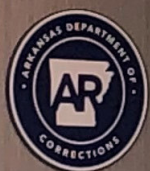


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ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS
SECRETARY'S REPORT

Pursuant to A.C.A. § 25-43-403



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Corrections is to be a public safety resource for Arkansas families by providing professional management solutions and evidence-based rehabilitative initiatives for offenders.

CORE VALUES

Accountability

We consistently demonstrate pride, enthusiasm, and dedication to achieve department goals.

We welcome feedback and coaching, expecting to be held accountable to the department's behavior expectations.

Innovation

We embrace best practices and are open to new perspectives, processes, and technology to ensure long-term success.

Integrity

We adhere to the highest ethical and moral standards in everything we do.

Professionalism

We ensure our actions, attitude, communication, and attire are professional as we serve others.

We willingly work together, regardless of personal differences or areas of responsibilities, to serve others.

We work to expand community, stakeholder, and inter-agency partnerships and engagement.

Respect

We demonstrate through our words and actions that we truly care about the safety, well-being, and success of every person.

Transparency

We maintain public trust and support by being open with our practices and sharing appropriate information in a timely manner.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

INTRODUCTION

Dear Partner,

Act 413 of 2021 created a reporting requirement for the Secretary of each Cabinet Level Department to provide an update on the state of operations for the Department. As it relates to the Department of Corrections (the DOC), this requirement is now codified at A.C.A. § 25-43-403. As I was gathering information for my report, I realized this was an opportunity for me to share the uniqueness of the DOC that many people do not realize exists. The Divisions making up the DOC have always had a great working relationship. Our current operational structure allows us to strengthen and benefit from those existing relationships, while increasing operational efficiencies and effectiveness. Our current structure also allows us to aggressively work to sustain a culture that supports and implements fact-based programming, interventions and services.

The DOC's most important resource is its employees. Thousands of men and women provide a wide variety of custody, supervision, treatment, programmatic, educational, and support services, among others, every day. These services collectively make a tangible difference in the lives of Arkansans. We will remain intentional in our efforts to competitively recruit and retain professionals who are eager to engage in a public service career within this Department. This report highlights their achievements. Their diligence has allowed the DOC to maintain critical services throughout the impact of a pandemic and create opportunities for operational enhancements.

While we have found ways to address the challenges posed by COVID-19, there are challenges still on the horizon that the Department and State must jointly face. The first is that secured facility and community supervision populations are projected to grow over the coming years. We must have meaningful conversations about these trends and the resources needed to meet them. In addition, we must review the compensation structure for custody, supervision, treatment, and food service positions within the DOC. These roles are essential to the long-term viability of DOC operations. There have been very justifiable calls to advance the state of law enforcement over the last year. For those calls to be answered, our profession must be able to attract and retain the committed professionals mentioned earlier in this letter. I hope this report provides insight into the DOC. We remain committed to the public's safety and to providing professional management solutions and evidence-based rehabilitative initiatives for the offenders we serve. Your continued partnership is essential to moving the DOC forward.

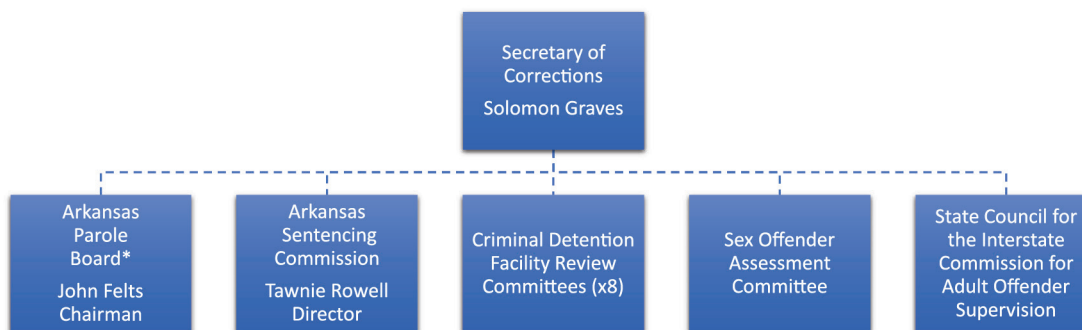
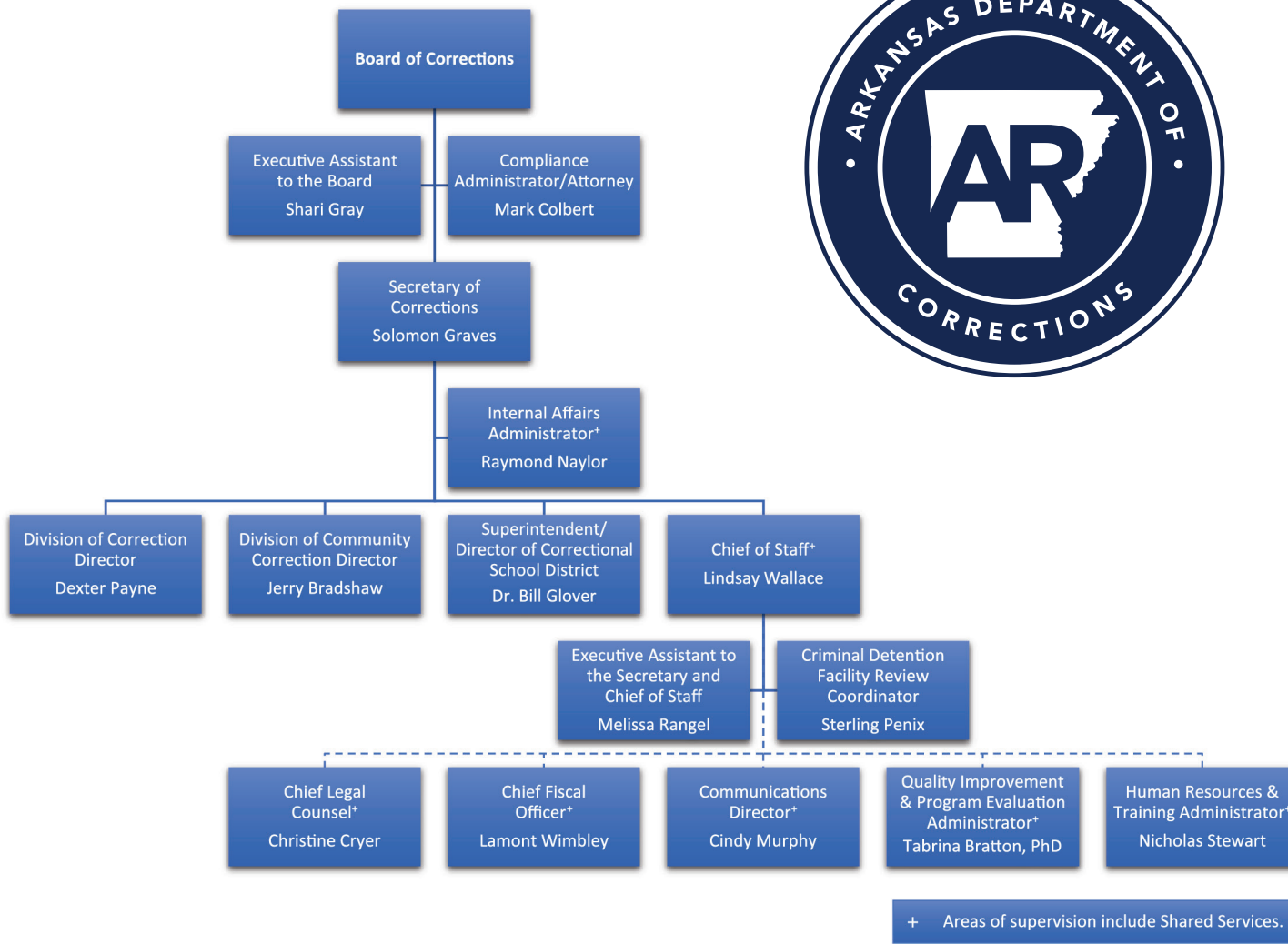
Thank you in advance,



