

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
SENATE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

January 20, 2010

1:33 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Hollis French, Chair  
Senator Bill Wielechowski, Vice Chair  
Senator Dennis Egan  
Senator Lesil McGuire  
Senator John Coghill

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT**

Senator Ellis

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

Overview: Cost of Crime - ISER Recommendations and Update

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

No previous action to report.

**WITNESS REGISTER**

STEPHANIE MARTIN, Assistant Professor  
Economics and Public Policy  
Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER)  
University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)  
Anchorage, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Presented an overview of recommendations and updates to the ISER study on the cost of crime.

JOSEPH SCHMIDT, Commissioner  
Department of Corrections  
Anchorage, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided information related to the cost of crime overview.

DWAYNE PEEPLES, Deputy Commissioner  
Department of Corrections

Juneau, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided information related to the cost of crime overview.

BRYAN BRANDENBURG, Deputy Director  
Division of Institutions  
Department of Corrections  
Anchorage, AK

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Provided information related to the cost of crime overview.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

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**CHAIR HOLLIS FRENCH** called the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Senators Egan, Wielechowski, and French were present at the call to order. Senator Ellis was also present. Senators McGuire and Coghill arrived during the course of the meeting.

**Overview: Cost of Crime - ISER Recommendations and Update**

CHAIR FRENCH announced the business before the committee is to hear an update on a study on the cost of crime and whether the state can reduce future crime and save money by expanding education and treatment programs. The Legislature asked ISER to do the study, which was completed a year ago.

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STEPHANIE MARTIN, Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), said she works at the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER).

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Senator McGuire joined the committee.

MS. MARTIN explained that when the study began in 2006 there was a general nationwide shift to look at evidence-based policy. Policy recommendations are tested and evaluated much like medical treatments to see whether or not the programs have an effect. There's a nationwide push to fund programs that have shown effects, but the caveat is that very few programs have been rigorously evaluated.

In response to the skyrocketing cost of incarceration in Washington State, Steve Aos [with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy] applied a cost benefit analysis for

Washington to that state's evidence-based policy to see if the programs were cost effective and how long it took to be cost effective. He found that a lot of the programs that reduce recidivism would be beneficial in Washington. The programs that were instituted are carefully monitored and the model is changed as needed.

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CHAIR FRENCH asked if the premise is that it's a net benefit to Alaska if a program reduces the crime rate and costs less to administer than \$44,000/year.

MS. MARTIN said yes; ISER worked with the Criminal Justice Working Group to identify programs for adults and juveniles that prevent recidivism and programs that prevent people from going to prison in the first place. Within those categories some of the adult programs work inside prisons, some - like therapeutic court - bypass prisons, and some - like electronic monitoring - provide an alternative to prison. For juveniles they looked at pre-school education as a preventative program and programs designed for juveniles within the juvenile detention system. ISER found that most programs work and are cost effective, but the greatest cost benefit comes from programs directed at juveniles. However, juvenile programs take a number of years before any benefit is reflected in the prison system. The payoff for investing in kids by enrolling them in a Head Start program, for example, is huge, but the benefit may not be apparent for 15 years.

MS. MARTIN said nearly every program ISER reviewed reduced recidivism and there was no shortage of eligible participants. Many of the programs have a mental health or substance abuse basis and about 96 percent of the incarcerated population has issues with substance abuse, mental health or both. Although there's no shortage of people to participate in these programs, there aren't very many programs in the system and it's difficult to expand.

ISER applied Alaska cost and population data to Mr. Oas's model and determined that it would be highly cost effective to implement these programs in Alaska. ISER concurs with Mr. Oas that it is a good strategy to diversify treatment. People within the prison population have many different needs and diversification provides balance.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked why Alaska has a [67] percent recidivism rate.

MS. MARTIN said when she did the recidivism study with the Judicial Council they were looking at new crimes, but not necessarily the same type of crime. Recidivism rates are lower for certain kinds of crimes.

CHAIR FRENCH observed that the figure may be higher than [67] percent if returns for parole violations are counted.

MS. MARTIN agreed; the study measured new convictions, remands, and arrests and 67 percent represents new convictions.

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MS. MARTIN said the prison population increases at about the same rate as the state population; it's predicted to double in the next 25 years reaching 10,000. This will require at least three new prisons.

CHAIR FRENCH asked the cost of the new Goose Creek Correctional Center.

MS. MARTIN replied it keeps going up but the current cost is \$240 million. The facility will house 1,500 inmates and it will be full when it opens; the inmate population will have grown by 600 and 900 prisoners will have returned from out of state.

SENATOR MCGUIRE asked if traumatic brain injury is considered a mental health disorder.

MS. MARTIN said yes.

SENATOR MCGUIRE asked if mental health transition programs accommodate people with traumatic brain injury.

MS. MARTIN replied about 90 people participate in [Institutional Discharge Projects] each year, but she doesn't know how many have traumatic brain injury.

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MS. MARTIN said ISER found that some programs have short term benefits while others - like Head Start - have huge benefits, but they're not apparent for a long time. Electronic monitoring (EM) is an example of a program with a short term benefit, but it has a tradeoff. EM takes people out of the prison system and it's very cost effective, but it doesn't affect recidivism so it doesn't reduce crime. The sex offender treatment program was not cost effective, but it only looked at the cost to the state.

Victim cost was not considered. The sex offender program does reduce recidivism, but it's very expensive.

CHAIR FRENCH asked why electronic monitoring doesn't produce a lower recidivism rate than putting an offender into prison.

MS. MARTIN replied her understanding is that it's used very short term in Alaska. The average is just 16 days.

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MS. MARTIN said ISER modeled spending \$4 million more on the array of programs and the results were compelling. It showed that it would save the state some \$300 million over 30 years in avoided prison costs and costs of housing prisoners. Costs to the state were measured for the various kinds of crime including arrest, incarceration, and prosecution.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked what it will cost to operate the new prison for a year.

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DWAYNE PEEPLES, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections, replied he'll probably have an estimate in about two weeks.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked for the main reasons that people are put in prison the first time.

MS. MARTIN said in Alaska the crimes are usually misdemeanors and low level felonies. She added that Alaska has strict sentencing so serious criminals are incarcerated for a long time.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked if she knows the specific types of crimes that are generally committed.

MS. MARTIN named pot smoking, underage drinking, shoplifting, petty theft, and domestic violence. She then directed attention to Figure 2, "Who Gets out of Jail or Prison in Alaska?"

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CHAIR FRENCH commented that it's an odd way of presenting the information.

MS. MARTIN explained that it was presented that way to convey to the public that prisons are not releasing serious criminals.

CHAIR FRENCH said it's a good question to pursue.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked if the prisons are full of repeat low-level offenders.

MS. MARTIN replied the consensus in this type of research is that the prison system should be for hardened, difficult criminals that have no desire to change. She added that she doesn't have an answer to his question.

CHAIR FRENCH said his experience as a prosecutor is that the average offender has racked up many convictions. However, he wants analysis rather than anecdotes to use as a guide.

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SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI questioned what to do with the people that commit repeated petty crimes; they probably victimize hundreds if not thousands of people over the course of their lifetime.

MS. MARTIN replied those are presumably the people that would benefit from these programs. She said her understanding is that treating a person's alcohol or mental health problem does away with a lot of the incentive to commit further crimes. Whereas not fixing the problem perpetuates the crime cycle.

SENATOR MCGUIRE stated her belief that spending time, money and effort on juveniles produces the largest payoff. She noted the statistic in Figure 6 that states that "Programs for juvenile offenders save 7 to 13 times what they cost and reduce recidivism among juveniles by about 5 to 8 percentage points (from 70% without the programs). She asked Chair French if the committee could spend a day focusing on juveniles in the state.

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CHAIR FRENCH said he would grant the request; his committee aide, Cindy Smith, just wrote a note suggesting that the committee do a juvenile justice overview next week.

MS. MARTIN related that ISER is working with the Judicial Council to get funding to track recidivism in the adult programs and future plans are to track juvenile programs. The juvenile system is a little different and more difficult to evaluate, but a good intermediate measure of recidivism is high school graduation. Also, there's less domestic violence if kids are in Head Start.

CHAIR FRENCH agreed that the Head Start numbers are striking.

SENATOR MCGUIRE said going to prison is a life altering experience that affects self worth and esteem. She suggested that the outcomes might be different if juveniles were punished differently for low level offenses so they don't get to that crossover point.

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REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL joined the meeting.

