

APRIL 04, 2014

DIRECTOR'S
NEWS UPDATE



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Addressing County Jail Backup

Facility operational costs and, more specifically, county jail backup bed growth has significantly impacted the budget of the Department of Corrections. Efforts are underway to acquire additional funds through the legislative process and we are hopeful that additional funding will be provided. While we believe funding assistance will be received, the need to address county jail backup growth must continue.

The agency is statutorily required to accept offenders sentenced to our custody by the district courts of the State of Oklahoma. To meet this obligation in the most financially responsible manner, staff has been working very hard to enable us to reduce county jail backup. This effort is multi-faceted and has involved many staff throughout the agency. The information below outlines some of the initial steps the agency has taken to address the county jail backup.

- Earned credits which were lost due to disciplinary action were restored to offenders who could immediately discharge had the credits not been taken.
- Beds have been added throughout the agency in locations that can be managed by current staffing levels and where fire marshal requirements can be met.
- The number of beds devoted to the male assessment and reception center has been expanded.
- The reception cycle has been reduced from nine to four days.
- The number of daily receptions has increased from 35 per day to 100.
- Policy changes are underway to improve the movement of offenders through the system to lower security and to improve offender reentry.

As a result of your efforts, the agency is now better able to meet its statutory obligations, meet them in a financially responsible manner, and better manage our offender population. Thank you for your hard work each and every day. With your help, we will face the challenges ahead and be in a position to proactively determine our destiny.