

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

Central Office Administration: 4337 State Road 14, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508  
Post Office Box 27116, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0116  
Main Number (505) 827-8600 Fax (505) 827-8533  
[www.corrections.state.nm.us](http://www.corrections.state.nm.us)

**Bill Richardson, Governor**

**Central Administration:**

**Joe R. Williams**

Secretary of Corrections, 827-8884

**Jolene M. Gonzales**

Deputy Secretary, Administration, 827-8667

**Tim LeMaster**

Deputy Secretary, Operations, 827-8767

**Division Directors:**

**Charlene Knipfing**, Probation and Parole, 827-8830

**Fernando Gallegos**, Training Academy, 827-8900

**Willie Marquez**, Corrections Industries, 827-8838

**Tony E. Marquez Jr.**, Administrative Services, 827-8601

**Larry Pacheco**, Information Technology, 827-8713

**James R. Brewster**, General Counsel, 827-8662

October 28, 2009

NEWS RELEASE  
505-690-8558

Contact Tia Bland

**--WOMEN'S PRISON IN GRANTS AND ROSWELL CORRECTIONAL CENTER ON  
NMCD'S BUDGET CHOPPING BLOCK**

Santa Fe – The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) will be forced to close two prisons and early-release as many as 660 inmates, if the governor signs the recent budget bill, passed by the Legislature during the special session. House Bill 17 would cut state agency budgets, on average, by 7.6 percent. That totals \$21 million for the Corrections Department. “This is a hard pill to swallow, but we don’t have any other choice. When I met with Governor Richardson yesterday, I told him that closing prisons is the only way we can significantly reduce our budget,” said Secretary of Corrections Joe R. Williams.

NMCD’s budget-slashing plan would close the New Mexico Women’s Correctional Facility in Grants and the Roswell Correctional Center (RCC) in Hagerman. The New Mexico Women’s Correctional Facility is privately-operated by Corrections Corporation of America. The prison incarcerates approximately 590 women. If the department terminates its contract with Corrections Corporation of America, here is what would happen: 430 male prisoners would be moved out of the Western New Mexico Correctional Facility in Grants to make room for 430 women prisoners that would be moved into WNMCF. The remaining 160 women would be early-released. The 430 men currently incarcerated at WNMCF would be moved to other state-operated prisons. Corrections Corporation of America employs approximately 140 staff at the New Mexico Women’s Correctional Facility.

The state-operated Roswell Correctional Center (RCC) currently incarcerates 270 inmates. If that prison closes, some of those inmates would be transported to other state-operated prisons, and some inmates would be early-released. RCC has 65 state employees. Some of those employees would be laid off, while others could take advantage of job openings at other prisons.

Between 530 and 660 men and women prisoners could be released early, depending on how overcrowded the state-operated prisons become-- due to the closing of two prisons. Releasing inmates early would drastically affect the department's Probation and Parole Division. Probation and Parole would reduce supervision of approximately 1,800 minimum/low-risk offenders in order to concentrate on supervising early-released high-risk offenders.

Closing two prisons and implementing other cost-savings initiatives still leaves the department about \$2 million short of the \$21 million target. Employee furloughs would have to be considered if the department is forced to cut 7.6 percent from this year's budget.

NMCD is currently incarcerating 6,400 inmates in 10 privately-operated and state operated prisons. There are approximately 19,000 offenders on Probation and Parole supervision in the community.

#### NMCD cost-saving initiatives (partial list)

**Terminate women's prison/Corrections Corporation of America contract (\$5.4 million).** Effective January 1, 2010

**Close Roswell Correctional Center (\$2 million).** Effective January 1, 2010

**Cut private-prison contracts at Lea County Correctional Facility (LCCF) in Hobbs and Guadalupe County Correctional Facility (GCCF) in Santa Rosa (\$4.2 million).** Since July 2008, 180 inmates have been moved out of LCCF to state-operated prisons, dropping LCCF inmate population to 1080. At GCCF, 60 inmates were moved to state-operated prisons, dropping GCCF inmate population to 540.

**Reduce Inmate Medical Contract (approximately \$4.0 million).** NMCD is currently negotiating with Correctional Medical Services to lower costs and reduce medical services to inmates.

**Drug Testing of Probation/Parole Offenders (\$550,000).** Rather than contracting with laboratory collection/testing service, probation/parole officers now administer drug tests to offenders.

**Behavioral Health Contracts (\$400,000).** Department reduced treatment contracts for Probation/Parole offenders by 10 percent.

**Reduced inmate food services contract (\$310,000).** Aramark now serves inmates a less-fattening diet. Daily calorie count reduced from 3,400 calories to 3,000 per day.