

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
FY 2018 BUDGET DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION**

Pretrial Release Services Program

Issue: DPP should comment on the decline in the number of pretrial defendants and the effect on division operations.

Response: The Pretrial Release Services Program (PRSP) reported the following data for the number of defendants under supervision at the beginning of the fiscal year:

FY 2012 = 1,121
FY 2013 = 1,243
FY 2014 = 1,341
FY 2015 = 1,133
FY 2016 = 757

Between FY 2012 and FY 2015, PRSP averaged approximately 1,200 defendants under pretrial supervision annually. The number of defendants under pre-trial supervision in any given year is directly connected to the number of arrests processed by the Baltimore City Police Department and the number of defendants placed on pretrial supervision by the court and court commissioners. It is important to note that, based on current fiscal year data, the number of defendants on supervision to PRSP has increased approximately 30% since October 2016 as there are currently 950 defendants on supervision.

Supervision Population

Issue: DPP should comment on why agents were unable to complete DDMP information and what steps will be taken to ensure that DDMP information can be updated in a timely manner.

Response: The Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) is currently working with the Department's Information Technology and Communications Division (ITCD) to make adjustments to the Offender Case Management System (OCMS). In the old system, the Offender-Based State Correctional Information System II, there were mandatory fields for data entry that were not incorporated into OCMS when the Department migrated over. DPP is reviewing the previously mandatory data entry fields and evaluating whether or not they can be made mandatory in OCMS moving forward. This will correct data entry information moving forward.

Agent Caseloads

Issue: DPP should comment on the factors that reduced the caseload ratio and any specific programs or initiatives that have contributed to the caseload ratio decline. In addition, DPP should comment on the projected number

of agents that will be needed to handle the changes in supervision population expected to result from the JRA.

Response: Parole and Probation Agent caseload ratios are averaged by the number of offenders under supervision divided by the number of agents assigned to case supervision. While DPP cannot attribute this decline to a single factor the division has experienced a decline in the number intakes since FY 2013. Additionally, the Department has been actively recruiting and filling vacancies. Specifically, the Department conducted an academy in Calendar Year 2016 and another is scheduled to take place in April of 2017. The combination of these factors has assisted DPP agents with improved caseload ratios.

With the implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA) in October, DPP will utilize evidence-based supervision strategies for offenders based upon the outcomes of a validated risk/needs assessment instrument. Research has demonstrated that minimal contact with low-risk offenders produces better outcomes for those individuals. Therefore, these individuals will be placed in larger caseloads specialized in serving lower risk parolees/probationers.

DPP will conduct an in-depth risk and needs assessment of the offenders who are not identified as low-risk individuals during the initial risk screener process. These offenders will be placed into smaller caseloads where they will receive more attention and individualized case plans that take into account an individual's risk, needs, and responsibility to appropriate intervention.

However, DPP cannot accurately predict the number of individuals who may be paroled or released to mandatory supervision as provisions implemented in JRA will take time to come to fruition.

Remote Access

Issue: DPP should comment on the new wireless equipment, expected productivity gains, and potential impact on employee hours/overtime.

Response: DPP will purchase approximately 520 wireless tablets for issuance to supervision agents. The ability to provide agents with remote access to OCMS and other electronic databases is expected to streamline the processes associated with the retrieval and entry of information. Agents will be able to enter case notes immediately instead of waiting until they return to a physical office location, which is expected to save time, increase productivity and will result in more complete information being captured.

Victim Services Unit

Issue: DPP should comment on its potential role in the new VSU and update the committee on associated costs, needs, and potential savings.

Response: HB 1428 was recently introduced. The Department is currently evaluating the proposed legislation. It does not appear at this point in time that there will be an impact on DPP as the VSU will examine the current data systems used to track the

collection and disbursement of offender payment obligations and make recommendations for improvements to the current process.

Guilford Avenue

Issue: DPP should comment on the lack of responses to the RFP and what steps it has taken to improve the receipt of responsive bids.

Response: The Department will pursue alternative bidding arrangements with direct negotiations through identified landlords who have expressed interest in submitting RFPs for this relocation.

Drug Testing Contract

Issue: DPP should comment on the urinalysis testing and how the new contract will improve operations.

Response: The current four-panel urinalysis screening test will be replaced with an 11-panel oral swab rapid drug (i.e. instant) screen that drastically expands the range of controlled and dangerous substances detected. As its name indicates, the new test will provide immediate results and results of the test will continue to be ensured by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) confirmation testing for court purposes. The oral swab method will enhance the efficiency and accuracy of drug testing in DPP offices.

Recommended Actions

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Enhanced Kiosk Reporting System: In an effort to be more resourceful with existing technology and equipment and to enhance the kiosk functionality, the Division of Parole and Probation (DPP), in collaboration with the Information Technology and Communications Division, developed an offender check-in system to work in conjunction with the existing kiosk equipment and software. The enhanced version, currently operating in 21 counties, utilizes a web-based check-in system for offenders, which replaces the need for paper sign-in logs. The budget committees request that DPP submit a report on the enhanced kiosk system, efficiencies gained, performance measures including updated offender reporting data, and efforts to make the new system the primary mode of reporting for low/moderate-risk offenders.

Response: The Department concurs with the recommended action.