Solomon Graves
Secretary of Corrections

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Secretary of Corrections oversees the ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS of these entities. The entities exercise all other duties independently.

*The Parole Board has a consultative relationship with the Department of Corrections. The Board Chairman serves as the chief executive, administrative, budgetary, and fiscal officer of the board. The Chairman coordinates with and receives input, review, and recommendations from the Secretary of the Department of Corrections.

ARKANSAS BOARD OF CORRECTIONS

MEMBERS

The Board of Corrections is the governing body of the Department of Corrections. The purpose of the Board of Corrections is to manage correctional resources in the state such that offenders are held accountable for their actions, victims' needs are addressed in a positive manner, and the safety of society is enhanced. The specific powers and duties of the Board were established by Amendment 33 to the Arkansas Constitution and are codified in A.C.A. § 12-27-105 and § 25-43-401.



Benny Magness
Chairman

Appointment Expires:
December 31, 2025



Bobby Glover
Vice Chairman

Appointment Expires:
December 31, 2027



Rev. Tyrone Broomfield
Secretary

Appointment Expires:
December 31, 2024



John Felts

Appointment Expires:
January 14, 2026



Dr. William "Dubs" Byers

Appointment Expires:
December 31, 2021



Dr. Whitney Gass

Appointment Expires:
December 31, 2023



Lee Watson

Appointment Expires:
December 31, 2026

**Board of Corrections
Key Staff:**

Mark Colbert
Compliance
Administrator/
Attorney

Shari Gray
Executive
Assistant
to the Board

ARKANSAS BOARD OF CORRECTIONS | COMPLIANCE DIVISION

SUMMARY OF DOC LITIGATION/COMPLIANCE REPORTING

The Board of Corrections' Compliance Division reports that the number of gender discrimination and sexual harassment claims against the Division of Correction remains low at this time.

The Board of Corrections has continued to function effectively despite the COVID-19 pandemic. They have utilized remote technologies to hold public meetings, which has prevented significant delays in securing necessary approvals for the Department. The Board has continued to provide innovative ideas and support for the Department's goals.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Solomon Graves
Secretary of Corrections



Dexter Payne
Division of Correction
Director



Jerry Bradshaw
Division of Community
Correction Director



Dr. Bill Glover
Superintendent/
Director of Correctional
School District



Tawnie Rowell
Sentencing Commission
Director



Lindsay Wallace
Chief of Staff



Sterling Penix
Criminal Detention
Facility Review
Coordinator



Christine Cryer
Chief Legal
Counsel



Lamont Wimbley
Chief Fiscal
Officer



Tabrina Bratton, PhD
Quality Improvement
and Program Evaluation
Administrator



Cindy Murphy
Communications
Director



Nicholas Stewart
Human Resources and
Training Administrator

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

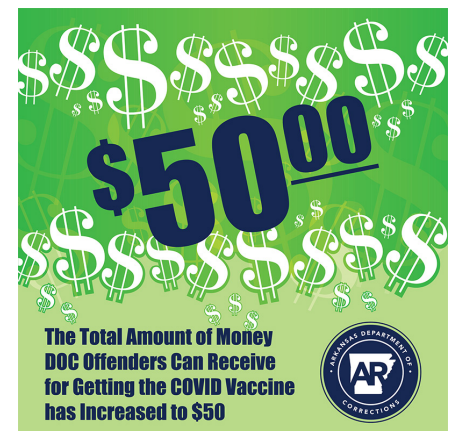
COVID-19 RESPONSE

The DOC is continuing to monitor the impact that COVID-19 is having on our facilities and offender populations. We continue to remind staff and offenders to engage in the safe practices that have been identified by the CDC and Arkansas Department of Health throughout this pandemic – masking, frequent hand washing, hand sanitizing, and social distancing when possible.

Our staff has been nothing short of inspiring. Not only have they reported for duty every day, but more than 2,863, or 65 percent, of the authorized DOC positions have received the COVID-19 vaccine, setting an example for all state employees and front-line workers. The DOC is also working to encourage offender vaccination with commissary incentives and by distributing educational materials developed by Wellpath, our contract medical provider. More than 9,937, or 65.7 percent, of offenders have been vaccinated.

