Senate Corrections Subcommittee
Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC)
Follow Up Responses
October 9, 2024 Meeting

1. **Please provide the salary information for correctional officers in Davidson County. Please provide the salary information for police officers in Davidson County.**

TDOC found a job advertisement for Metro Nashville career opportunities: Metro Nashville Career Opportunities | Metro Nashville and Davidson County (governmentjobs.com). While the salary is advertised at $48,115.96 annually, the following information is available in the posting: The salary is $52,471.07, upon completion of the training academy. The salary is $57,958.26 upon completion of a six-month probationary period.

Likewise, TDOC found benefits and salary information for police officers in Davidson County: https://joinmnpd.com/salary-benefits/. A police officer trainee has a starting salary of $60,274 and can receive salary increases depending on officer classification.

During TDOC's testimony, Assistant Commissioner Heather Stanford addressed committee member questions regarding salary information for correctional officers for the Department of Correction. It is important to make note of the position salaries for both Davidson County correctional officers and police officers since those differ but may have both been referenced. To gauge a comparison of compensation, the salaries for Davidson County correctional officers and Department of Correction correctional officers should be compared.

2. **Please provide the CoreCivic vacancy rates for correctional officers.**

Facilities	**Vacancy Rates (July 2024)**
Hardeman County Correctional Facility	25%
South Central Correctional Facility	39.6%
Trousdale Turner Correctional Center	33.5%
Whiteville Correctional Facility	20%

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3. **Please provide information on what records are public relative to inmate drug overdose deaths.**

Records from TDOC are open to the public and the legislature, however, there are certain pieces of information that remain confidential under state law. There are a variety of laws that govern what is to remain confidential, much of which depends on specific facts related to what is requested and the timing of the request. Many of the exemptions specific to TDOC open records are found in Tenn. Code Ann. T. C. A. §10-7-504(a)(1)(A) and (8) which specifically deals with medical information, investigatory records, or employment matters. Under Tenn. Code Ann. § 38-10-102, TDOC is required to report certain information to the TBI. The law then later provides what information is considered open to the public. TDOC's primary goal is to provide as much requested information as possible, while also adhering to the privacy of individuals, whether that is an inmate or an employee.

4. **Please provide statistics relative to TDOC Disciplinary Boards and inmate discipline.**

From January 2024-October 2024, there have been 255 appeals made by inmates to the Commissioner regarding discipline issued. To date, 219 appeals have been denied, 1 remanded, 1 overturned, and 33 returned to inmates due to omission/error of information. From January 2024-October 2024, there have been 113 appeals made to the Assistant Commissioner of Prison Operations. Of those appeals, 107 have been affirmed, 3 dismissed, 3 remanded.

There are different appeal procedures for inmates housed at the privately managed facilities versus the process for state prisons. For the state's privately managed facilities, the first stage of the appeal is to the Assistant Commissioner of Prison Operations and a final appeal rendered by the Commissioner. Appeal Procedures for inmates housed at the state TDOC facilities, the initial appeal is to the Warden and the final appeal rendered by the Commissioner. These numbers encompass both appeals at state and privately managed facilities.

As for other disciplinary measures, it is important to note that TDOC has reviewed its process of inmate discipline and conducted an overhaul of how sentence credits are awarded and removed. In 2022, a little over 2,000 credit days were removed from inmates for disciplinary purposes.

To date in 2024, more than 80,000 credit days have been removed from over 1,000 different inmates. TDOC has been working collaboratively with the Inmate Disciplinary Oversight Board including information sharing, numerous meetings, and training sessions. While this is an autonomous board from TDOC, we are all committed to working together to ensure a safer Tennessee.

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Sentence Credit Removals

TOMIS LSTV/LSTB Screens

	Total Credit Days Taken	Months Equivalent	Unique TOMIS ID
2021	481	16	27
2022	2,253	75	35
2023	34,328	1,144	375
2024	80,209	2,673	1,088