

December 11, 2019 - Governor's FOCUS Committee on Criminal Justice Reform  
State Capitol, Room G15, Des Moines, Iowa

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

The roll was called. All committee members were present except Janelle Melohn. John Koufos appeared by phone. A quorum of committee members was present.

Tim Lane made a motion to adopt the minutes for the December 2 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Miller. The minutes were adopted by voice vote.

Lt. Governor Gregg made opening remarks. He presented the committee with three draft potential recommendations from the committee's fourth meeting:

- Adopt Fair Chance Hiring for Public Employers
- Create a Competitive Grant Program to Support and Enhance the Reentry efforts of Nonprofits
- Issuance of Certificates of Employability

The Committee discussed the potential recommendations and decided not to include a recommendation on certificates of employability

The Committee was presented with recommendations from the Iowa-Nebraska NAACP, Right on Crime, and Crime Victim Assistance Division.

The Committee then discussed a draft report of recommendations to the Governor:

- Automate the Voting Rights Application upon Discharge
  - Betty Andrews reiterated support for an executive order granting voting rights to all discharged felons.
  - After discussion, the committee chose not to include an executive order in the Committee's recommendations.
- Create an Inventory of Community Programs
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Create a Value Process Map of Reentry in the Community
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Create a Competitive Grant Program to Support and Enhance the Reentry Efforts of Nonprofits
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Increase Completion of HiSET by Incarcerated Individuals over Age 21
  - The Committee added language recommending DOC adopt a tiered approach to increasing HiSET completion, which considers age and release date, among other relevant factors.

- Coordinate Delivery of Post-Secondary Education in the Prison System
  - The Committee added language stating that academic holds should be subject to safety and security considerations.
- Create a Post-Release Educational Pathway
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Advocate for Full Authorization of Second Chance Pell Grants
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Expand Treatment Capacity in Prisons
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Realign Community Based Corrections Staffing to Focus on Treatment
  - The Committee added language recommending additional training for Board of Parole and the judiciary on the risk assessment level system and appropriate conditions of parole and probation.
- Streamline Conviction Review for Occupational Licensing
  - The Committee added language recommending that licensing boards should be able to deny licensure for convictions that do not involve an unreasonable risk to public safety.
  - The Committee added language allowing predeterminations of license eligibility to be based on certain conditions.
- Adopt Fair Chance Hiring for Public Employers
  - The Committee added language specifically describing fair chance hiring policies and defining public employers.
  - The Committee added language to the recommendation that would allow the governing body to adopt reasonable exceptions to the policy.
- Continue Employer Outreach
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Expand Workforce Reentry Services in Prisons
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- Establish "Second Chance Employer" designation
  - The Committee added language that recommended the designation be in an online searchable database.
- Ensure Reentering Citizens have Access to Mobility Services
  - The Committee made no substantive changes to the draft recommendation.
- The Committee added a recommendation to review driver license suspension and revocation sentences to evaluate the necessity of those unrelated to traffic safety.

Lt. Governor Gregg moved for adoption of the committee's recommendations, Beth Skinner seconded. The recommendations were adopted unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 3:07 p.m.