



## Department of Corrections

### Act 413 of 2021 Report

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#### Update on divisions

- Division of Correction (ADC):
  - 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 evidenced 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.
- Division Community Correction (ACC):
  - In our Probation and Parole Services, 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.
  - In Residential Services, ACC continues to operate community correction centers that are licensed by the State of Arkansas as drug and alcohol treatment in a secure environment for non-violent offenders sentenced/placed by the courts/Parole Board for the purpose of treatment and/or behavior modification
- Arkansas Parole Board: 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.
- Arkansas Correctional School District (ACSD):
  - 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 enable 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 Sentencing Commission: 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.
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### Significant Department Projects

- Project Name: 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 fifty (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 and 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.
  - Project Name: Construction Related Projects
    - A department-wide Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization project is slated to begin the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>. 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, 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 totaled approximately half a million dollars to implement.
    - Phase II of our Entegrity energy efficiency project is scheduled to begin the week of September 7<sup>th</sup> and will include LED light replacement at Tucker Max and HVAC replacement at Tucker. This is an 18-month process, 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.
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### Transformation Examples

- **Information Technology Savings**

Our Information Technology Section has seen multiple consolidation projects since the inception of transformation. One item that was 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 savings from hardware purchases, the immediately identifiable savings were just shy of \$100,000. Efficiencies were realized in many areas by installing Managed Access Points to allow an automatic secured connection to the state network.
- **Intake Mobile Application**

The DOC developed an intake mobile application for use at ADC intake units and ACC Community Correction Centers to streamline the processing of incoming inmates into the correctional 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 which

inmates to pull into the facility in the coming days and creates a finalized roster for circulation to facility staff, local officials, etc. Formerly, this was an entirely paper-driven process, and it took multiple staff most of a working day to complete all associated tasks for this process. 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.

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## Staffing

<u>2015</u> 5419	<u>2016</u> 5477	<u>2017</u> 5438	<u>2018</u> 5350	<u>2019</u> 5423	<u>2020</u> 5375	<u>2021</u> 4660
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## Legislative Initiatives

- **Initiative Name:** Act 1110 of 2021 regarding 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 US 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 identifiable 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.)

- **Initiative Name:** Act 187 of 2021 regarding confidential juvenile records. This act will allow the Department to increase treatment resources and provide a consistent level of care of juveniles who are aging out of the Department of Human Services' (DHS) custody 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 any 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.