

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE  
Pursuant to P.A. 188 of 2010  
Section 304  
Employee Cost Saving Suggestion - October

Section 304 - The director of the department shall develop a staff savings initiative program to invite employees to submit suggestions for savings costs for the department. The department shall report quarterly to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the state budget director on the suggestions submitted under this section, the implementation plan for those suggestions with which the department agrees, and an explanation of any disagreements with suggestions.

In order to comply with the requirement of Section 304, the Department of Corrections published an article in the FYI Employee Newsletter informing staff to submit their suggestions for cost saving suggestions. The below is suggestions received to date:

SUGGESTION	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	REASON FOR NOT IMPLEMENTED
Decrease the number of random drug tests for prisoners		The MDOC is in the process of implementing.
The Emergency Management portion of MDOC currently harvests it's talent for Emergency Response Team members strictly from CFA. In the FOA branch of MDOC, these fully trained members are no longer permitted to participate in ERT functions. (FOA leadership considers ERT to be a strictly CFA function.) To fill the vacancy created by the loss, new members must be trained at a cost of roughly \$10,000 each. Nearly all CFA positions MUST be backfilled with overtime for training and/or emergency activation at a cost of hundreds of dollars per day, per position. This is not the case in FOA, where employees receive no overtime and positions are not backfilled. In addition, the equipment issued to members is already purchased and there remains a surplus (due to prison closures) available to lost members at no additional cost. My suggestion is to allow currently certified Emergency Responders employed in FOA to immediately rejoin their, now regionalized, ERT team		Currently, allowing agents to participate in the ERT's does not meet the operational needs of FOA.
When people ride in and out of facilities and some of their medical chart (i.e. xrays, filing, extra volumes) are missed and not sent with them to their new facility. One package of xrays can cost \$10-\$15 depending on how big. At Chippewa East, we send them on the inter-departmental runs or ride outs. The only time we would use US Postal is if they were medications that had to go.		MDOC is moving to electronic, digital x-rays that will eliminate the need to transport files.
My idea is to issue a cup with lid (tumbler) and a pair of shower shoes to every inmate that comes into RGC. This would save on the cost of replacing shower shoes that are removed from the intake area. Issuing cups with lids at intake would also save on replacement cost of cups removed from the kitchen area and should cut down on the amount of foam cups used by the facility.		Issuing cups, lids and shower shoes to prisoners in the Reception Center is an added expense that the state does not need to incur. Theft of shower shoes from the intake area and of cups from the kitchen are being addressed through consistent, timely and thorough shakedowns of prisoners exiting the intake area and the dining hall.
I am forwarding another cost saving measure we are going to implement at our facility. I am not sure if you know the process of getting newspapers and magazines to inmates at a facility but we use to use clear trash bags to carry up the magazines and the newspapers to the units. We are now going to use a laundry bag which is made out of cotton, washable and re-usable. This new practice will save our facility money as we will not have to purchase as many trash bags nor waste them after 1 use, which is great but would be even better if all facilities could do this. That leads me to the question or the request that a cost savings list be compiled and disseminated to ALL the facilities in the state so they may save money too. Is such a list in the works? Could it be?	This recommendation to use reusable laundry bags to transport newspapers and magazines to prisoners rather than disposable trash bags will be forwarded to CFA facilities with the recommendation that the practice be adopted at each facility.	

SUGGESTION	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	REASON FOR NOT IMPLEMENTED
<p>Inmate fans - currently store PD allows Level I and II's to purchase their own fans while Level IV are still provided by the facility. This is costing the State a lot of money and maybe it's time to revise the PD to allow all inmates to purchase their own fans. At SRF - we have 624 Level IV inmates X \$13 per fan = \$8,112 a year.</p>	<p>CFA is currently exploring the feasibility of making this proposed change.</p>	
<p>Why not revise the PD to allow toilet paper in the store. State can provide maybe one roll every two weeks and the rest inmates can purchase themselves.</p>	<p>CFA is currently exploring the feasibility of making this proposed change.</p>	
<p>What about revising the PD requiring the issue of pajamas? It should be "upon request" rather than issued to everyone.</p>	<p>PD 04.07.110 State Issued Items &amp; Cell/Room Furnishing, is currently being revised. Language which requires that all prisoners must be issued pajamas is being removed. The revision will permit prisoners to decline the pajamas.</p>	
<p>Pilot program to re-establish Tether Program by way of CRP.</p>		<p>This would require legislation which changes the effect of Truth In Sentencing laws,</p>
<p>Eliminate MPF work crew cleaning at ECF</p>		<p>The suggestion has been implemented. Transportation cost savings are expected.</p>
<p>Use prison work crews to set up and harvest bee hives</p>		<p>Prisoner work programs outside of MDOC facility grounds no longer exist. The primary reason for the lack of prisoner work programs is due to the success of our re-entry efforts, low-custody prisoners who could be permitted out of prison to work on public work projects, no longer exist within our facilities. These low risk prisoners are now being maintained outside of prison, with lower cost community supervision.</p>