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Arkansas Department of Correction

November 25, 2015

Governor Asa Hutchinson
Sen. Jeremy Hutchinson
Rep. Matthew Shepherd
Sen. Bill Sample
Rep. David Branscum
State Capitol
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson, Senators and Representatives:

Pursuant to Act 895 of 2015, this is our report of efforts to ease overcrowding through contracting with other facilities. Two agreements have been made for housing 175 inmates in a Pulaski County, Arkansas, facility, and 336 inmates in the Bowie County, Texas, facility.

(1) A lease was entered with Pulaski County, Arkansas, on July 14, 2014¹, for a dollar a year for the facility behind their jail off Roosevelt Road that the county was not using; ADC is housing 175 inmates at that facility utilizing ADC staff. The Department is responsible for all utilities and services, maintenance, repair, and replacement of equipment and structural components. When this temporary agreement was entered, the ADC planned to move the inmates and the staff from this Satellite Unit to the Ester Unit when it opened in Pine Bluff. (Ester Unit is the renovated Diagnostic Unit that was closed February 2012, following the transfer of inmates and staff to the ORCU Special Needs Unit in January 2012. The Special Needs Unit had been completed, but had not been funded for operation.)

(2) A contract entered was with Bowie County, Texas. The initial contract was entered on March 19, 2015², for a total of 288 beds through December 31, 2015, at \$36 per inmate per day. The ADC separately negotiated with CSS to cover prescription medications and off-site medical care at \$73.87 per inmate per month through June 30, 2016. Inmates were transferred beginning March 26, 2015. An Amendment was entered August 10, 2015³, to increase the beds to 336. Funding has been approved through June 30, 2016. (The contract will be extended for six (6) months unless one of the parties gives notice of termination.) Bowie County has the right to

¹ The county jail backup on July 14, 2014 was 2,301 (179 females & 2,122 males).

² The county jail backup on March 19, 2015 was 2,422 (164 females & 2,258 males).

³ The county jail backup on August 10, 2015 was 2,621 (260 females & 2,361 males).

reject inmates and is sent a list of inmates prior to transfer in order to review the inmate's classification and conduct records. Inmates with a history of institutional violence with a deadly weapon, a history of repeated violence while in custody, escape or attempted escape are not allowed to be transferred to Bowie County. Additionally, inmates requiring restrictive housing cannot be sent to Bowie County as the 336 beds are all open barracks. (Texas Jail Standards)

Additional facilities visited that have not resulted in contracts to date:

We visited a facility in Western Tennessee in May 2015. It is operated by CCA, and was built to house medium-security inmates. The rate for beds at this facility was quoted at \$47 per day, including transportation and GED instruction. They would accept medium-security inmates.

We visited the Jackson Parish Correctional Facility in Jackson Parish, Louisiana, on July 19, 2015. The facility is open-barracks housing. The staff believed they could house the same security level as Bowie County at \$31.62; however, if the number of beds per barracks were reduced to provide a line of sight for staff, the cost would increase to \$36.48 per inmate per day (\$37.48 if less than 500 were sent to this facility) with an additional \$2.50 to a third party to cover medical care.

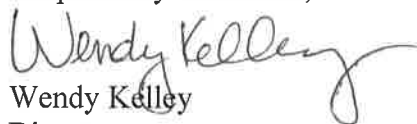
We toured the Plaquemines Parish Detention Center in Davant, Louisiana, on August 27, 2015. The facility has segregation cells available that were of particular interest to ADC. The rate was \$34.36 including medical; however, transportation was not included. There were discussions and draft agreements circulated; however, the Louisiana Department of Correction advised ADC on October 2, 2015, of the restrictions on out-of-state inmates being housed in a Louisiana facility that resulted in the termination of the discussions.

Other facilities have contacted ADC; however, either the rates or state laws governing those facilities made them impractical.

Since January 2015⁴, in addition to the 336 beds in Bowie County, the ADC has opened 54 new beds at the Pine Bluff Reentry Center, and 184 beds at the Ester Unit. We added an additional 222 beds in existing facilities by adding double bunks on exterior walls, converting the layout in cell blocks, and repurposing space: 38 at Tucker, 60 at Varner, 12 at Grimes, 12 at Mississippi County Work Release, 33 at McPherson, 56 at Hawkins for Women, and 11 at Delta Regional.

We temporarily have 50 male inmates in a gymnasium at the Ouachita River Unit, and 50 female inmates in two classrooms and other areas of the McPherson Unit. The ADC county jail backup is 1,728 (27 females and 1,701 males) as of November 25, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Kelley
Director

⁴ The county jail backup on January 13, 2015 was 2,217 (130 females & 2,087 males).