MS. MARTIN highlighted that ISER did a study with the Judicial Council looking at the statistical likelihood of a person being convicted of a felony after being charged with a felony. It showed that people with drug, alcohol, and mental illness problems were much more likely to be convicted; there was a slight effect for Alaska Natives; and there was an effect for indigents. People that fall in all of those categories are pretty much doomed in the legal system. A lot of low level incarcerations put a person out of work for 30 days and then they lose their job, which starts a down-hill spiral.

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SENATOR ELLIS asked if ISER has information about cost savings to the Washington State system if these programs were instituted.

MS. MARTIN said yes; Washington State tracks the programs closely and they are working well. They are also sticklers to program fidelity and have legislative auditors who check to ensure that the programs are properly implemented. This rigorous self investigation indicates that the programs do pay off and they do work. Every year more programs are subjected to this type of scrutiny. Ms. Martin noted that the programs listed in the ISER report aren't the only ones that work; many simply haven't been rigorously evaluated. One program that clearly doesn't work is "Scared Straight;" it actually increases crime.

SENATOR ELLIS asked for the study citations. He said he intends to introduce legislation to put 100 percent of the existing alcohol taxes into alcohol prevention and treatment programs.

MS. MARTIN recalled that substance abuse programs reduce recidivism about seven percent.

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CHAIR FRENCH highlighted that a seven percent reduction isn't transforming, but it is "bending the curve." Small changes add up to large savings over time.

MS. MARTIN agreed and added that it's a 7 percent reduction only for those who participated so recidivism won't be reduced to 60 percent. There's no quick fix to this very complex problem, she said.

CHAIR FRENCH referenced Figure 6 that asks how effective various programs are at saving money and reducing crime and how that can be reduced to a net present value.

MS. MARTIN offered to provide the information.

CHAIR FRENCH asked her to also include an analysis of where to put the first rehabilitation dollar assuming there was just one.

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SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked Ms. Martin her perspective on why the U.S. has far more people in prison than any other nation.

MS. MARTIN replied she doesn't have the answer, but given similar situations the U.S. does incarcerate more than other countries.

CHAIR FRENCH commented that European sentencing is comparatively lenient.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked how Alaska recidivism rates compare to other states.

MS. MARTIN replied the rates are similar at 67 percent.

CHAIR FRENCH thanked Ms. Martin for the overview.

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JOSEPH SCHMIDT, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC), introduced himself and expressed appreciation to the legislators who are willing to serve on committees that deal with corrections issues.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said that he views the delivery of correctional services as "through" rather than "from" the department. They bring in the best people they can find, they listen to what the public thinks they should do, and then they

bring in experts to implement those ideas. For example, when he first started in this position there were few if any programs that were being used to change behavior. Although he hadn't had time yet to study it yet, he knew the direction he wanted to go was toward not only safe and secure prisons, but changing inmates' behavior while the department has their full attention.

At the end of 2006 DOC hired Bryan Brandenburg as deputy director of institutions and tasked him with building a program plan around evidence-based programs. Then at the crime summit Steven Aos from Washington State, brought statistics to support the use of evidence-based programs and further confirming that this was the right direction.

The Legislature and the Mental Health Trust funded the ISER Study to "Alaskanize" Washington's numbers; using the modified numbers, the Criminal Justice Working Group developed a list of programs that had been proven to work. As Ms. Martin said however, these programs have to be implemented as they are written and that can be difficult, particularly with culturally relevant programs. It is important not to change the core of a program to make it culturally-based or its efficacy may be compromised.

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COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said they now had data to support using evidence-based programs and the Legislature provided funding for the program plan that Mr. Brandenburg will present today. This is a great example of the three branches of government working together to accomplish an important goal, he said.

CHAIR FRENCH noted that the ISER study said DOC spends about \$17 million per year for rehabilitation programs. He asked if he agrees that was the figure at the end of the last fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said mental health might be included in that figure.

MS. MARTIN clarified that figure represents state-wide spending across all agencies, not just corrections.

CHAIR FRENCH thanked her for the clarification.

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COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said that while he recognizes that the ISER and Judicial Council numbers are the telling ones, it takes three to five years to get those so in the meantime DOC is self-

tracking. The people who started the program in April have been out of jail about six months so it's early in the process, but the numbers are encouraging. DOC processes about 38,000 people each year and about half of those are sentenced.

CHAIR FRENCH asked if it is fair to say that 38,000 spend at least one night in jail.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT offered to provide those numbers and added that the range is from book and bail to several days to several years. The average length of sentence for misdemeanants and felons is 160 days.

He continued to explain that over time they realized that the existing long and comprehensive programs produced few successful graduates. Ms. Martin suggested they diversify, which they did. The current programs run 90 to 120 days and give a large number of prisoners the opportunity to finish. We'll talk about whether this is the best model as the numbers come in, he said.

CHAIR FRENCH asked what these 90 to 120 day programs focus on generally.

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COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT replied it's substance abuse, primarily alcohol.

He related that Alaska prisoners were transferred from Arizona to Hudson Colorado for economic reasons; the cost per bed in Colorado is about \$2 less than it had been in Arizona. The 1,536 bed Goose Creek facility is scheduled to open in March 2012, which will make it possible to bring those prisoners home so that they're closer to their family and community.

Responding to an earlier question from Senator Wielechowski, he said the director of probation and parole told him that on average 190 parolees end up back in jail each month. About half of those parolees have committed a new crime and about half of those new crimes were committed after the parolee had had some contact with the court. We're not sure why we're seeing those numbers, but we believe that the probation officers are making good decisions. Perhaps it would make a difference if those people had contact with the court right away. We're looking at that, he said.

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COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said another notable mention is the Bethel halfway house. The facility holds about 130 prisoners and the halfway house generally had 20 to 25 empty beds the state was paying for. After considerable research and discussion with the community, those beds were transitioned to a program for sex-offenders who have finished their sentences. It is too early to predict success, but there have been no complaints and it still has community support.

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SENATOR EGAN asked if Lemon Creek is still under consideration [for a sex-offender program].

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said yes; it's a 25-bed program and it's close to up and running.

SENATOR EGAN asked if there has been any community opposition.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said no. DOC was careful not to ask for any public support because they know it isn't a popular program. The one concern that came to them was whether sex-offenders from all over Alaska were going to be released in Juneau; that is not going to happen. Upon release, offenders will be returned to their point of arrest.

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CHAIR FRENCH asked if he agrees with the ISER analysis that sex-offender programs reduce recidivism but produce no savings.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT confirmed that the study he saw indicates an eight percent reduction in recidivism, but it's not cost effective. However, the question he would ask is "What is a victim worth?" I think this is the right thing to do; we know what happens if we do nothing, he said.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI referred to Figure seven in the ISER summary that shows that preschool programs for at-risk children cost about \$1,000 per child but saves much more by reducing future crimes. He asked if the administration supports increasing preschool education.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT agreed with the ISER finding. When they began looking at evidence-based programs the research quickly went outside the adult system; everything pointed to the fact that the younger children start in these programs, the more effective it is.

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MR. PEEPLES, responding to Senator Wielechowski's earlier question, said operating costs for Goose Creek will range between \$30 million and \$35 million per year. He will have confirmation of the numbers within two weeks.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked if \$46,000 per inmate factors in the court costs.

MR. PEEPLES said that is a statewide average of total costs for all incarcerations from Bethel to Ketchikan. Some of the state's smallest institutions are the most expensive to run due to economies of scale; each institution has a different cost factor. When he refers to the cost of running an institution, he is referring to that institution. All outside services are contracted.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked how much the state incurs for inmates' medical care.

MR. PEEPLES said he expects it to be close to \$30 million this year. Those costs grow by a couple of million dollars each year.

CHAIR FRENCE asked if that cost is for 5,600 inmates.

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MR. PEEPLES replied the current average daily census is 5,650; the number of people under their jurisdiction per year is 38,000. One year ago the average daily census dropped to between 5,200 and 5,300, which he can't explain. By April it started climbing the normal projected base. The ISER projection was for an additional 200 inmates per year and although they will be under that for awhile, it will continue to grow. The projections are straight-line based on population growth but there are variables that will affect it. One of them is the transition of an age cohort; there's a bulge of males in their late teens through their late 30s, which will increase incarceration rates.

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CHAIR FRENCH said he is aware that statistically 21 to 28-year-old males are the chief offenders. He asked what the average age of Alaska's population is now.

MR. PEEPLES said he did not know.

CHAIR FRENCH asked if he's saying that the population bulge hasn't yet passed through the corrections system.

MR. PEEPLES clarified that Alaska is in the middle of a bulge that is expected to cause an increase in that census. Other trends include recent statutory changes that make certain misdemeanants felons. One example is a law passed two years ago that made third-time assaults a felony. He also expects problems as facilities from Dillingham to Fairbanks come under greater pressure from the un-sentenced population. Most of the facilities up north are inadequate; the Fairbanks facility needs to be replaced in the near future and Bethel's facility needs expensive alteration and expansion.

Costs for medical care will continue to accelerate because of a growth in the mental health population and the declining health status of the general population coming through their doors.

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COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT interjected that while Goose Creek is not their measure of success, it is a good thing in that provides beds to bring people home. However, those are sentenced beds; if a person is arrested for something in Bethel, there has to be a place to hold them. DOC is moving toward a model in which the city takes care of misdemeanants in the jails and felons go to prisons run by the state. During the last of their sentence they will be returned to facilities closer to home.

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BRYAN BRANDENBURG, Deputy Director, Division of Institutions, Department of Corrections, said he has worked for the department for over 20 years, 18 of those as a mental health clinician providing direct services to inmates in various facilities. His passion has always been programs for the population that is not mentally ill; those that have been funneling through the system.

When he became deputy director he was able for the first time to put together a comprehensive plan that addresses the criminal attributes that make an offender prone to reoffend. Studies suggest that evidence-based programs can effect change in that population. A lot of the research indicates that 20 percent of the offenders are committing 80 percent of the crimes. A small percentage of offenders are what might be called career criminals; they really need to be locked up because they don't respond to treatment. The other 80 percent can be helped to become productive citizens using evidence-based programs.

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SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked how other states deal with people who have committed 30 or 40 petty crimes and are still out in the communities.

MR. BRANDENBURG said the evidence indicates that most states look at the offender's level of risk to re-offend and use it as one of the criteria in setting sentence length. DOC uses the LSI (Level of Service Inventory Revised) risk-needs-assessment tool to determine what programs offenders need to go into and what level of risk they pose for re-offending. Lots of states have looked at reducing sentences for some of the less severe crimes through the use of diversion programs and alternatives to sentencing such as CRCs [Community Residential Centers] and EM programs [electronic monitoring]. Some states have also set up ways for people to earn their way out early. The state of Washington, for example, has a 50 percent rule set up so inmates can earn up to 50 percent off their sentences.

SENATOR WIELECHOWSKI asked if people who commit repeated petty crimes could be turned around if they were put in effective treatment programs.

MR. BRANDENBURG said DOC releases over 15,000 sentenced offenders per year, 3,700 of which are felons. The average length of stay for a felon in Alaska's system is 285 days and the average length of stay for a sentenced misdemeanant is 27 days, so they release about 287 felons each month. The problem is that huge numbers of people get out without having participated in programming that might help turn around the recidivism rate.

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MR. BRANDENBURG highlighted that the department is focused on is the re-entry process that starts when the offender enters the system. When the offender is sentenced DOC will do a risk assessment using the LSIR and other screening tools to identify specific problem areas such as substance abuse and anger management. Then they will develop what is called an Offender Management Plan that will include a preliminary re-entry plan. They have been revising the classification system to develop a behavior driven tool that will allow inmates to earn a reduction in custody levels if they participate in recommended programs and stay discipline free.

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COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT added that DOC is doing side-by-side comparisons between the new and old systems to determine what percentage of prisoners are minimum, medium or close custody. They found that the proposed system does not radically change any of the groupings.

MR. BRANDENBURG said when they identify the programs prisoners need, they hope to stop the cycle that brings them back to jail. The largest piece of that is the substance abuse program. He added that all of their programs follow the American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria for programming. They now have three six-month intensive inpatient programs. These were previously 12 to 18 month programs that weren't getting a lot of participation. They have the ability to run 240 people each year through the new, shorter programs.

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REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL asked if this accommodates population movement from one facility to another.

MR. BRANDENBURG replied that was the idea from the beginning.

CHAIR FRENCH recapped that they can treat 240 inmates per year in their substance abuse programs, which are six-month programs analogous to those studied by Steve Oas and ISER. He mused that 240 inmates out of 5,600 is about 5 percent.

MR. BRANDENBURG said that when they have finished later this fiscal year they will be able to treat over 1,000 inmates per year.

REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL said he will be watching to see which mental health services will be available.