We have implemented one of the most robust inmate/resident testing programs in the nation. We implemented a surveillance testing program that requires all DOC facility staff to be tested weekly. We continue to administer PCR tests as needed to our offender population. To date, we have resulted over 79,120 COVID PCR tests. Over 11,804 inmates and residents have successfully recovered from COVID-19.

The Department has invested over \$4.8 million in expenditures related to responding to the pandemic within our facilities. Another \$3.2 million has been earmarked for a clean air filtration systems in all DOC facilities. \$3.7 million has already been reimbursed by the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund, and additional reimbursements are expected. We are also improving the use of broadband and wireless access points at facilities across the state; expanding telehealth options for our offenders; and creating a contactless biometric system for processing employees and visitors into our facilities.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

TRANSFORMATION SUCCESSES

Overview of Transformation Wins and Efficiencies

University of Cincinnati Correctional Program Checklist/Certification:

DOC staff (covering all divisions) participated in and completed a program in which they are certified to assess/evaluate correctional programs using an evidence-based tool developed by the University of Cincinnati.

eOMIS Initiatives:

- **Intake Application:** The DOC developed an intake mobile application for use at Division of Correction intake units and Division of Community Correction Centers to streamline the processing of inmates into facilities. This application is supported by a new, digital intake roster process in the Department's offender management system. A facility's Intake Coordinator works with county officials to select what inmates to pull into the facility and creates a finalized roster for circulation to facility staff and local officials. Previously, this was an entirely paper-driven process, and it took multiple staff most of a working day to complete all associated tasks. Digitizing the roster allows the Department to repurpose at least one staff position at ADC's primary intake unit, Ouachita River Correctional Unit, and saves the remaining staff time in their workdays to focus on other tasks.
- **County Jail Backup Invoices:** Prior to Transformation, both ACC and ADC had separate processes for handling billing related to their respective county jail backup lists. Although these processes were quickly centralized, they remained disjointed, time-consuming, and manual. The consolidation project blended the disparate efforts into one workflow to make it easier, not only on DOC staff but also for administrative staff at the county jail level. Invoices are generated automatically each month for each type of inmate and emailed to each jail as indicated by DOC inmate tracking records. Jail staff no longer receive invoices from both ADC and ACC. The unified documentation reflects the DOC instead, and it breaks down the list in a more easily consumable way, as evidenced by the positive feedback received from county jail staff. Additionally, new programming in the offender management system has increased the quality of data relied upon in the billing process, making this project not only effective in streamlining staff resources but also effective in reducing potential billing errors.

Drug Testing Supplies and Processes:

One area that was initially left separated by Division was the drug testing supply and process. Concerns over ordering procedures and storage space were the main reason for allowing separate processes. The DOC Drug Testing Coordinator now sends out lists to all DOC facilities regarding random testing requirements. Additionally, the Coordinator fields calls from across the state with questions and confirmation issues. By having only one individual order all kits and supplies, we will be able to keep more accurate records of test orders placed, orders received, kits used, and the changing prices and products available. Deliveries to individual centers and sites remain an option. The new processes promote improved inventory control and potential savings due to less waste.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

TRANSFORMATION SUCCESSES

DOC Prison Rape Elimination Act Coordinator:

Through Transformation, we have established a single Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Coordinator. Our PREA Coordinator is well-versed in the standards applicable to each division. The PREA Coordinator oversees the PREA reporting line and the calls made by both ADC and ACC inmates and offenders, and is responsible for monitoring the PREA complaints and allegations asserted by inmates/offenders, staff, and outside individuals. The Coordinator is beginning the process of performing internal PREA audits of every facility with an eye towards achieving compliance with national PREA standards.

Human Resources:

DOC Human Resources (HR) has improved technology by digitizing agency employee files and streamlining processes for maximum Department-wide efficiency. Existing HR staff assumed HR functions for other boards and commissions without hiring additional staff. Elimination of duplicative work and more effective work processes has enabled this shifting of responsibilities within existing HR resources.



The DOC has also hired a full-time recruiter who works to fill critical vacancies Department wide. We have launched a statewide recruitment campaign using the theme “Join the AR DOC Family” on radio, billboards, yard signs, flyers and on all social media platforms.

Information Technology:

There have been multiple consolidation projects related to Information Technology (IT) since the inception of Transformation. One item that has been a huge success and produced quantifiable savings was the migration of each Division to one domain, which eliminated multiple DIS monthly hosting fees and support services. With the migration project and consolidation of resources, we eliminated multiple servers and software. Excluding the averted hardware costs, the immediately identifiable savings were just shy of \$100,000. Efficiencies were also realized in many areas by installing Managed Access Points to allow an automatic secured connection to the state network, thereby eliminating cumbersome wired connection for mobile staff.

Recidivism:

On the heels of Transformation, we are moving to a more consistent approach DOC-wide for reporting recidivism of our offender population. Ongoing collaboration between Department staff and refining of processes will allow us to better understand the correlates of recidivism and implement a strategy designed to reduce future criminality among formerly incarcerated and supervised individuals.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

TRANSFORMATION SUCCESSES

Standardizing Population Projection Reporting:

