

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Senator Martin, Chair
Senator Smith, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2025
TIME: 1:30—3:30 p.m.
PLACE: *Mallory Horne Committee Room*, 37 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Martin, Chair; Senator Smith, Vice Chair; Senators Bernard, Bradley, Garcia, Gruters, Pizzo, Simon, and Yarborough

BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS			
TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER		COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation by the Florida Department of Corrections on Incentivized Prisons		Presented
Other Related Meeting Documents			



Population Management Strategies

Florida Department of Corrections

Overview

- Third-largest prison system in the country
- FDC employs nearly 24,000 staff, incarcerates over 87,000 inmates, and supervises over 145,000 offenders in the community
- Approximately 27,000 Floridians are sentenced to state prison annually



Population Management Strategies



Incentivized Prison
(IP)



Administrative
Management Unit
(AMU)



Short Sentence
Correctional
Institution (SSCI)



Re-engineering the
Re-Entry Center
Concept

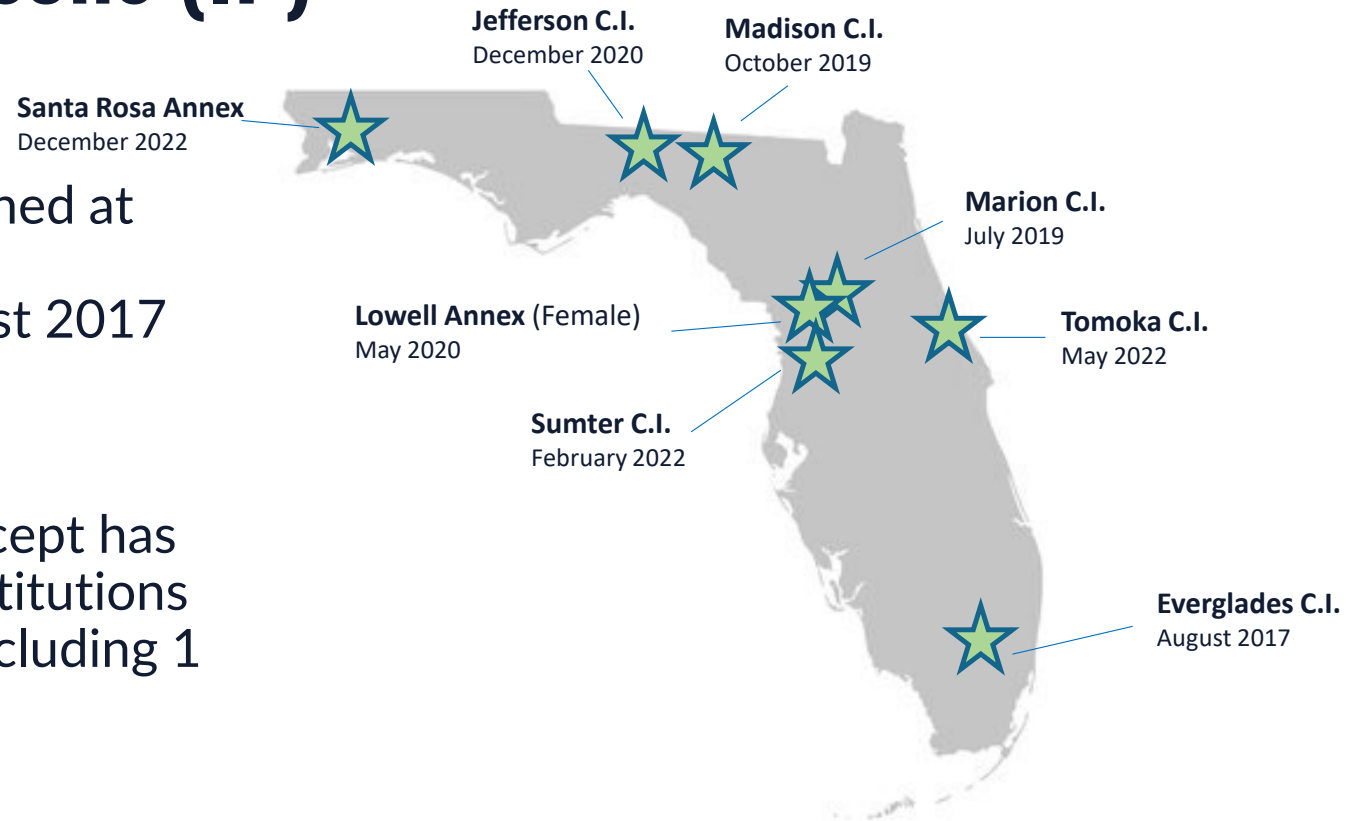


Targeted
Volunteerism



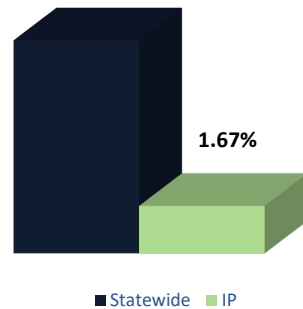
Incentivized Prisons (IP)

- The first IP was established at Everglades Correctional Institution (C.I.) in August 2017
- Based on the success of Everglades C.I., the concept has expanded to 7 other institutions throughout the state, including 1 female institution

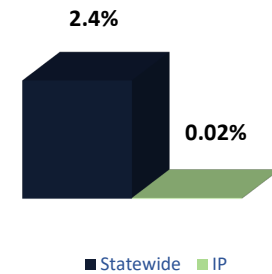


Results

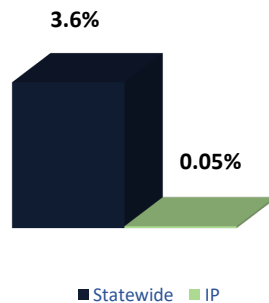
IP DRs vs Statewide DRs
(Average % of Population Per Month)



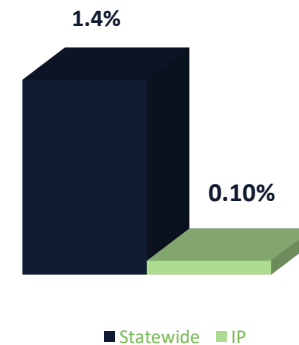
IP Average Staff Assault DRs vs
Statewide Average Staff Assault DRs
(Average % of Population Per Month)



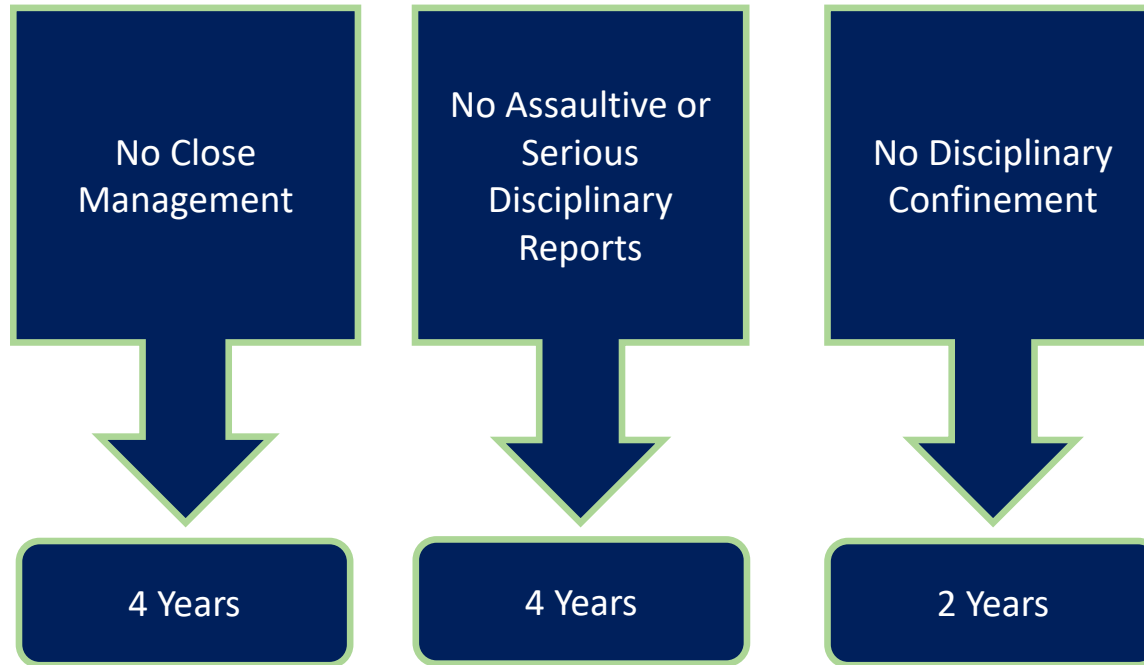
IP Average Inmate on Inmate Assault DRs vs
Statewide Inmate on Inmate Assault DRs
(Average % of Population Per Month)



IP Average UOF vs Statewide Average UOF
(Average % of Population Per Month)



Eligibility Criteria for IP



Incentivized Prison Programming

- Programs offered at incentivized prisons are similar to those offered at other locations:
 - Academic Education
 - Career & Technical Education
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Programs addressing criminogenic needs

Current Total IP Participants:	9,089 inmates
Incentivized Prison Waiting List:	Male: 3,331 Female: 151



Administrative Management Unit (AMU)

- Provides a highly structured, program-oriented environment with enhanced security protocols
- The AMU was established at Jackson C.I. in November 2020



AMU Placement Criteria



AMU: Controlled Movement



Short Sentence Correctional Institution (SSCI)

- Designated for first time incarcerated offenders with a short sentence (1 year or less when received by FDC).
- Average participation over last 3 years:
 - 2,391 males
 - 687 females
- This population is prone to high violence levels
- FDC has designated 5 select locations for this population

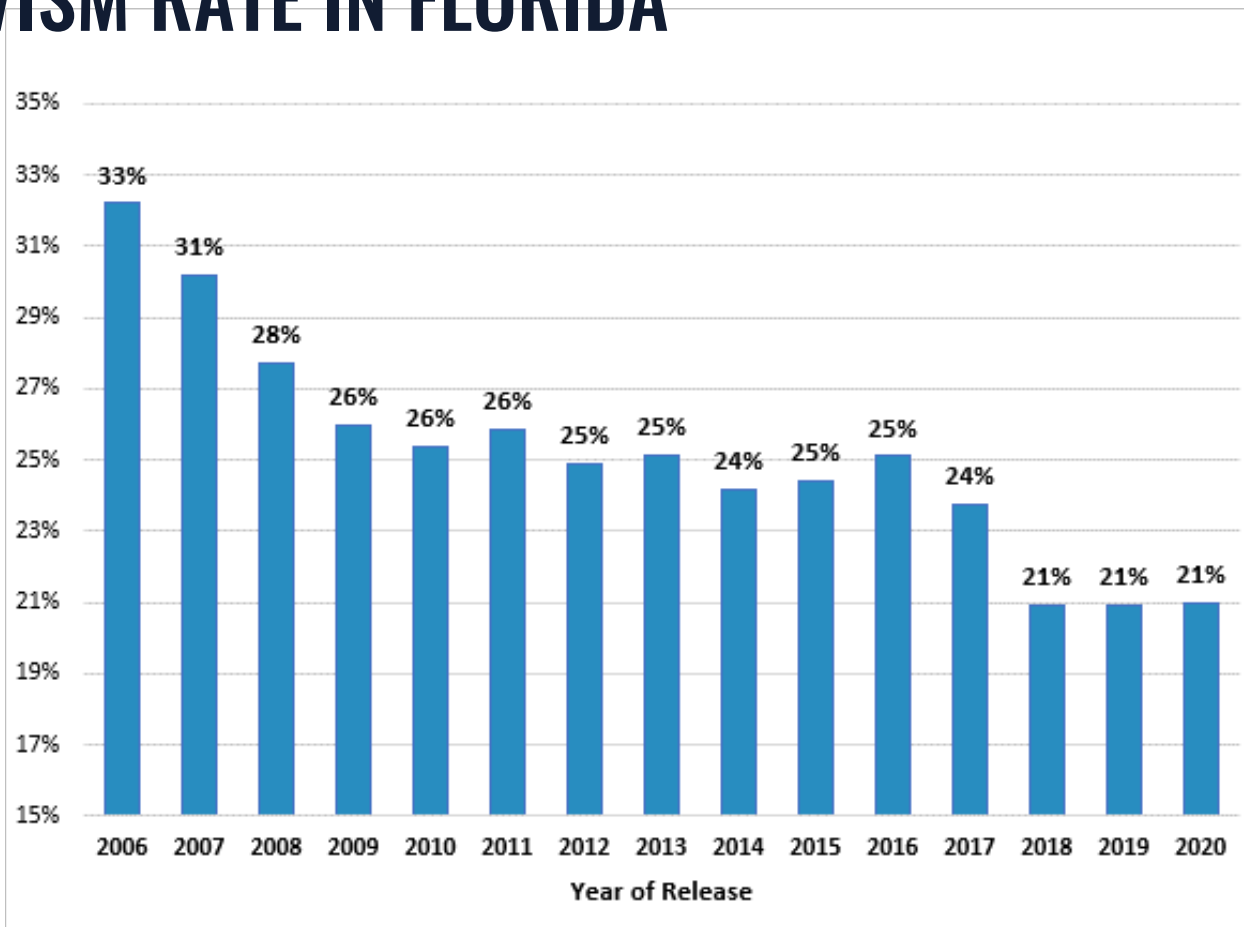


Re-Entry and Targeted Volunteerism

- Re-engineering the Re-Entry Center Concept
- Targeted Volunteerism



RECIDIVISM RATE IN FLORIDA





WE NEVER WALK ALONE

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Population Management
Strategies Bill Number or Topic

01/14/2025

Meeting Date

Senate criminal justice

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Secretary Ricky Dixon

Phone 850-717-3030

Address 501 S. Calhoun St. Tallahassee,
Street FL 32399

Email

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐ For

☐ Against

☒ Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐ In Support

☐ Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

☐ I am appearing without
compensation or sponsorship.

☒ I am a registered lobbyist,
representing:

Florida Department
of Corrections

☐ I am not a lobbyist, but received
something of value for my appearance
(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

1-14-2025

Meeting Date

CJ

Committee

FDC Incentive

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Kim White

Phone

512 466-63 23

Address

4351 meadowland Dr

Street

Email

Mt Dora FL

City

State

32757

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

OR

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

11/14/25

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate
APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Incentivized Prisons
FDC Population Mgmt
Bill Number or Topic

Senate Criminal Justice
Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Denise Rock

Phone 561-502-0393

Address 11447 Blue Violet Ln
Street

Email denise@Floridacareschorty.org

Wps
City

FL
State

33411
Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

APPEARANCE RECORD

Deliver both copies of this form to
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incentivized prisons
Bill Number or Topic

1/14/25
Meeting Date
Criminal Justice
Committee

Name Janet Goree-Watson

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Phone (850) 573-4127

Address 53 Lurry Lane
Street
Havana FL 32333
City State Zip

Email kgoree17@gmail.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

OR

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

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Meeting Date

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Bill Number or Topic

Committee

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

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Street

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

Letters from incarcerated men to Legislators:

1-

There is an old saying 'absolute power corrupts absolutely' in the doc regardless of the situation the guards reign supreme. I truly understand that prison is not meant to be a pleasurable experience, but at what point does the punishment become abuse? Before I came to prison I thought that the punishment was being removed from society, friends, and family - I was very very wrong. it is all of that and so much more. You become subjected to verbal and or physical abuse or a combination of the two depending on your location. I have found that the incentivized institutions or prisons for the well behaved are purely farce and fraudulent. They specialize in mental and physical abuse, anything from issuing contradictory orders all the way down to sleep deprivation. It's almost as if being a sadist is a prerequisite to be employed in Florida's doc. Any officer that has compassion for their fellow man is immediately deemed a social pariah. Some officers truly go out of their way and take great pleasure in any role that they can play into the discomfort of their wards. Officers will do things such as falsifying information on paperwork, lying to family members, physical and/or mental abuse are the most common. These so-called guardians are capable of anything, even the disclosure of legal and medical information. There have even been situations where they have pitted inmates against each other just for kicks. I know that they have a job to do, but where is the line drawn? Our lives are literally in their hands

