



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Scott Walker | Secretary Jon E. Litscher

Corrections Facilities Planning Committee

Background

2017 Act 59 created a corrections facilities planning committee, charged with developing a comprehensive, long-range master plan concerning Department of Corrections facilities.

Mission

The purpose of the committee is to evaluate the ability of the Department's adult correctional facilities to adapt to current and future operating and occupancy pressures and identify solutions. The scope of review is all adult facilities statewide, over a ten-year period looking forward from fiscal year 2020.

Objectives

Evaluation of Existing Adult Institutions and Centers

Conduct on-site evaluations of existing adult institutions and centers, focusing on:

- Physical conditions of each facility
- Mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems
- Environmental, health, and safety issues
- Security controls
- Bed space
- Educational and vocational program spaces
- Food service operations
- Laundry facilities
- Availability of utilities
- Identification of existing vacant buildings and recommendations for next steps
- Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act requirements

Aging Facilities

Consider the lifecycle of existing institutions and the benefits of repair and maintenance contrasted with the cost of upkeep, lack of equipment replacement parts, and added value of modern facility designs. Study the impact on operations as facilities age. Evaluation may include discussion relating to a possible public-private partnership regarding funding and construction.

Population Growth

Analyze impact of inmate population count, current and projected, on bed capacity shortfalls in a cost-efficient manner. Consider the impact of legislation on inmate population projections.

Evolving Inmate Health Care Needs

Obtain a better understanding of facility features necessary to provide specialized medical care as a growing number of inmates require living or program accommodations, increased access to medical resources due to mental health issues, complications associated with aging such as a lack of mobility or diminishing cognitive ability, poor physical health, or other impairments that prevent an inmate from being fully independent.

Workforce

Review the location of facilities and the available workforce to support facility infrastructure and operational needs, with a point of emphasis on staffing needs.

Programming Needs

Review space requirements of new programming needs or heightened needs and resulting impacts on facilities. This includes:

- Earned Release Program
- Inmate adult basic education and career technical education programs
- Primary programs such as anger management, substance abuse, cognitive behavioral, domestic violence, sex offender treatment, and employment
- Aging population
- Re-entry efforts with an emphasis on vocational-technical college certified programs

Implementation

Prepare site-specific recommendations and budgets required to address capacity and facility shortfalls along with proposed implementation schedules and phasing recommendations for the long range.

Committee Membership

- The committee is composed of members appointed by the Governor, one of whom the Governor shall designate as chair of the committee, and six members of the Legislature, jointly appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Majority Leader.
- Members will include representatives of the Departments of Corrections and Administration, and other departments as additional areas of needed expertise are identified.