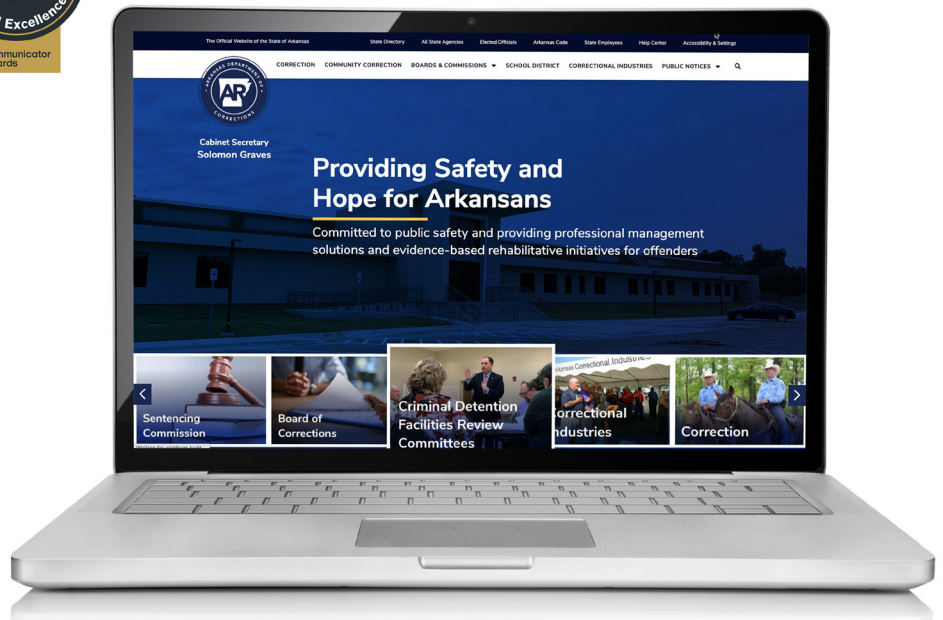
The Department has undertaken a review of population projection reporting. Projections are being realigned from an ADC projection and an ACC projection to a secured population projection and a community supervision projection. In addition, a team comprised of leaders from each division is working together to modernize the content and structure and standardize the projections in order to provide a more cohesive look at correctional trends and projections in Arkansas.

Communications:

Through consolidation of communications staff, the Department has reallocated duties to create a full-time social media and website manager position. The Comms Team worked to increase our focus on messaging and transparency, constituent services, and the standardization of our web presence in a user-friendly format.

In June, the DOC's newly designed website received an international award's highest honor – 2021 Communicator Award | Excellence in the Government Website category. The redesigned website combines curated content from each of the Department's divisions into one streamlined user experience and consolidates the existing websites of the Division of Correction, the Division of Community Correction, the Arkansas Correctional School District, and the DOC's Boards and Commissions into one user-friendly design.

Additionally, the DOC launched its first-ever Department-wide intranet site – DOC Connect – to serve as the one-stop source for Department information.



Official Information Source for the Arkansas Department of Corrections

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Legislative Initiatives Implemented (or Planned Implementation)

Act 1110 of 2021 – Inmate Stimulus Funds

This Act requires a person in the custody of a correctional facility to use funds from federal relief/stimulus money to pay outstanding fines, fees, costs, or restitution. The Act states that if the department is made aware of existing court fines, fees, costs, or restitution owed by a person in our custody, who has received these federal funds from the U.S. government, the department shall:

1. Verify the funds received by the person are intended for the person;
2. Verify the funds received are federal relief or stimulus funds;
3. Withhold from any federal relief or stimulus funds;
4. Withhold any funds not to exceed the amount owed for court fines, fees, costs, or restitution owed; and
5. If a person who is in the custody of the department receives any federal relief or stimulus funds, but owes no known existing court fines, fees, costs, or restitution, the federal relief or stimulus funds shall be distributed in equal parts to the inmate welfare fund and the ADC's Inmate Care and Custody Fund.

The DOC is generating a report with names of offenders who fall under #5 for review. The accounts will be reviewed to determine whether the inmate received federal relief or stimulus funds. If they did, that account will be flagged and the money identified as federal relief or stimulus funds will be deducted from their inmate account and placed into a separate account.

It will be documented how much money was taken from each inmate's account. This will be helpful in the event the court notifies us of an amount owed by the inmate/offender for court fines, fees, etc. or how much to return to his/her account if a court orders us to.

Act 187 of 2021 – Confidential Juvenile Records

This Act will allow the Department to increase treatment resources and provide a consistent level of care for juveniles who are aging out of the custody of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and coming into the custody or under the supervision of the Department of Corrections, due to extended juvenile jurisdiction. Prior to passage of this Act, the Department had no access to treatment records for juvenile offenders sentenced pursuant to Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction. Through collaboration with DHS, the Department is solidifying goals and processes to better assist this limited portion of our offender population so that we ensure treatment needs are being met once these offenders come into the care of the Department.

Act 55 of 2021 – Judicial or Administrative Transfer of an Inmate to Community Correction

This legislation flips the box on the Sentencing Order, requiring the court to check the box indicating that the DOC cannot administratively transfer an otherwise eligible offender to the Division of Community Correction. The purpose of this initiative was to allow the flexibility for the DOC to administratively transfer offenders from the ADC to the ACC if an offender has been sentenced within the parameters set out by statute and forthcoming Administrative Rule. In short, this sets out the framework for assuring high risk/high need offenders have access to the drug treatment they may need in limited situations. It allows courts the opportunity to allow the DOC to make the determination after sentencing that an offender may benefit from the treatment programs offered by ACC if they have no violent or sexual history and have been sentenced within the statutory parameters for their current offense.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

MAJOR PROJECTS

Offender Management Information System —

The Department has implemented over 100 enhancements related to the electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS). Significant enhancements include deploying a mobile app for use by offenders on community supervision and mobile tablets for use by Division of Correction staff when doing mental health rounds and security rounds, while an aforementioned tablet-based app is in development to streamline and modernize the prison intake process.

White River Juvenile Detention Center —

The Department is in the process of purchasing what is formerly known as the White River Juvenile Detention Center in Batesville, Arkansas for \$1.975 million. This will serve as a short-term supervision sanction facility and is aimed at successfully reintegrating offenders into the community. After renovations that are slated to cost \$5 million, the capacity will be 150 beds. This project will create approximately 50 new jobs. With this purchase, it will reduce the county jail reimbursement for beds used by this population, reduce the pressure on county jails to provide space for this population, allow more space for offenders who are a threat to society, and provide much needed reentry services to increase their chances at successfully reintegrating into society.

Miscellaneous Construction-Related Projects —

- A department-wide Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization project is slated to begin the week of September 7. This project will cover all DOC facilities housing offenders. This technology improves air quality, attacks and kills viruses, mold spores and bacteria, reduces airborne particles of dust and pollen, and breaks down chemical and cooking odors. This project will be completed by the end of this calendar year and will cost approximately \$3 million.



