable resource for Incarcerated Individuals to gain employment upon release
- Our goal next year is 42 homes and we'll continue to expand that. We have some expansion plans to the north. We would like to expand and bring individuals down from the institution. There's a lot of different security issues that we'll have to address prior to that.
- Iowa Prison Industries has public/ private partnership with Homes for Iowa, Inc. They will market/ sell the homes, while we build and deliver the homes.
- The homes are delivered by a semi with the house on a trailer. It requires a lot of coordination on our part as we have to work with the DOT and the individual counties, along with state patrol for escorts.
- The homeowner has a responsibility checklist that needs done before home is delivered
  - Foundation with either a crawl space or basement, inspected by us before home is

- placed
  - Dirt pad for moving crew to place home on
  - Securing house to foundation once set
  - Installing stairs to the basement (if that option is chosen)
  - Trim for the base of the house (i.e metal flashing, vinyl)
  - Hooking up utilities (electric, water, etc)
  - Installing toilets, flooring and appliances
  - Backfilling dirt around the foundation
- The cost of the house is \$99k, before adding the foundation and everything on the checklist, it will be in total around \$255k, you're looking at about \$183 a square foot. Great program for the incarcerated individuals as well as citizens of Iowa for providing affordable housing.
  - Chair Williams states there was a great article in Cedar Rapids about the relationship between the DOC and Homes for Iowa. Is there any way you can get the word out with some statistics of how many individuals have gone on to get jobs and how successful they've been? As well as how long they have been working? Bob Fairfax states right now they are working for us, and we can not do anything without their permission first once released. An example is one individual who went through the apprenticeship program who is already a certified electrician, and is looking for jobs. We also have had a painter who has since graduated the program and is released and has his own company. Around 3 other individuals have been through the program and are employed.
  - At Iowa Prison Industries we do not have a board, as that has been eliminated but I am looking at adding an advocacy group that can help promote us about opportunities. We share a lot of success stories on the website. When we have more success stories I will be sure to let the Board know. Website to view those stories on is [www.iaprisonind.com](http://www.iaprisonind.com)
  - Board Member Trent Keller asks Bob if any of the individuals from the apprenticeship program come back to motivate the group and talk about the IPI program when they were there and want to now help others by volunteering or work? Bob Fairfax answers yes, we do have a lot that want to come back. We have to meet all the security clearance requirements to bring them back. We have had some come back to talk about how this will benefit their future and hearing it from individuals who have been through the program means more to them. As for individuals who want to come back and work for IPI, we are an unfunded part of the department as we do not have appropriations, but we can look at anyone if they are off paper and meet all requirements. They would be interviewed the same as anyone else would be.
  - Board Member Denise Bubeck mentions it would be cool if looking for more business to build cabins for state parks. Have you ever looked into this kind of partnership? Bob Fairfax answers we have in the past worked with the DNR before we got out of the furniture business. We had looked at building them off site at Newton and transporting them there, at the time it had been put through a bid process and there were some other construction companies that needed the business out there and got the bid. We could look into doing something like this, we could look at it being another partnership of Homes for Iowa or as a separate item, and we have worked with the DNR a lot before.
  - Bob Fairfax adds that at the State Fair there was a Homes For Iowa house on display and it did bring a lot of foot traffic to the department.

### **Maureen Hansen Retirement - Sally Kreamer, Deputy Director of CBC**

- Maureen has worked for the department since July 1988. She has been given many years of service. She's done a lot for the Third District. I just personally want to recognize her service. She's just done a tremendous job. I would like to recognize her and for the board to wish her well.
- Maureen Hansen states in a previous retirement for a staff member he made the comment that he said it's a noble profession. Service or public service position that your reward isn't necessarily monetary, but your reward is all of the lives that you have an opportunity to impact

and the connections that you make along the way and the focus on all of the people who live in our communities. We have a great team of people. The staff make it easy because they're so committed. They try their very best every single day, and the compassion that is shown is evidence. I'm just, I'm grateful to have had this opportunity. Thank you very much.

- Chair Williams states on behalf of the board, I would like to thank you for your service as well.

### **Education Update / Secondary, Post Secondary, IETs - Katrina Carter**

- I wanted to introduce the team that makes up division, Sarah Lynch is our Re-Entry, CQI Specialist. Rohey Sallah is our Post-Secondary Education Coordinator. Jennifer Seal is our Registered Apprenticeship Program Coordinator and Sandra Smith is our Secondary Education Director.
- Contracts for Secondary Education are being wrapped up. Secondary education is working with community colleges to provide HiSET Adult Basic Education while people are incarcerated. For Secondary Education, Sandra is working on reports for Title One, Perkins and Special Education funding.
- For Post-Secondary Education on July 1 of 2024, the Pell Grant was reinstated for people who are incarcerated. We went through a process of Pell Education in Prison or PEP applications from community colleges and universities. Seven were approved by the Department of Corrections. Team consisted of Board of Parole member, corrections staff, person with lived experience, and Iowa Colleges Aid.
- We went through all of the applications and are pleased to announce that people who are incarcerated will be receiving Post-Secondary Education training through Des Moines Area Community College, Iowa Central Community College, Iowa Western Community College and Southeastern Community College, and Upper Iowa University. Upper Iowa is able to provide the post-secondary with associate, all the way up to a bachelors. Also, Grinnell University. We will be adding Co College to provide Post-Secondary programming at Anamosa. These seven higher education institutions are working with the Federal Government to be approved by the Feds to finish the process of applying for Pell funding.
- Once we have all of those logistics and everything worked out, we're excited that we will also be able to provide post-secondary education at the Iowa Medical Classification Center. All nine of the prisons will not only have Adult Basic Education with secondary and HiSET but all nine institutions will have the opportunity to work on higher education.
- We have 30 Registered Apprenticeship programs throughout our nine institutions. Soon we will be providing a Graphic Design Registered Apprenticeship Program, at a couple of our institutions. This will be piloted before opening up to all institutions and/or districts.
- IET stands for Integrated Education and Training. Our team is Chad Squires with Homes for Iowa, Mike Williams who is with Iowa Workforce Development with Adult Basic Education, Jennifer Seal our Registered Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, Rohey Sallah our post-secondary. IET is an evidence-based strategy that helps Incarcerated Individuals and those returning to their communities and jobs. IET Programs combine Adult Basic Education, job training, and work programs to help individuals gain practical skills and experience that will be useful after release. The programs are designed to create pathways from secondary credentials to college and career tech and to prepare individuals for a successful transition back into their communities. We will keep the board and the public informed as we continue the progress with the IET.
- Denise Bubeck asks when talking about IETs if DOC, Workforce Development and your partnerships, have ever visited The Well in Pella? The Well works alongside workforce development, they are in Pella, Knoxville and Fairfield, possibly Boone. They would be a great partner too as they do a lot of re-entry work with individuals. His name is Jason Henry and this would be a neat opportunity to see that connection point. It would be a great collaboration.
- Denise Bubeck will send Katrina the contact information for the Pella contact. Katrina will include Denise in the email discussion chain for this potential partnership opportunity.

- Trent Keller asks Katrina Carter what are the qualifications for incarcerated individuals to receive Pell Grant money to start secondary education? Katrina responds that she does not have all the answers for that, however, the individuals will work as a community college pathway navigator and fill out the FAFSA and the process will start there. Katrina is going to provide more information to Trent on the specifics.
- Trent Keller asks Katrina Carter a follow up question, is the opportunity still available for individuals who have had student loans or Pell Grant money who may not have finished, go through a program/ course even if unable to get some of the funding to take the course? Will there be a long wait, or will they need to work inside the institution to try to pay off of their student loan debt first? Is there anyone who is not qualified? Katrina will look into this, she knows that Co College and Grinnell University provide higher education learning opportunities at no charge for individuals who are incarcerated, with that Co and Grinnell did not go through the Pell application with Feds. There are two opportunities there for individuals to receive higher education that the classes are transferable. There are pathway navigators who assist individuals on what options they have if they owe or are in deferment. I will be sure to get you and the board the details on this.
- Jim Kerstens echos that with his involvement at Iowa Central in Rockwell City, Fort Dodge our staff help walk through the FAFSA application process. The requirements for a Second Chance Pell are the same for college students who are outside of the prison facilities. I am happy to also provide any information on this as well.

