

January 27, 2009

To: Norton Correctional Facility Employees
Winfield Correctional Facility Employees
Parole Services Employees

From: Roger Werholtz, Secretary



Re: FY 2009 Budget

A budget proposal passed out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Monday, January 26, 2009, provides for a 3.4% across the board budget reduction for state agencies. For the Department of Corrections this reduction would be in addition to reductions previously submitted by the department, including the suspension of operations at Osawatomie and Toronto in February and Stockton in June. A 3.4% reduction for the department is approximately \$9.3 million.

Since we are now completing the seventh month of the fiscal year, it would be very difficult to realize reductions of \$9.3 million in the remaining five months. To do so reductions would have to be made in major budget areas as small reductions over a broader range of areas will not allow us to reach that high of a reduction amount. None of these possible reduction areas are desirable and all of them could make Kansas less safe. The possible areas of budget reductions include: suspension of operations at Winfield and Norton Correctional Facilities effective April 1, 2009; advance the suspension of operations at Stockton Correctional Facility to April 1, 2009; abolish parole and post release supervision effective April 1, 2009; and terminate all offender treatment and intervention programs effective April 1, 2009.

These actions would obviously have a significant impact on the Department of Corrections, the employees involved, the communities affected, as well as the overall citizenry of Kansas. Decisions would have to be made regarding what to do with the number of inmates who would then exceed the capacity of the remaining correctional facilities. Exceeding the capacity of remaining facilities and abolishing all treatment and intervention programs would significantly impair our ability to keep the inmate population productively occupied so inmate management actions to ease the strain of increased idleness would be necessary. With all treatment and intervention programs closed and parole and post release supervision eliminated, how would offenders be reintroduced to the community in a way so that future victimization is kept as low as possible? We are concerned that these actions, should they have to be implemented, would have a negative impact on the safety of staff and the public.

Decisions regarding budget reductions are not yet final. The Senate committee proposal is scheduled for full Senate consideration later this week. A number of steps in the

process have yet to be taken. However, since you could be personally impacted, I thought it important to inform you that these possible actions have been discussed. We will keep you informed of further developments as important discussions take place and decisions made regarding the FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets.