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September 10, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Bryan P. Stirling, Director
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Post Office Box 21787
Columbia, South Carolina 29210
stirling.bryan@doc.sc.gov

RE: Collaboration with Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon and other activities

Dear Director Stirling:

The House Legislative Oversight Committee's Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee is currently performing an oversight study of the S.C. Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (PPP). The purpose of legislative oversight is to determine if agency laws and programs are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly and whether they should be continued, curtailed, or even eliminated. Any House Member may file legislation to implement the Committee's recommendations.

The purpose of this letter is to seek additional input from your office.

Release

1. Please provide a chart with the number of yearly releases from SCDC and destination of those releases (e.g., free with no supervision, to supervision of PPP, etc.) for each of the last ten years.

Victims

2. Please explain concerns, if any, the agency may have about collaborating with PPP so that SCDC and PPP could both utilize the same electronic system to send crime victims notification to provide crime victims some consistency in the method through which they receive notifications.
 - a. Please list the pros and cons of collaborating with PPP so SCDC and PPP utilize the same electronic system to send each of the victim notifications for which they are individually responsible.
3. Is there a central location in which a victim can log in and initially set, or later change, their preferences for the notifications they receive and method by which they receive it from SCDC? Or from all entities that may send notifications to the victim?
 - a. What would be the pros and cons of having a central location in which a victim can log in and initially set, or later change, their preferences for the notifications they receive from SCDC (or any entity) and method by which they receive it?
4. Is there a central place where SCDC can see a record of the different notifications a victim received while the offender was under SCDC supervision, or at any other point in the process (i.e., when offender was under PPP supervision before probation or parole was revoked)?
 - a. Would this be helpful in ensuring victims are receiving all the notifications required in the constitution? (Victim's Bill of Rights is in SC Constitution, Article 1, Section 24)
5. Is there a central location in which an entity can select the type of triggering event and the notification automatically go to all the victims and entities that need to receive the notification (e.g., victim, solicitor's office, initial responding law enforcement agency) and through which entities or victims could update their contact information and access an audit trail, so if anyone claimed they did not receive a notification, it could be determined whether the notification was sent?
 - a. What would be the pros and cons of having a central location or system with the features described in the question above?

Offender Information and Restitution

6. Please determine and list in an Excel chart the specific information SCDC could, and could not, provide about offenders under its supervision as well as the specific information SCDC currently publishes online about each offender.
7. How does SCDC track restitution payments and amounts owed?
 - a. Is information emailed back and forth between affected agencies (PPP and Attorney General's Office), or is there a system the agencies can utilize to prevent the need for re-entry of data in situations in which offenders go back and forth between the agencies?
8. Can a victim provide bank information so restitution can be direct deposited into their account instead of receiving a mailed check?

9. How many of the following offenders that were released from SCDC in the last five years never completely fulfilled restitution requirements:
 - a. Offenders released to no other supervising entity;
 - b. Offenders released to PPP for supervision; and
 - c. Offenders released to another entity for supervision.

Risk Assessments and Programs

10. What does SCDC see as the pros and cons of collaborating with PPP on objective common risk assessment methods and program criteria that may provide additional continuity for offenders that transition between supervision under SCDC and supervision under PPP?
11. Is the Static-99R test, which PPP uses for determining the supervision level for sex offenders that enter PPP supervision through parole or another program, used by SCDC? If no, please explain what SCDC utilizes.

Referrals and outside services

12. Does SCDC, PPP, and other state agencies (e.g., Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Department of Mental Health) contract with some of the same entities, or for some of the same type services, to be provided to offenders or other individuals?
13. Has there ever been a discussion of, or creation of, a joint provider directory that could be utilized by SCDC, PPP, DAODAS, and DMH?
 - a. What would SCDC see as the pros and cons of such a directory?
14. Has there ever been a discussion of, or creation of, a joint review board to receive anonymous feedback from individuals receiving services and agencies, to utilize in a process to approve providers for a joint provider directory to assist agencies in curating providers they utilize and to whom they refer individuals?
 - a. What would SCDC see as the pros and cons of such a board?
15. Would SCDC be open to discussion of a directory as mentioned above as it may help avoid SCDC noticing a bad provider and eliminating them from SCDC's list, just to have the provider go to PPP?

Time Served

16. Does SCDC calculate when an offender is eligible for a pre-release program like Parole, Community Supervision, or Supervised Re-entry or does the agency rely on PPP to make these calculations?
17. Please explain each step in how SCDC calculates the amount of time served by an offender for purposes of calculating release date including the source of each item of information utilized in the calculation.

Director Stirling

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18. How would an auditor check if the amount of credit for time served was accurately entered in the databases and forms of SCDC.

Legal Mandates

19. Does the agency have, or know of, a standard practice for how to address a situation, should it arise, in which a statute directed SCDC to take some action in regard to another entity and the other entity would not allow it?

Manual Reentry

20. Attachment A was created based on information SCDC provided as part of the Accountability Report in 2019-2020 related to manual entry of data, costs, and potential impacts of errors. Please review to ensure the information is accurate and provide any updates needed.

If your office would like to provide input, please do so before Monday, September 27, 2021. Additionally, the subcommittee welcomes any other input or feedback your office would like to provide.

Thank you and your team for your service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Wooten", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Wooten
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee

If Manual Entry was not needed at...

Department of Corrections

Accurate as of 2020

Resources available to address other agency needs:

Employees that become available

(if hours combined)

High End
39

Low End
10

Hours per week that become available

High End
1467

Low End
356

Number of Employees manually entering data as part of their job

269

Cost of employee time spent entering data

\$1.1M

Source of data manually entered:

Another state agency (South Carolina)	A state agency from another state	Members of the public	Other
Yes	No	No	Courts

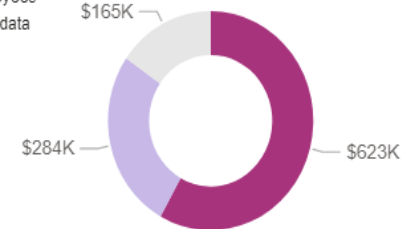
Potential impact if individual incorrectly enters data...

Inability to do the following: accurately identify inmates, properly determine inmate custody classification and educational / work program assignments, properly calculate inmate release dates, properly collect inmate restitution, maintain continuity of inmate medical / mental health care, qualify for educational funding for inmate students, and maintain staff law enforcement certification.

Percentage of time employees spend manually entering data

- [Less than 10%]
- [10-24%]
- [25-49%]
- [50-74%]
- [75% or more]

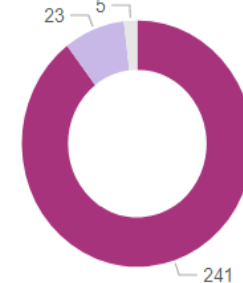
Cost



Number of employees

Percentage of time employees spend manually entering data

- Less than 10%
- 10-24%
- 25-49%
- 50-74%
- 75% or more



Average salary

Percentage of time employees spend manually entering data

- [Less than 10%]
- [10-24%]
- [25-49%]
- [50-74%]
- [75% or more]