- Roofing Projects at three Division of Correction facilities totaling \$4.8 million (Randall Williams Unit, Admin East Building, Central Warehouse).
- We have begun implementing Phase II of Water Improvement at the Tucker Unit, totaling \$2.9 million, to replace and upgrade water treatment. This project will increase the volume of water being processed prior to our inmates consuming or using it. This follows the initial water filtration project which improved water quality at Tucker and cost approximately a half million dollars to implement.
- Phase II of our Entegrity energy efficiency project is scheduled to begin the week of September 7 and will include LED light replacement at Tucker Max and HVAC replacement at Tucker. This is an 18-month process and the total cost for this phase of the project is \$18.6 million. Also included in this project is replacing porcelain with stainless steel sinks, individual shut off valves, composting at both locations, and reworking water plant for water conservation.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

SHARED SERVICES

- Chief of Staff*
Lindsay Wallace
- Chief Legal Counsel*
Christine Cryer
- Chief Fiscal Officer*
Lamont Wimbley
- Communications Director*
Cindy Murphy
- Quality Improvement & Program Evaluation Administrator*
Tabrina Bratton, PhD
- Human Resources & Training Administrator*
Nicholas Stewart

+ Areas of supervision include Shared Services.

Information Technology

The IT section is responsible for the installation and maintenance of computer, network, and telephone hardware as well as software to ensure the DOC has the technological functionality required to conduct department business. All equipment and materials must be utilized within budget while maintaining secured access to all department equipment and information. This section is also responsible for IT governance enabling the effective and efficient use of IT in enabling the Department to achieve its goals.



Electronic Offender Management Information System (eOMIS)

The eOMIS section is responsible for managing the statewide offender database, which is utilized for the daily operations by entities within the Department of Corrections and accessed by many local law enforcement agencies around the state. An integral part of managing the offender database is upgrading existing programming to match changes to Department policy, state law, and evolving business practices, as well as leveraging new technology to modernize and streamline existing practices. Additionally, eOMIS staff support end users both inside and outside the Department with help desk requests and provide training to users on common business processes.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
SHARED SERVICES

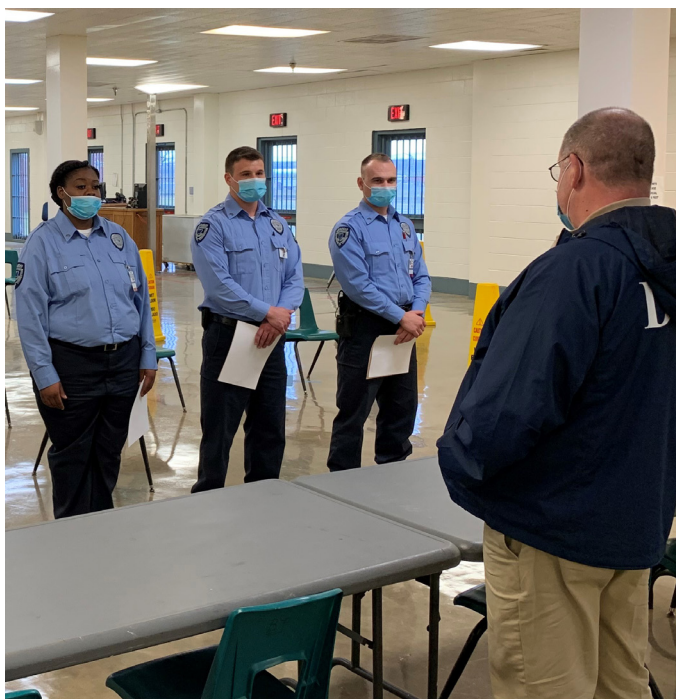
**Human Resources
 and Training**

The mission of the Department of Corrections is supported by the Human Resources section by recruiting and hiring professional staff. The Training Section supports the mission of the Department of Corrections by providing initial and ongoing evidence-based training. Professional staff equipped with evidence-based training helps facilitate offender rehabilitation. As of June 30, 2021, the DOC employed 2,427 women and 2,121 men, for a total of 4,548.

DOC EMPLOYEES (as of 06/30/2021)			
Race		Female	Male
Caucasian/Not Hispanic	2,301	1,002	1,299
Black/Not Hispanic	2,192	1,403	789
Hispanic	36	12	24
Asian/Pacific Islander	14	8	6
American Indian	5	2	3
TOTAL	4,548	2,427	2,121

SELECTED EMPLOYEE VACANCY RATES

	OVERALL POSITIONS			CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS			MENTAL HEALTH POSITIONS		
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY19	FY20	FY21
ADC	26.221%	27.538%	32.720%	29.709%	30.842%	37.348%	17.416%	13.333%	12.987%
ACC	18.432%	17.985%	18.805%	27.361%	26.540%	31.841%	20.874%	18.367%	19.403%
PPO	13.173%	12.704%	13.636%						



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

SHARED SERVICES

Legal

The DOC Legal Division oversees employee grievances, department-wide drug testing, the Division of Correction inmate records department, DOC internal auditors, PREA compliance, among others. Legal is comprised of four attorneys who are involved in responding to claims submitted to the Arkansas Claims Commission, employee garnishments submitted by creditors, and appeals submitted to the Sex Offender Assessment Committee. The Legal Division actively works with the Arkansas Attorney General's Office in litigation matters, which may involve one or more of the areas referenced above.

Financial

The Financial Division includes accounting, budget and procurement. Accounting ensures the agency's financial transactions are recorded properly by overseeing financial reporting, general ledger posting, payables, receivables, inventory, bank deposits/reconciliations, and Trust Fund Centralized Banking. Budget handles the Department's Biennial and Annual Operation Plans, the Annual Inmate cost per day report, and ensures the agency has funding and appropriation sufficient to accommodate its needs. Procurement manages the Department's professional service/technical contracts, purchases orders, and good receipts. An additional part of the Financial Division is the warehouse, which handles food/meal distribution and logistics for the offender population.

Quality Improvement and Program Evaluation

The purpose of the Quality Improvement/Program Evaluation (QI/PE) section is to ensure that DOC programs and services adhere to recognized best practices. This section's duties and responsibilities rely on social science theory, the scientific method, and empirical literature to produce valid and reliable deliverables (i.e., publishable manuscripts, reports, evaluations, and grants). These efforts contribute to the Department's commitment to providing effective and empirically-based programs and services in our community and institutional facilities. Recently, the QI/PE team completed a qualitative assessment of the ACC's Reentry Program. The study's findings were used by ACC staff to revamp the program, better aligning its services with the empirical literature. Additionally, the QI/PE section helps DOC leadership create surveys, interpret data and empirical literature, and measure components of interest through applied research efforts. For instance, the QI/PE team researchers quantified and analyzed data from exit surveys gathered from individuals leaving the department between 2014 and February 2021. The findings will inform DOC retention efforts.