#### **Volunteers in Prison - Nick Lamb, Deputy Director of Institutions**

- We are in the process of easing some restrictions regarding allowing how volunteers come in. There are obstacles when it comes to volunteer groups such as group size or what is allowed to be brought into the institution, time of hours for business, etc. This is a slow process. We have eased some restrictions for our lower security facilities when it comes to staff supervision, to make it easier for those facilities. Not so much for higher level facilities.
- Denise Bubeck thanks Nick for following through, as volunteer groups are one of the biggest questions that she gets. Thank you for keeping us up to date as it's always a concern.
- Nick Lamb follows up that the only concern right now is that the volunteer groups want to bring in literature and that can turn into attempted contraband, or that volunteer groups want to bring in large groups which is a struggle due to staffing.
- Chair Williams reads a public question asking if we allow volunteers to go through staff training? Not at this point, they do have some training if they are approved, but it is not staff training.

#### **Protective Custody Visits - Nick Lamb, Deputy Director of Institutions**

- There are two facilities that are allowing in-person protective custody visits during certain times of the week. These are not on the same day as regular visits due to security reasons. Facilities include ASP and Fort Dodge Correctional Facility.
- The visits are aimed at long term protective custody individuals that qualify. We are trying to move long term PC individuals to ASP or Fort Dodge so they will be able to have visits. Incarcerated Individuals are very appreciative of this.
- Chair Williams directs Nick Lamb to a public comment asking if there is staff to oversee this program as facilities are still short staffed? Depending on the facility, they will still be supervised. At lower security facilities staff will make rounds and they will be under direct video surveillance. They will still be supervised.

#### **Public Comments - Public**

- Susan Smeldon: I have stated in the past that a policy does not mean law. I have concerns about Newton. They are taking away bedding which is bought at \$100. If one is placed in the hole they throw the bedding away. If they are not able to mail to home, they will destroy it.



That money is coming from us. Another concern is that if you are in college at Newton and are thrown into the hole, even if you are an “A” student, they will pull you from class. This needs to be addressed. Third concern is solitary confinement. The United Nations standard minimum rules prohibit solitary confinement for more than 15 days. Iowa State Code 356.14 state solitary confinement for no more than 10 days for any one offense. I can speak from experience, my son got put in there on the 8th and was released on the 26th, because of a fraudulent ID of being a Ninja Turtle.

