

**From:** Ziegler, David  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2010 3:44 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Comments from Dept of Corrections for 4/21 meeting

Dear NVSG members—

Howard Skolnik, Director of the Department of Corrections, has provided some comments on questions I sent to him after the last NVSG meeting. Mr. Skolnik plans to attend Wednesday's meeting, in Carson City. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

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- Do we have enough personnel to cover our needs? Are our service levels adequate?

*An audit was performed by the executive audit commission about four or five years ago indicating we were funded at approximately 85% of what they identified as minimum staffing levels for security (custody) staff. We are probably functioning below that level now. Approximately 1.3% of our staff are at associate warden or above level. We ranked 49th in staff to inmate ratio the last time such data was published nationally. We have caseloads for our caseworkers as high as 300 at some facilities. I could provide more detail but I think this answers the question.*

- What percentage of our prisoners are non-violent offenders?

*Fiscal year 2009 breakdown is as follows: male population, 52% violence, 21% sex, 12% property, 11% drug, 3% DUI, 1% other. Female population: 39% violence, 27% property, 22% drug, 6% DUI, 3% sex, 3% other*

- What are the crime rankings and statistics really telling us? Where should our emphasis and focus be—looking at the next 10 to 20 years?

*There is a prediction for very slow growth in the near future (0.5% per year) Generally, after an economy improves crime goes up. AB 510 is significantly impacting our non-violent population releasing them much faster than in the past. Our medium and close population is*

EXHIBIT B NevadaStakeholder	Document consists of 2 pages.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entire document provided.	
A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail <a href="mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us">library@lcb.state.nv.us</a> .	
Meeting Date: 4/21/10	

*exceeding projections. All new bed construction that was scheduled in the future has been eliminated and it takes approximately 4 years to build a new facility. Southern Nevada Correctional Center is unused with approximately 600 beds. Nevada State Prison will take approximately \$30 million to bring it up to code. Further elimination of non-violent offenders are going to seriously impact the Conservation Camps and our ability to have first responders in rural Nevada. There should be far more emphasis on intermediate sanctions for both probation and parole. Currently the courts and the parole board have few if any alternatives to prison. We have initiated a pilot program in Las Vegas based on the Hawaii HOPE project.*

- What are the baseline costs of doing business, and how do our costs compare to other states with somewhat similar circumstances, e.g., Arizona, Florida?

*There are no current comparative reports that I am aware of. Our officers are in the top ten states in pay levels and our Department is second from the bottom in staffing. Our food costs are less than \$2.50 per day per inmate, among the lowest in the country. If there are more specifics that I can provide let me know. Our web site has a copy of the statistical report for fiscal year 2009 which may answer additional questions.*

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