Policy

The Policy section is responsible for tracking Department and Division specific policy on a continuing basis. Secretarial Directives are issued on an as-needed basis when areas are identified that would support a system-wide approach to an issue, as opposed to having multiple divisional policies covering the same topic. Policies are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the Department is utilizing best practices and maintaining sound policies for management of the DOC.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

SHARED SERVICES

Communications

Communications is responsible for informing the public, news media, and other law enforcement organizations of the various programs, services, and events within the DOC. The team manages the Department's website, intranet site and social media accounts and provides communications support to the entire Department by supplying print and digital materials for educational, recruitment, promotional and other communications efforts.

Communications also serves as the Department's public information office by making public meeting notifications, fielding media inquiries, responding to Freedom of Information Act requests and coordinating constituent service and community engagement activities. The Communications Director is responsible for reporting critical incidents to key members of the Department's leadership.



Internal Affairs

Internal Affairs (IA) investigates incidents referred to it by the Secretary, Division Directors, or by a Warden or Area Manager, in addition to reviewing uses of force and Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) allegations. IA coordinates with the Arkansas State Police, or other appropriate law enforcement agencies, in any case that involves criminal activities related to DOC offenders or staff.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS **DIVISION OF CORRECTION**

Despite the many complications presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Correction has maintained its commitment to providing superior correctional services to the state. At the beginning of 2020, the DOC had a total of 17,759 individuals under its jurisdiction. While admissions decreased as the pandemic intensified, release rates rose throughout the year. Admission rates picked up as the year progressed; however, the total number of individuals under DOC jurisdiction decreased to 16,094 by year's end. County Jail Back-up population increased throughout 2020, beginning the year at an average of 1,244 inmates per day during January and ending at 1,853 inmates per day in December. Inmates assigned to Restrictive Housing during each quarter remained steady throughout 2020.



Throughout the pandemic, adaptations were made to ensure that programs and services such as the Agriculture Division, Arkansas Correctional Industries (ACI), Career Technical

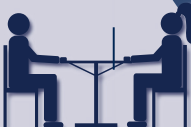
Education Programs, Health and Correctional Programming, the Arkansas Correctional School System, and personnel training continued to function as intended. As with most institutions across Arkansas, masks were mandated within all facilities for both offenders and personnel.



Among the many difficulties posed by the pandemic was visitation, which was halted in March of 2020. During this suspension, the price of phone calls and video visitation was reduced to allow offenders to maintain contact with family and friends. In December, a modified in-person visitation program was tested at a few facilities but was later suspended due to a spike in cases. The end of 2020 also brought the Division's first COVID-19 vaccine delivery as shots were made available to Wellpath health providers and officers permanently assigned to medical security and transportation roles.

The first half of 2021 generally saw a trend toward normalcy despite the pandemic's continued presence. Beginning the year with 16,094 individuals under the Division's jurisdiction, population rates have risen somewhat throughout the year as admission rates have gone up and release numbers have been lower than in 2020.

**Modified In-Person Visitation
Scheduled to Begin Dec. 12
at Four Pilot Facilities**



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

DIVISION OF CORRECTION

By the end of June, there were 16,560 inmates under the jurisdiction of the Division. The number of inmates in County Jail Back-up has decreased considerably over the year, starting at an average of 2,029 during January and falling to 1,122 in June. Restrictive Housing assignments have risen very slightly over the first two quarters.

Operations have been adapted in order to keep those involved free from harm, but training, services, and programming have persisted. In January, the first generally applicable round of COVID-19 vaccinations was provided to DOC personnel and nearly half of all personnel had been vaccinated by early August. In February, the modified in-person visitation pilot program, which had begun the previous December, was resumed in certain facilities and was later applied to all facilities in June. In April, the plans for vaccinating inmates were released and in July an incentive plan was announced to encourage offenders to get vaccinated. As of early August, over half of all inmates had done so. As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to fluctuate, the Division of Correction continues to take all necessary action to safeguard the wellbeing of its personnel and those in its care.

Corrections Division Highlights

- We have developed a mobile cell check solution (software) that is designed to provide proof of presence in security rounds. These rounds will be downloaded into our electronic offender management information system (eOMIS) for real time logging of inmate observations.
- Our Agriculture Division is developing a plan to level land and add wells to increase the productivity of the row crop segment of the farm. The Livestock Division implementing a plan to improve the quality of the beef herd by expanding the Artificial Insemination Program. We are in the process of increasing pasture acres and pasture quality to allow for rotational grazing to increase efficiency.
- We are implementing a new evidence-based drug treatment program named the Substance Use Rehabilitation Services program (SURS). This program uses cognitive behavior treatment techniques and aims to help participants change attitudes and behaviors associated with criminality and substance use through evidence-based practices and curriculum, with a primary goal of promoting sobriety among participants.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION

Undeterred by the many obstacles posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Community Correction has remained resolute in its mission to enhance public safety while providing opportunities for positive change.

In January of 2020, the division had 49,971 offenders on active supervision and 16,135 on inactive supervision for a total Parole/Probation population of 66,106 individuals. Since gains and losses to Probation/Parole remained relatively steady throughout the year in spite of the pandemic, these numbers had grown to 50,687 active and 16,935 inactive for a total of 67,622 by December.



Given the personal and community-oriented nature of the work of ACC, maintaining supervision over offenders and providing them the services they need to succeed was especially challenging in the midst of a major pandemic. Adjustments were made, however, to limit contact between personnel and offenders, thereby reducing the risk of transmitting COVID-19. By March, many services were developed with the assistance of technology, such as counseling via phone and remote reporting through an app, and in April many supervision fees were waived. Also at this time, visitation to centers was paused and would remain as such for the rest of the year. Other aspects of ACC's operations which were affected included employment events and the County Work Program, each of was temporarily halted around April. Nonetheless, vital elements of ACC's role such as conducting home visits on offenders remained in place with safety protocols.

