



Date: March 13, 2012

To: Joint Committee on Corrections & Juvenile Justice Oversight

From: Jeremy S Barclay, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Corrections

RE: KDOC Topics of Interest for Study

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) respectfully requests that the Joint Committee on Corrections & Juvenile Justice Oversight (JCCJJO) examine the following two issues:

- 1) Mentally ill. The KDOC has been faced with an ever increasing amount of offenders who are classified as mentally ill. In our current system, 34% of our inmates have that diagnosis. With this dramatic of an increase in the mentally ill within an incarcerated setting, additional challenges are presented for both managing, housing, and treating said offenders. Suggested time: 30-45 minutes
- 2) VOD. The KDOC's Office of Victim Services offers a unique program called Victim/Offender Dialogue (VOD) that gives victims a chance to begin a conversation with the offender who harmed either themselves or their family member while the inmate is still housed within a correctional facility. It is a very interesting program facilitated by a trained victim service staff member and is contained within the Restorative Justice model of services. This would be designed as a 20-30 minute informational piece.
- 3) Programmatic update. For the past several years, the KDOC has had its programs budget slashed by millions of dollars and watched the majority of the capacity for rehabilitating offenders be eliminated just to be able to continue affording everyday operations. At the same time, longer sentences were being ordered and the population of the correctional facilities began rising again. Because programs are a primary method of lowering recidivism, the KDOC requested increased programmatic funding during the 2012 legislative session. This topic will provide the opportunity to demonstrate what programs may have been restored after the legislative session ended, and what further programs the department hopes to offer. Suggested time: 30 minutes

Please contact me if you have any further questions on these topics, or if I can be of any additional assistance. Thank you.

**Joint Committee on Corrections and
Juvenile Justice Oversight
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Attachment 1**