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Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: January 21, 2021

Re: Coronavirus Updates

It is already closing in on the end of January, and I don't want to miss recognizing the many acts of kindness and charity on the part of both our employees and residents during this past holiday season. From donations to local worthy causes to an end-of-the-year blood drive, thank you to all of you who found ways to give back in support of others.

January brings two issues of national importance to our attention. The first is Stalking Awareness Month and the KDOC Office of Victim Services invites you to learn more about stalking behaviors and the impact on victims. Please take a few minutes to learn the warning signs and the resources available to you and be sure to share this information with your family and friends. Stalking is a pattern of behavior directed at a specific person to cause fear. In the United States, it is estimated that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 17 men will experience stalking in their lifetime. There is a free webinar coming up that will provide more information on January 28th, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. You can learn more and find the link to register at <https://www.stalkingawareness.org/upcoming-events/>. The webinar is sponsored by Stalking Prevention and Awareness Resource Center (SPARC), a federally funded project that provides education and resources about the crime of stalking.

The second is National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. The National Human Trafficking Hotline reported an increase in cases nationwide by more than 40-percent during the month of April 2020, the beginning of the global pandemic. If you would like more information, the National Human Trafficking Hotline can be accessed at 1(888) 373-7888 or <https://humantraffickinghotline.org>.

We continue to work with the Governor's office and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) regarding COVID-19 vaccines. As a reminder, according to information released last week by Governor Laura Kelly, KDOC staff and residents are included in Phase 2 under the "congregate living" provision. Many variables remain, including when Kansas receives the vaccines and progress on the vaccination process. This is an ongoing discussion, and plans can change from day to day. We will continue to keep you updated, and to update our positive COVID-19 numbers twice a week, Mondays and Thursdays, on the KDOC website at <https://www.doc.ks.gov/kdoc-coronavirus-updates/kdoc-covid-19-status>. As our access to COVID-19 vaccines becomes more real for us, we are reminding everyone that our health and safety protocols will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

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Last week Governor Kelly presented her budget recommendations to the Kansas Legislature for the remainder of current fiscal year 2021 and for 2022 which begins in July. That recommendation accomplishes critical policy goals necessary to recover and rebuild from COVID-19 without any increases in individual or business income taxes:

- Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility
- Continuing Record-Breaking Economic Growth
- Protecting Kansas K-12 Public Schools
- Expanding Access to Affordable Healthcare and Behavioral Health Services
- Closing the “Bank of KDOT”
- Investing in the State’s Digital Infrastructure
- Protecting State Retirees by Stabilizing KPERS

As part of the Governor’s recommendations, the budget proposal would also address several key areas for KDOC, to include:

- Projects at the Winfield and Lansing correctional facilities that will provide new space for housing and programs needed by our aged/infirm population and those with substance abuse needs
- Funding increased health care costs for residents
- Changing food services at the Larned facility to allow Aramark to become our provider instead of sharing services with the Larned State Hospital. This will save over \$800,000 dollars, while also improving safety and security for residents and staff
- Funding for Phase 2 of the Athena information system project that will replace the four decades old OMIS system and the JCFS system. Completion of this second phase will integrate all the data systems used by KDOC into one, improving our ability to use data to inform decisions, increase staff efficiency, improve data security of the data and ultimately improve results
- A 2.5% pay increase for all State employees

The Governor’s budget recommendation also reflects difficult choices that must be made to balance the budget within available revenue which was negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. When budgets were submitted back in September, all State agencies were required to submit sizeable potential budget reductions. Thankfully, our Kansas economy is rebounding and the reductions for KDOC are much smaller than they otherwise could have been. Within those we do expect to see is a reduction of six full time equivalent positions in central office. However, if this reduction becomes final we fully expect to address this through natural attrition.

The presentation of the budget recommendation is an important step in the budget process, but it is not the final step. The process will continue throughout the legislative session and along the way you may hear reports of other proposals, some of which could impact you. I encourage everyone to be open to those proposals and to be mindful that weighing different ideas is a fundamental part of our democracy. In the end, the legislature will produce a budget that reflects the priorities of the people and should conclude that work on or about May 11th of this year.

Thank you and be safe.