



Offender Programming Changes

Secretary Gregg Marcantel

Prison Sustainability

As the New Mexico Corrections Department has focused our efforts on doing what's right for our community, we have identified areas where the department can use sustainability projects to save money and have a positive impact on our community.

In 2012, NMCD reached out to the University of New Mexico. With the help of the Anderson School of Business we established a business plan to move forward with sustainability projects on a five year plan for implementation.

To give you an example of just one of the proposed projects, currently the Penitentiary of New Mexico pays \$371.22 a load for a third party to haul off cooking grease from the facility. Multiply that by 6 public facilities and the department is spending \$18,000 in cooking grease removal alone. Corrections Industries believes they can outfit a truck to haul this grease out of the facilities and teach inmates to make biofuel.

Another idea, composting at all prison facilities would eliminate a majority of the costs associated with sewage and garbage removal. Western New Mexico Correctional Facility pays approximately \$140,000 a year for sewer and garbage removal currently. This is just one of 11 prisons that we believe would save more than \$100,000 by composting at the prison.

We know this will work, the Washington Department of Corrections began their sustainability efforts in 2005. Their sustainability efforts have allowed a cost avoidance of an estimated \$4.3 million annually. We believe we can mirror their success. The New Mexico Corrections Department could feasibly experience a \$1 million dollar cost avoidance in five years based on the implementation numbers of the Washington Department of Corrections.

Special points of interest:

- Sustainability
- Joni and Friends
- Motivating Offender Change

Joni and Friends Wheels for the World

In its efforts to seek housing alternatives for members of validated security threat groups not currently not engaged in predatory behavior, the NMCD has designated a new housing environment at the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility (SNMCF) where offender programming may be better tailored specifically to their needs.

Specifically relating to inmates with pervasive history of gang related crimes, the NMCD is committed to the development and implementation of new programming aimed at providing inmates a greater sense of identity and purpose that may supersede their traditional gang identities. An example of a promising strategy currently being implemented is the Department's newly developed partnership with Joni and Friends, Wheels for the World. This program being implementated at the SNMCF and designed to provide these inmates with daily meaningful work refurbishing wheelchairs for individuals in third world countries who are handicap and could not otherwise afford one. The program shall seek to create a greater sense of service for these inmates as through their work they will "provide freedom for others as they earn their own".

Inmates will receive letters and pictures from those who are given the wheelchairs.



Motivating Offender Change

In its efforts to emphasize the use of Level VI segregation for violent, predatory inmates instead of housing inmates for protective custody purposes, the NMCD also realizes the necessity and utility of programming for those inmates posing the greatest risk to the safety and security of its prisons and our State's neighborhoods (Level VI predatory inmates). Because a number of these inmates, who will remain housed in Level VI administrative segregation, will eventually return to New Mexico's neighborhoods, there is an opportunity and need for developing and maintaining a safe environment for limited congregate programming to meet the greater needs of these inmates. Accordingly, the Department is implementing its Motivating Offender Change Program, a strategy used by the State of Washington that has yielded promising recidivism reduction results. This program allows trained staff members to facilitate cognitive behavioral programming to safely and humanely restrained active predatory inmates. Programming delivery is supported by appropriate interactions between these inmates, with the focus on helping the inmates develop empathy and respect for each other as human beings (not rivals or objects) and more productive behaviors and thought processes for life outside of prison. The NMCD is also reviewing and assessing other congregate programming alternatives for these Level VI gang members, as it understands that the majority of these inmates will eventually discharge or parole from prison.



"We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always."

