

SC Department of Corrections

Response to questions from Health, Social Services, Natural Resources, Criminal Justice & Environmental Services Restructuring Subcommittee.

1. Restructuring efforts that could impact agency

SCDC was not mentioned as part of any restructuring efforts being considered by this committee. However a separate committee is considering combining Corrections and PPP.

2. Summary of what agency has done to cut costs

Since 2003, SCDC has undertaken many measures to reduce costs and made these efforts standard operating procedures. These measures include but are not limited to: redesign of inmate mattresses and clothing, reduction of medication given to inmate upon release, entering into energy performance contract at five institutions, migrating programs from mainframe to web based solutions, raise labor crew daily rate, increasing inmate co-pay rates, increasing transportation and laundry fees for work release inmates.

For the past three fiscal years, SCDC has mandated furlough days for employees – three days in FY09 with exclusions for security and five days in FY10 and FY11 for all employees. In FY11, the Health Services Division restructured contracts/agreements with many of our outside medical services vendors to reduce costs. Many of these agreements had been reimbursable at full charges – they have been reduced to no more than the rate paid by the state employee health insurance or a percentage of Medicare rates. The agency is currently waiting on approval of its 340(b) application which would further reduce pharmaceutical costs.

3. What agency is considering to handle additional cuts

Given our low funding and staffing levels, the only way to safely and significantly reduce costs at SCDC would be through the release of sufficient numbers of inmates to close institutions.. This plan was been submitted to the legislature during the budgeting process for FY09, fy10 and fy11. No corresponding legislation was introduced.