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MR. BRANDENBURG continued. DOC has five 90-day intensive out-patient programs in its facilities in Bethel, Nome, Fairbanks, Juneau and Spring Creek. 500 inmates per year will be served. The programs meet level 2 criteria for substance abuse programming and allow inmates to participate in other programs. They also have two level-2 CRC programs that are based on the same model; one is in Anchorage at Akeela House and another at the North Star Residential Center.

There is a pretrial assessment and referral program for the Anchorage complex, MatSu Pretrial and Palmer Correctional Center. From that assessment, people will either be referred to

a program in one of their facilities or to a community provider for services. At Palmer there will also be a 30-day educational program that will accommodate about 250 people per year.

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CHAIR FRENCH asked what sort of effect they expect to get from a 30-day educational component.

MR. BRANDENBURG replied they'll have a treatment and control group for all phases of the program and in a year they'll know how the 1,000 people who went through a substance abuse program compare to the 1,000 that were in the control group.

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CHAIR FRENCH asked what Mr. Oas or ISER suggest about what the reduction in recidivism will be from attending a 30-day class.

MR. BRANDENBURG replied most of it is to set up a scenario that encourages participation in treatment.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said pretrial has a high turnover. The other problem they run into with programs in pretrial is that defense counsel often advises their clients against participation for fear it will compromise a defense. So although they want to focus on those who have been convicted, they need to do something in the pretrial period.

CHAIR FRENCH said he is skeptical and will be curious to hear what they found out, perhaps in a future meeting.

MR. BRANDENBURG said he is sure there will be some benefit but doesn't know how much.

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MR. BRANDENBURG said they have also paired anger management with their substance abuse programs to increase the effectiveness. They have a 48-week offender treatment program that addresses some different aspects of the criminal personality.

He is particularly proud of their Parenting Inside/Out Program. A lot of offenders have children and very little idea about parenting; this program is available at every facility and can accommodate four groups of 20 inmates each year. About 162 inmates have gone through the program since it was implemented in June.

The 25-bed sex-offender treatment unit he mentioned is getting ready to open in Juneau; they have the CRC based program in Bethel with 19 beds, 15 of which are filled and there are seven intensive out-patient programs available in the communities that include polygraph testing.

Domestic violence programming is provided in four facilities through the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. DOC monitors the programs but is looking for evidence-based programs that the council can implement in other facilities around the state.

GED and Adult Basic Education classes are offered; the number of people getting their GED each year has increased from 82 to 247. This year they expect to increase that number to 285.

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Vocational rehabilitation is also offered. Currently DOC has 760 inmates in vocational programs and 136 in apprentice programs for a total of 890 inmates participating.

Finally, the re-entry program focuses on ensuring that people being released have a job, a place to stay and can be reunified with family. People who have those things in place when they get out of jail are less likely to come back. There is no price-tag available for that yet.

COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT said they are working to gather that data and they will have the information during this budget cycle if necessary.

CHAIR FRENCH asked if the sex-offender program is only at Lemon Creek.

MR. BRANDENBURG said yes. It is a 12 to 18 month intensive program.

CHAIR FRENCH said at 25 beds it sounds as if that is costing \$100,000 per bed.

MR. BRANDENBURG agreed that it is expensive.

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REPRESENTATIVE COGHILL commented that one of the things they've struggled with over the years is the assets that DOC has access to in any community. It will be interesting to learn what the cooperation looks like and where the blank spots might be.

MR. BRANDENBURG said one piece of this re-entry plan is the transition between the institution and the field probation officer [FPO]. They are talking about sentenced felons who will be on supervision when they are released. This plan starts upon sentencing and follows them throughout their incarceration. Three to six months prior to release there will be a meeting with the FPO to talk about the transition and what resources will be needed when the offender is released into the community.

CHAIR FRENCH asked Mr. Peeples to confirm the cost of the plan.

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MR. PEEPLES clarified that the cost-allocation for the institution-based program was \$200,000 starting at Lemon Creek. It is not \$2.6 million. He directed attention to page 4 in the ISER summary, the second block of numbers under the sex-offender treatment program.

CHAIR FRENCH said he sees that Lemon Creek program is just \$200,000.

MR. BRANDENBURG admitted he is not a numbers guy.

[3:03:31 PM](#)

There being nothing further to come before the committee, Chair French adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.