2-

Tomoka confinement in the summer was one of the worst prison experiences I ever had. The heat during the month of July became almost unbearable at times. We would have to be class A during the hours of 7am-4pm, 7 days a week. during the day u would just lay there and sweat in ur bed. we would try to lay on the concrete to get some relief but the warden put a stop to it. staff would write u up if u were laying on the concrete during the daytime. The only time we would get something cold to drink was during meal time. u would get a small orange cup of ice. u weren't even allowed to keep the cup during the day bc u had to return it when they collected trays. depending on what cell u were in, some cells didn't even have enough water pressure to get a drink out of. the hottest part of the day was actually the afternoon into evening hours bc of the sun during the day. I remember the one night around 9pm being walked to the shower and

the thermostat read 91 degrees and that was at night! there was no fans back there and only 4 small windows in the long hallway. There was literally no air flow whatsoever back there. we would shower on Mon, Wed, Fri evenings and that would even make it worse from the steam coming from showers because the officers would only turn on the hot water. so getting a shower was a catch 22. felt good to shower but would only make u sweat even more when u got out. You could see the steam from showers in the hallway. they only exchanged clothes 3 times a week. meal times were 5am, 10:30am and 3:30pm. so after dinner u would go 14-15 hrs without any food. At night time we would put our towel on our pillows because of the sweat. we would strip down to our boxers and sleep on the floor. when sleeping on ur side u would have to put ur pants folded up between your knees and shirt between ur arms so that way ur skin didn't touch bc if it did it would cause u to sweat even more and wake u up. lights would be out at 11pm but the emergency light in the cell was so bright that it never got dark. between the heat and light, it was hard to get any sleep. at times u would just lay there and feel just so depleted like u just didn't want to go on anymore. I've seen guys try to hang themselves bc it was just relentless. guys would declare psychological emergency just to be able to get in a psych cell with some ac. u can forget about medical. I myself put in 2 separate sick calls to renew my medical pass and not once in 15 days from the time I put the sick call in was I ever seen by staff. I can honestly say it was one of the worst experiences mentally and physically I ever experienced in prison. It's really hard to put into words what it was like. I just felt like there was no relief whatsoever from the heat back in confinement. the staff, especially white shirts did not make it any better either

3- One of the worst experiences I've had while incarcerated, and still at times do today was/is the blatant disrespect that the officers show to us. At times they have disregarded their duties which are care, custody, and control and show extreme neglect for our humanity. In regards to engagement between inmate and officer, the officer has no consequence to how he/she speaks to any inmate. Now on the other hand when the inmate is confronted with a verbally disrespectful officer and if the inmate responds in a similar fashion he is immediately either written up, thrown in confinement, sprayed or even physically abused.

This is just one of the bad experiences we face and see that should be highlighted and brought to the forefront of the nation. This happens in an incentive camp often.

4- Communication is not the norm with the incarcerated, nor is the balance between professional and personal life (officers routinely who are having a bad day take it out on us). Day by day we wake up in a fear of not knowing what to expect. As most of us

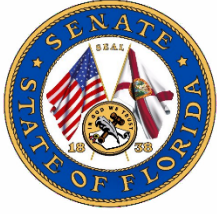
travel on the journey of transitional change, we focus diligently on rehabilitation, something that is a day by day challenge. We volunteer into programs to transform our mindset. However while we are in the process of amending our wrongs and straying away from old ways, years and months of progress go to waste in loss of hope. Loss of hope because the ones who are supposed to deal with care, custody, and control are the ones who keep us here. Database only shows the documentations of fabricated offenses. authority becomes personal and abuse of discretion anyone can have years of evidence that demonstrates change- but it can all get taken away because an authority figure woke up on the wrong side of the bed and does not like you. men are dying and committing suicide because they've worked so hard to become better and one day by the blink of an eye its all over based off officer statement. Most of us live in fear because of this, we need changes especially for those of us who changed.

Incentive camp

5-

The difference between incentivised camps and regular camps is how the guards treat you. At incentive camps we are treated and spoken to with a lot more disrespect. You wouldn't think so but since we are good & well behaved inmates. But the officers know we are better behaved and want to remain at the incentive camp so we will not fight back to their disrespect. At a normal camp the officers know they are in danger daily, so they speak to us and treat us respectfully. Yet here in incentive camp we want to stay for a variety of reasons- location, programs safety so they know they can hassle us for petty things since they know we will just let them do whatever they want to us. Most doc officers are only respectful when they are in danger. inmates proven to follow the rules and are non violent are treated disrespectfully, while violent ones are opposite. Doc officer culture is awful. Even the few 'respectful to inmates' officers are attacked by their fellow brothers in arms and have to fight for their jobs if they are known to be inmate-friendly.

