



Joint Legislative Justice Oversight

July 11, 2023



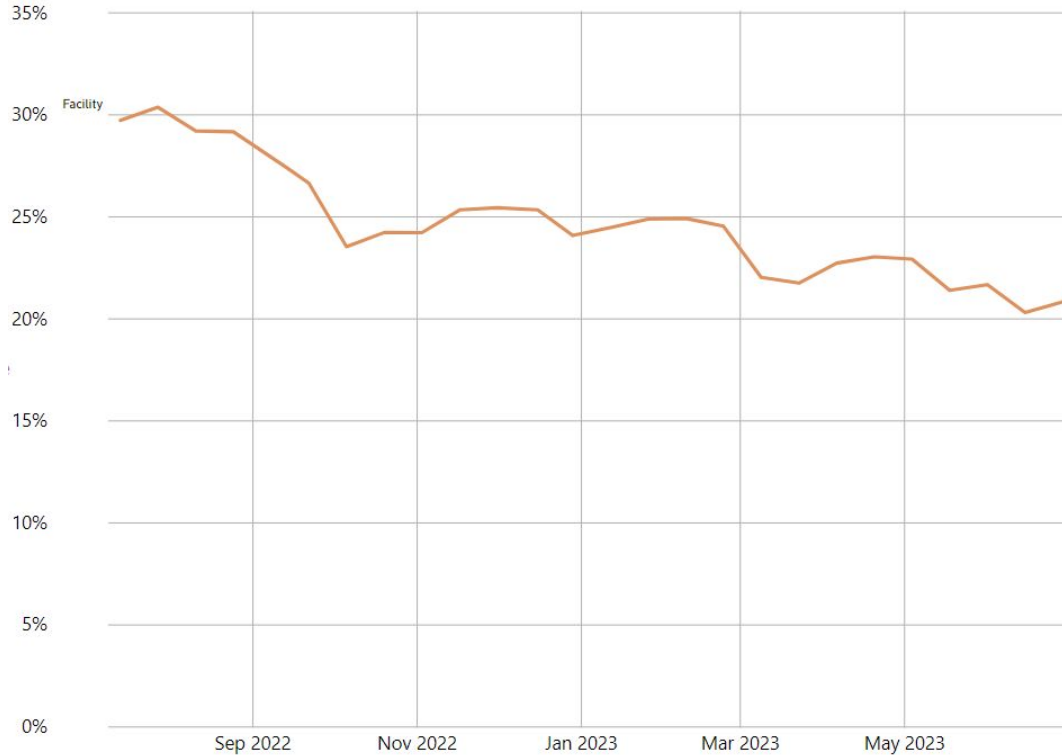
Discussion

- Staff & Staffing
- Health and Wellness: Healthcare Transition
- Fatality Review Process
- Changes to Administration of Home Detention
- End of Work Crew Program

Facility Staff Vacancy Rate



Staff Vacancy by Location Over the Past 12 Months



12 Months Ago: **30.4%**

Current: **20.8%**



DOC Staffing Updates

- 174th Vermont Correctional Academy
 - Schedule: July 31 — September 8, 2023
 - Attendees: 44 confirmed, 16 pending background investigations
- Field Hospital Coverage
- Labor Partner Agreements



Healthcare Transition Update

- Transition to new healthcare vendor, Wellpath, on July 1, 2023.
- Contract term: July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026.
- \$33M contract for FY24.
- Includes medical, mental health, substance abuse, dental, vision, onsite and off-site specialty, pharmacy, care coordination, and emergency services (up to hospital-level).
- Must match Vermont community standard of care.



Fatalities in State Custody

- DOC retained Downs Rachlin Martin to lead a review process for making public findings from investigations into critical incidents.
- DRM will assist the Department in designing a new system to document findings and actions taken in response to critical incidents following these reviews.
- Process projected to conclude with recommendations later this summer.



Updates to Home Detention

- Home Detention is a program of confinement and supervision restricting a defendant to a preapproved residence continuously, except for authorized absences, and is enforced by electronic monitoring by DOC.
- Department will transition from active supervision to *passive* supervision.
- New policy initiates automatic referral process for non-listed, non-violent detainees held on bail.
 - Automatic referral expands possibility of Home Detention, but eligibility remains ultimately at the discretion of the courts.
- Changes take effect August 1, 2023.



Work Crew: Background

- Individuals on work crew on May 1, 2023: **64**
 - Down from average of >200 five years ago (-70%)
 - Total DOC supervision population: 4,147 (work crew = 1.5%)
- Active arrest warrants on May 1, 2023: **152**
 - 131 returns from January 2022 to present
- State net financial impact since 2015: **-\$11.4M**
- Estimated investment needed to sustain program: **\$3.9M** (\$60,937 per individual)
 - Annual operating budget: \$400K
 - Payroll: \$2.75M
 - Equipment purchase: \$750K

Council of State Governments



- In 2019, [CSG reported](#) work crew was the **leading cause of returns to incarceration** for technical violations (46%).
 - More returns than curfew violations, violent/threatening behaviors, sex offender condition violations, and DV condition violations **combined**.



Discussion