



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE

Prison Safety and Security Update

November 14, 2018

Presented to NC Prison Reform
Advisory Board

Enhancing Security Policies and Practices

- ▶ Enhancing restrictive housing and disciplinary sanctions against offenders who assault staff
 - Four offenders now subject to enhanced sanctions
- ▶ Purchasing radios, batons and pepper spray to fully equip certified staff (correctional officers and case managers) in facilities at all custody levels
- ▶ Piloting personal body alarm “man-down” technology at three facilities – radio use for all staff and lanyards for visitors
- ▶ Deploying stab resistant vests for 13,000 certified staff
 - 4,700 vests shipped to close security facilities

Enhancing Security Policies and Practices

- ▶ Conducting unannounced security assessments by auditors from central office based on new audit standards
 - Nine unannounced assessments completed; planning to conduct 20 before the end of 2018
- ▶ Initiating pilot use of tasers for supervisory staff at four close security prisons
 - Training of end-users in progress
- ▶ Revalidating the offender classification instrument, with technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections
 - Anticipate training, computer system upgrades, policy re-writes and implementation by May 2019

Facility Re-missioning Update

- ▶ Converting Lanesboro Correctional to a female facility and re-naming it Anson Correctional Institution
- ▶ Converting Eastern and Southern Correctional Institutions from female to close custody male facilities
- ▶ Re-opening North Piedmont Correctional Center for Women to temporarily house minimum custody females, will convert it to house Confinement in Response to Violation (CRV) females
- ▶ Re-purposing Neuse Correctional temporarily to house female offenders while transition is in progress

Re-missioning Facilities to Meet Population and Operational Needs

- ▶ Anticipated Timeframe
 - Eastern and Southern females already re-located to Neuse and North Piedmont
 - Eastern and Southern to receive close custody males in early 2019
 - Females transfer to the new Anson Correctional in Spring 2019

Reducing Contraband in Prison Facilities

- ▶ Examining all aspects of mailroom operation
 - Training, protective equipment, digitizing
- ▶ Installing Managed Access radio frequency technology to detect, intercept, and block use of unauthorized cellphones at two facilities
 - Pursuing mobile manage access capability at other locations beginning in November 2018
- ▶ Identifying tailored contraband reduction strategies for facilities based on physical plant and facility mission

Improving Training for New and Veteran Employees

- ▶ Continuing implementation of Field Training Officer Program, with nearly 450 FTOs selected and trained.
 - More than 700 new hires have completed the 120-hour hands-on training program
- ▶ Updating Basic Correctional Officer curriculum, with expansion to six weeks anticipated in January 2019
 - Presenting recommendation to Criminal Justice Standards Commission Education and Training Committee the end of November
- ▶ Prioritizing supervisory training and adding more classes to accommodate need.
 - Conducted training for more than 500 supervisory staff in 2018

Increasing Hiring and Retention

- ▶ Modifying hiring process and developing targeted recruitment strategies for facilities with highest vacancy rates
 - Interviewing for correctional officers at facilities at 32 facilities, effective Nov. 1; remaining facilities online January 2019
- ▶ Implemented a Prison Employee Recognition Program to honor employees for exemplary service on the job and in the community



Closing Remarks/Questions

For more information, visit the Prison Reform page
on the DPS website: www.ncdps.gov