Residential Services operates regional community correctional centers and Supervision Sanction Programs. Offender's daily activities are structured under a behavior modification program known as Modified Therapeutic Community (MTC) with supplemental programs addressing addiction, anger management, life skills, and parenting skills. The division also operates a



supervision sanction program (SSP). The SSP is an intense program for parolees who have failed to meet conditions of supervision. Counselors at the SSP use behavior modification treatment models like the models used in community correction centers. The goal is to facilitate development of permanent lifestyle changes so residents will be successful, contributing, law-abiding citizens while in the facility and upon return to the community.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

DIVISION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION

Among the many difficulties posed by the pandemic was visitation, which was halted in March of 2020 due to increased prevalence of COVID-19. During this suspension, the price of phone calls and video visitation was reduced to allow offenders to maintain contact with family and friends. In December, a modified in-person visitation program began to be tested at a few facilities but was later suspended due to a spike in cases. Additionally, the end of 2020 brought the Division's first COVID-19 vaccine delivery as shots were made available to Wellpath health providers and officers permanently assigned to medical security and transportation roles. As of January 4, 2021, there were 50,563 offenders under active supervision and 16,850 under inactive supervision for a population total of 67,413 offenders.

Early in 2021, vaccines began to be available for frontline state employees such as probation and parole officers. Since that time, nearly half of all Department of Corrections personnel have been vaccinated. Masks continue to be utilized to slow the spread of the virus. Throughout the year, ACC operations have begun to normalize as the Division continues to adapt to functioning under the continued ramifications of the pandemic. Facility visitations have resumed, as have events and services regarding such things as employment, education, and community service. Treatment programs have maintained their efficacy at helping the Probation/Parole population throughout the pandemic. At present, ACC continues to take precautions against the COVID-19 pandemic and is monitoring its development as time progresses.

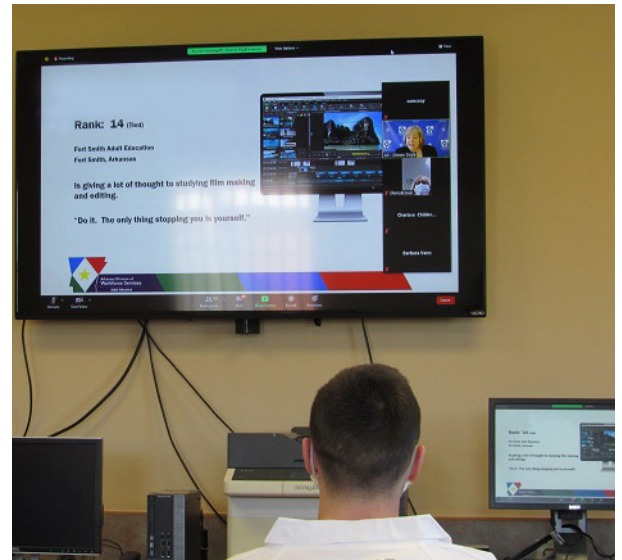
ACC is continuing its efforts to provide a continuum of community-based sanctions and services that holds offenders accountable, reduces barriers to success, improves their ability to become productive and lawful members of the community, reduces recidivism and enhances public safety. We have implemented the use of the InTouch Client portal, which is a mobile application that allows offenders under community supervision to stay better informed on the conditions and status of their supervision. Low-risk offenders may earn the opportunity to report remotely rather than in-person through demonstrated and sustained compliance, which also benefits Parole/Probation Officers by allowing them to focus their time and resources on medium- and high-risk offenders.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS **CORRECTIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the Correctional School System (ACS) and the Riverside Vocational and Technical School (RVTS) considerably. In an effort to control exposure, students from one barracks were only allowed to be in classes together. Each day, a different barracks attended class. This was effective in terms of controlling the spread of COVID-19, but also greatly reduced class time for individual students. Unit security staffs have worked to put as many students as possible in certain housing units to increase attendance. Teachers were able to provide homework packets to students who were unable to attend in person.

Acts 493 and 497 of 2021 reorganized the Correctional School System and the Riverside Vocational and Technical School under the Arkansas Correctional School District (ACSD) umbrella. The information provided here does not reflect the reorganized School District structure as the process of combining and streamlining processes is ongoing.



A student who earned his GED inside an ADC prison unit takes part in a virtual graduation ceremony.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CORRECTIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

- The Correctional School has begun using the Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT) to identify career tech students who may need remediation in basic math or literacy that will enabled them to successfully complete programs that have become more challenging.
- ACSD is working to expand and modernize career tech programs (shortened time frames so more offenders can attend and aligns programs with successful career tech programs offered at community colleges and other correctional career techs).
- Career Tech is now being introduced in Community Correction Centers and partnerships with other ADC programs, such as Paws in Prison, are also being explored. In June of 2021, ACSD began an innovative web-based iCEV pilot program at the East Central Arkansas Community Correction Center. iCEV offers certificates in multiple areas such as business, science, technology and human relations to name a few. Participants begin their focus on financial literacy and expand from there.

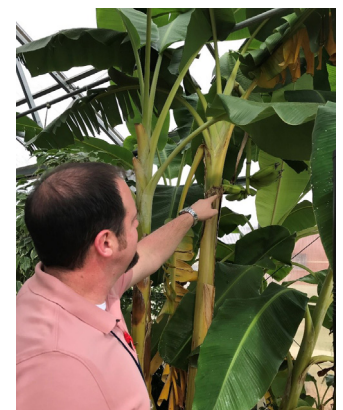
	Arkansas Correctional School	Additional Information	Riverside Vo-Tech	Additional Information
Number of Staff	74	Includes Licensed Teachers, Admins, and Support Staff	26	Includes Instructors and Support Staff
Membership/ Enrollment	1,625	Approximate	182	Approximate
Graduates/ Certificates	100 (GED Diplomas)	550 Graduates the Prior Year	30 (Certificates)	23 Courses Offered (Compared to 93 and 103 the 2 Previous Years)



A student in the Riverside Vo-Tech Culinary Program at the Varner Unit uses the skills he's learning to prepare biscuits.