- Richard Nordin states he is on the Board for Iowa Cure. We continuously get complaints about the stoleness of the Pigeonly mail service. I’m here today for one of our members who for several years sent weekly Bible Studies to individuals in Iowa Institutions and they have not been going through. He contacted the Iowa Department of Corrections in refer to Pigeonly where he got no help. I checked with the Public Library and they provided the contract number and link. I wanted to let anyone listening today know that that information can be provided from the public library. The contract also states there are no service expectations listed. The contract comes up for annual review in February. Correspondence with Mr. Dick last February about increasing the piece rate for the service to \$1.25. I would ask for the public's help to try to figure this out and for your help from the Director, the Board, and Mr. Dick. My question is whether there is any monitoring of the service or any plan to use your leverage that you have once a year to improve the contract to improve service.
- Larry Smith: I would like to continue to advocate for air conditioning for Anamosa and Mt. Pleasant. I have been advocating since August of 2019. There were two studies done in 2019, one came in at \$900,000 for Anamosa and \$1.3 Million for the air conditioning at Mt. Pleasant. In September 2023, Board Member Keller asked Steve Dick if there was going to be sufficient funding or if there was sufficient funding for the AC at that time. A year ago, Steve Dick replied there were expected funds to be sufficient at that time. Later in November 2023, Steve Dick told Keller that funding was still adequate. Come April 2024, Steve Dick said there is not enough funding for the air conditioning, and that it was based on future land sales. My question is what is the predicted date to start into these projects? The second thing I would like to address is that the board, probably 3-4 years after the incident at Anamosa, that staff were starting to wear black shirts that said Stronger Together which was detrimental to the gravitation of the staff and inmates as being “them against us”. The shirts are starting to appear in the prisons again and my question is why?
- Amanda Littrel: I’m honored to serve as the newly elected Executive Director of lowans Unafraid. I come before you today on behalf of our organization with a shared commitment to fostering a safer community. We are seeking the opportunity to collaborate with both the Newton Correctional Facility and our local judicial districts to provide individuals with the necessary resources for successful reintegration into society. Our initiatives that we are working on include the establishment of a support group for our members, a directory of available therapists, and assistance in securing employment and housing. Additionally, we aim to provide a comprehensive resource list for individuals who are seeking legal representation. We believe that with the cooperation of the Department of Corrections, we can make a meaningful impact in the lives of those reentering society. We welcome the opportunity to discuss our proposal further and we can be reached anytime at [lowansunafraid@gmail.com](mailto:lowansunafraid@gmail.com). I want to thank you for the attention and allowing me the opportunity to speak today.
- Mary Cohen: I'm a music education professor at the University of Iowa and a big congratulations on reestablishing higher education in prisons. At one point when I used to lead the Oakdale Choir, we had a University of Iowa Liberal Arts Beyond Bars Program. That was really powerful. I have plenty of peers at the university that would love to reestablish higher education. Today, though, my comment is about a couple things. Basically, punitive measures are problematic. In Iowa there's been over 11 years since a life without parole sentence was commuted. And without art space programming, there are more opportunities



for all staff assaults. In my work with Oakdale Prison choir, I've noticed that bringing people from the community provides a really meaningful bridge for both inside and outside, and to transform attitudes toward people in prison. We need to build relationships. so my point today is to include more arts-based programming.

- Darcy Schultz: I'm speaking to you today because I'm concerned with the two people who have died. They shared it was Newton Correctional Facility. They went to Newton for treatment and died there rather than getting the help. Their names were Pete and Malga, Malga was only 23 years old. What I asked is that you investigate, what really happened? Because if this happens twice it will happen again. I also would like to remind you that Pigeonly is a terrible mail system. It takes three months for mail to arrive. I feel it's really a deliberate effort to break communication between incarcerated people and their loved ones. As an Iowa and taxpayer I find it offensive that Iowa contracted outside of Iowa. Pigeonly is in Nevada. I hope the board will help the DOC to find a better way for incarcerated people to receive their mail.
- Michelle Alfano: I'm with lowans Unafraid. I want to tell you that the issue of top concern at Newton continues, that the DOCs multidisciplinary team is sending 80% of cases that are ready for release to the Attorney General for additional review. I think Newton is about 20% overcrowded. This brings me to Malga's death. There is not sufficient infrastructure to support this overcrowding at Newton. Malga did not receive the urgent medical care he needed. In April of this year, I asked you as the board to make an advisory request of Brenna Bird's office to review and clear these cases that are waiting at her office. I make this request to you again. I ask that you contact Brenna Bird's office and request that she review the MDT cases in a more expedient way.
- Chair Williams asks how the public questions will be responded to? Director Skinner answers this will be in written format, and will be responded to before the next board meeting.

#### **Open Discussion - Board Members**

- Chair Williams states that with no discussion taking place we will move forward with the Adjournment of Meeting.

#### **Adjournment - Board Members**

- Chair Williams asks for a motion to adjourn. Trent Keller, ***motion***. Chair Williams asks for a second motion. Alexa Perez ***seconds motion***. Chair Williams will now close the September Meeting of the Board of Corrections. ***Meeting adjourned.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Dehne, Executive Officer