My name is Tom and I was in H dorm at Dade C.I. The dorm that I was forced to live in was inhumane... I have been told that it is being shown as condemned on the internet but it is still completely full of inmates. When you walk in the first thing that hits you is the smell of raw sewage and the intense heat. The sewage runs across the dorm floor due to broken plumbing from the commodes. There are no windows that can be opened so when the temperature is 100° outside it climbs to well over that on the inside and there is no escape from it. There is so much more that can be said but I have to keep this short. Please come unannounced and see for your self.



January 13th, 2025

President Albritton,

I am writing to respectfully request an absence excusal as Chair for Tuesday's Criminal Justice Committee meeting. My wife, Amy, and I will be celebrating our wedding anniversary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Martin", written in a cursive style.

Senator Jonathan Martin

Senate District 33

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 37

Case No.:

Caption: Senate Committee on Criminal Justice 1/14/2025

Type:

Judge:

Started: 1/14/2025 1:31:03 PM

Ends: 1/14/2025 2:54:22 PM

Length: 01:23:20

1:31:07 PM	Chairman Smith calls meeting to order
1:31:15 PM	Roll call
1:31:18 PM	A quorum is present
1:31:27 PM	Chairman Smith comments
1:35:11 PM	Senator Pizzo
1:37:02 PM	Senator Yarborough
1:38:34 PM	Senator Simon
1:39:43 PM	Senator Bradley
1:41:22 PM	Senator Bernard
1:42:10 PM	Senator Garcia
1:43:25 PM	Chairman Smith comments
1:44:04 PM	Tab 1, Presentation by the Florida Department of Corrections on Incentivized Prisons
1:44:40 PM	Chairman Smith recognizes Secretary Ricky Dixon
1:44:54 PM	Secretary Ricky Dixon, Florida Department of Corrections
2:03:32 PM	Chairman Smith
2:03:41 PM	Questions:
2:04:00 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:04:35 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:05:41 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:06:25 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:07:01 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:10:21 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:12:05 PM	Senator Simon
2:13:53 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:14:01 PM	Senator Simon
2:14:30 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:15:22 PM	Senator Simon
2:15:36 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:16:10 PM	Senator Simon
2:16:26 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:17:42 PM	Senator Simon
2:17:46 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:18:02 PM	Senator Bernard
2:19:10 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:19:39 PM	Chairman Smith
2:20:36 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:21:18 PM	Chairman Smith
2:21:47 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:22:05 PM	Chairman Smith
2:22:44 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:23:18 PM	Chairman Smith
2:23:42 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:24:40 PM	Chairman Smith
2:25:50 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:26:43 PM	Chairman Smith
2:26:51 PM	Senator Garcia
2:27:15 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:28:58 PM	Senator Simon
2:29:23 PM	Secretary Dixon
2:29:59 PM	Chairman Smith recognizes public testimony
2:30:20 PM	Kim White
2:33:37 PM	Denise Rock

2:35:24 PM	Janet Watson
2:42:04 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:43:01 PM	Janet Watson
2:43:34 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:44:51 PM	Janet Watson
2:45:03 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:45:40 PM	Janet Watson
2:45:51 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:45:56 PM	Janet Watson
2:46:24 PM	James Baiardi
2:50:31 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:50:36 PM	James Baiardi
2:50:43 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:50:48 PM	James Baiardi
2:51:45 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:52:36 PM	James Baiardi
2:53:02 PM	Senator Pizzo
2:53:06 PM	James Baiardi
2:53:13 PM	Chairman Smith concludes public testimony
2:53:32 PM	Chairman Smith recognizes Senator Gruters for introduction
2:53:42 PM	Senator Gruters
2:53:58 PM	Charmain Smith concluding remarks
2:54:10 PM	Senator Yarborough move to adjourn
2:54:22 PM	Meeting adjourned