



FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT of
CORRECTIONS

Governor
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Secretary
JULIE L. JONES

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TO: Julie L. Jones, Secretary
FROM: Lester Fernandez, Inspector General
DATE: June 27, 2018
SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP AUDIT REPORT NO. A18010F – DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADMINISTRATION OF RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS, REPORT NO. 2018-082

The Bureau of Internal Audit performed a follow-up audit to the Auditor General's Administration of Re-Entry Programs, Report No. 2018-082, issued in January 2018. The objectives of this follow-up were to determine if corrective action was taken on the reported audit finding and/or whether the action taken corrected the finding identified in the original report.

The scope of the follow-up consisted of obtaining from the Office of Strategic Initiatives a written response along with documentation of corrective action taken to implement the audit recommendations. The Bureau of Internal Audit has evaluated the follow-up response and reviewed the Department's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and found that the report included the statutorily required information and data related to Department re-entry programs as recommended by the Auditor General. Therefore, this finding has been corrected.



Inspector General

LF/PS/dm
Attachment

cc: Steven Fielder, Chief of Staff
Diane Quigley, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee
Kenneth Sumpter, Deputy Inspector General

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

***Follow-up of Auditor General's Report 2018-082
Department of Corrections Administration of Re-Entry
Programs***

Lester Fernandez, Inspector General

Report #A18010F

Paul R. Strickland, Chief Internal Auditor

June 27, 2018

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Department of Corrections (Department) is to protect the public through the incarceration and supervision of offenders and to rehabilitate offenders through the application of work, programs, and services. According to Department records, the Department operates the third largest state prison system in the United States and, as of June 2018, housed approximately 96,000 inmates.

The Department is responsible for administering programs that provide inmates treatment and education services to increase the likelihood of successful re-entry into society upon release. These re-entry programs include, but are not limited to, academic and workforce education, substance abuse, cognitive behavior therapy, and employment and money management transition skill programs. According to Department records, during the period July 2015 through January 2017, re-entry program expenditures totaled approximately \$102.8 million, and during the 2015-16 fiscal year, 12,234 inmates participated in a substance abuse treatment program and the Department awarded to inmates 1,312 General Education Diplomas, 218 high school diplomas, 1,829 vocational certificates, and 2,027 industry certificates. In January 2018, the Office of the Auditor General published Report No. 2018-082, Department of Corrections, Administration of Re-Entry Programs.

OBJECTIVES

The follow-up objectives were to determine:

- if corrective action was taken on the reported audit finding; and
- whether the action taken corrected the finding in the original audit report.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The scope of the follow-up consisted of obtaining from the Office of Strategic Initiatives a written response along with documentation of corrective action taken to implement the audit recommendation.

RESULTS OF AUDIT

Finding: Department annual reports did not include certain statutorily required information and data related to Department re-entry programs.

Pursuant to State law¹ the Department is to submit to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives an annual report detailing Department activities and recommendations for improving Department performance. State law requires the annual report include certain information and data related to Department re-entry programs including:

- Impediments encountered in providing inmates a certified copy of their birth certificate and a State identification card prior to their release. The Department, working in conjunction with the Department of Health and Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, is to provide every inmate born in Florida a certified copy of their birth certificate and a State identification card prior to release.
- Recommendations to improve obtaining release documents and identification cards for all inmates.
- The number of inmates requesting and participating in substance abuse treatment programs as a result of positive random or reasonable suspicion substance abuse tests.
- The number of repeat substance abuse offenders.

The Department's 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal year annual reports disclosed that neither report included these required disclosures. In response to the Auditor General's audit inquiry, Department management indicated that the information and data had been inadvertently omitted from both the 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal year annual reports. The inclusion of all required information and data in Department annual reports would better ensure accountability for administering Department re-entry programs.

Recommendation: We recommend that Department management enhance annual report compilation procedures to ensure that Department annual reports include all statutorily required re-entry program information and data.

Management's Original Response: *The Department has conducted a review of the Florida Statutes to gain an overall perspective of the reports and information for the agency Annual Report and will continue to coordinate with the Legislative Affairs Office in tracking new or modified report requirements as new legislation is adopted. Additionally, the Department is currently in the process of finalizing its FY 16/17 Annual Report and has ensured that the information listed in the findings is included in the report and will continue to ensure that subsequent reports are consistent with the Florida Statutes.*

¹ Section 20.315(5), Florida Statutes.

Management's Follow-Up Response: FDC has included this information in its recent FY 16/17 Annual Report. The report includes information regarding impediments encountered in providing inmates a certified copy of their birth certificate and a state identification card and recommendations to improving the processes. The Department has begun internally tracking each institution to determine their progress in providing these ID ready credentials and is working with other state agencies to obtain necessary paperwork, in addition to the DHSMV, to ensure their FlowBus visits as many institutions as possible to obtain state IDs.

The report also includes detailed information regarding inmates that have enrolled in substance abuse treatment programs as a result of positive random or reasonable suspicion drug tests. Additionally, the report includes information regarding inmates requesting participation in these programs and the repeat substance abuse offenders. Inmates must agree to participate in these programs prior to their enrollment, therefore, all of those agreeing to enter the program are considered as requesting to enter the program. In regards to the number of repeat offenders, for FY 16/17, eight inmates had a least 2 positive drug tests

Bureau of Internal Audit Comments: Audit staff reviewed the Department's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 and found that the report included the statutorily required information and data related to Department re-entry programs as recommended by the Auditor General. Therefore, this finding has been corrected.