Arkansas Correctional School instructors at the Pine Bluff Unit are dedicated to helping their students succeed.



A Riverside Vo-Tech Horticulture Program instructor at the North Central Unit points out bananas growing inside the greenhouse where students receive hands-on experience.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Parole Board

The Parole Board is an independent, quasi-judicial body whose members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Chairman of the Board reports directly to the Governor and serves as the agency director and as a voting member of the Board of Corrections. The Parole Board's mandates include conducting parole hearings in order to make decisions regarding the conditional release of eligible inmates from correctional facilities, revoking parole of offenders who have violated one or more conditions of their release, and reviewing pardon and commutation applications prior to issuing non-binding recommendations to the Governor. The Board holds deliberations the day before conducting its biweekly board meetings to ratify votes on parole release. The Board also meets biweekly with victims to allow them the opportunity to provide input on parole release of an inmate.



The Parole Board relocated to the remodeled DOC Headquarters which resulted in a decrease in costs for office space. The Board has benefited from the consultative relationship established with the Secretary of the DOC and the resources that have been shared due to this relationship, as evidenced by the elimination of reliance on DFA's service bureau. The Shared Services Division of the Department assumed all duties previously performed by DFA by utilizing existing Department resources. During FY21, the Board conducted 13,042 Parole Release Hearings and Screenings. In addition, the Board reviewed 7,350 Violation Reports and revoked 5,570 parolees.

Sentencing Commission

The Arkansas Sentencing Commission is mandated to meet quarterly each year. At each meeting, the Commission considers population trends, expenditures, and progress on legislatively mandated activities. In addition to conducting ordinary business, the Commission also set preliminary rankings for offenses created or modified during the 93rd General Assembly, set an Operating Policy for creation of impact assessments, and modified policy statements regarding application of the sentencing guidelines to offenses with mandatory minimum sentences. The rankings and policy changes adopted by the Commission have been adopted in a proposed amendment to a rule and submitted to the Governor's office for approval. At the end of 2020, long-time chair Judge Gordon Webb retired and was replaced as chair by Judge Gordon McCain.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Sentencing Commission, *continued*

During the 93rd General Assembly, staff of the Commission created forty-three (43) fiscal impact assessments for bills which may have an impact on the correctional resources of the state due to changes to sentencing law, criminal offenses, sex offender restrictions, supervision requirements, or parole eligibility law. Staff has also worked to update publications, produce legislatively mandated reports, conduct training for criminal justice constituents, and consult with the Office of the Secretary as needed on issues pertaining to sentencing law.

The Commission has expanded its capabilities to provide technical assistance regarding transfer eligibility and is developing an external audit mechanism for ensuring time computation is being calculated consistently within the Divisions of Correction and Community Correction.

Criminal Detention Facilities Review Committees

Despite the difficulties that have arisen since the inception of the pandemic, the Criminal Detention Facility Review Office has remained steadfast in its mission to ensure the health and safety of inmates and staff in detention facilities across the state. Because in-person contact was curtailed significantly, 2020 annual reviews were modified with respect to the process of site visits and data collection such that reviews and visits were hosted primarily via electronic methods. The 2020 review focused principally on technical assistance and general data collection. The Review Committee and staff used the results of these modified reviews to explore options in terms of going forward with 2021 reviews in the context of projects and topics previously identified and outlined during the 2019-2020 review process.



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

In 2021, due to continued COVID-19 precautions, the annual review season started in July, as opposed to January. However, physical visits to facilities have since resumed and barring the implementation of additional COVID-19 response measures, the Review Office and its Committees are working to physically visit each facility prior to December 31, 2021. A general review itinerary has been created, outlining the various districts and their placement on the visitation schedule. Substantial progress continues to be made toward this goal.

The Criminal Detention Facility Review Office is in the process of updating its Criminal Detention Facility Standards and Juvenile Detention Facility Standards to ensure that they remain reflective of contemporary best practices in criminal justice and may be interpreted and administered in an effective, uniform manner.

Act 685 of 2021 clarified the statutory inspection requirement and aligns the CDFR with transformation. It transitioned the coordinator role into a career role as opposed to a gubernatorial appointment.

Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision

Developed in 1937 and designed to regulate the movement of probationers and parolees across state lines, the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) is enacted in all 50 states and three U.S. territories (District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico).



Revised in 2002, the compact provides states the authority, accountability, and resources to track the supervision of offenders who move across state lines, thereby enhancing public safety and offender accountability.

ICAOS has become a powerful and adaptive tool for promoting and ensuring cooperative action among the states and a single standard of supervision for offenders.

A.C.A. 12-51-101 et seq. sets out the make up of the Council in Arkansas and states that the council shall exercise oversight and advocacy concerning its participation in interstate commission activities and other duties as may be determined by the Council, including development of policy concerning operations and procedures of the compact within the State.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Sex Offender Assessment Committee

The Sex Offender Assessment Committee (SOAC) promulgates the guidelines and procedures for the disclosure of sex offender information necessary for protecting and informing the public. Those guidelines also set forth the documents and information that may be considered in assessing an offender’s risk to the community.

The Committee also establishes the qualifications for the assessment interviewers and qualifies interviewers to prepare the assessment reports as dictated by the guidelines.

On behalf of SOAC, the Division of Correction has contracted with UAMS Family Treatment Program (FTP) to conduct juvenile assessments according to FTP’s protocols that have been approved by SOAC.

Act 683 of 2021 transferred the administrative functions of the SOAC to the Secretary of Corrections. This aligns these duties with other duties the Secretary’s Office performs for the other Boards and Commissions within the Department.

The Executive Secretary of SOAC is a position long held by a Staff Attorney of the ADC. Through transformation, the attorney positions were realigned as a shared service, thus the need for a statutory change in this area.

The Executive Secretary maintains the records of the Committee, including taking the minutes and posting the meetings on the state website. The Executive Secretary also reviews each offender’s request for administrative appeal and presents those findings to the Committee for a vote. The makeup of the Committee can be found at A.C.A. § 12-12-921.





DOC REENTRY WEEK 2021

AR DOC

Family



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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