



State of Maine Board of Corrections

State House Station #111
Augusta, ME 04333-0111



MEMBERS:

Mark Westrum*
Doug Beaulieu
Dave Bowles
Richard Hanley
Anne Head
Tim King
Randall Liberty
Joseph Ponte
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Sheriff Glenn Ross*
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Amy Fowler
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*Co-Chairs

FOCUS GROUPS:

Budget
Education
Inventory of Needs
Information Technology
Medical/ Pharmacy
Mental Health/Substance
Abuse
Pretrial/Diversion/Reentry
Transportation
Victim Services

October 13, 2011

H. Sawin Millett, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Administrative and Financial Services
78 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0078

Dear Commissioner Millett:

This is to inform you that the Board of Corrections has reconsidered its letter of August 12, 2011, regarding the streamlining target of \$335,513. Upon review of more current financial information, the Board voted unanimously on October 5, 2011, to comply with the request of the Streamlining Task Force.

From a county perspective, county and regional jails continue to face growing jail population and increased operational costs, yet as a result of the passage of PL 2007, Chapter 653, property tax for county and regional jails was capped at \$62.5 million annually. The counties have no other option other than the state to provide adequate funding for our county correctional facilities. County and regional jails continue to fall behind in our critical maintenance obligations to our aging facilities, and the inverse debt issue stipulated by MRSA 30-A § 1803 (5) has never been properly addressed or funded by the legislature.

It has been the experience of the Board that prior year funds (carry forward) from efficiencies generated have been used in subsequent years to offset jail growth to minimize any request of the legislature for additional funding. The Board is hopeful that more efficiencies can be found within the correctional system to offset the need for these funds in the next biennium.

With new leadership at the Board and Corrections Working Group level, we look forward to new ideas to achieve our core mission.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Westrum, Chair
Board of Corrections

MAW/keb