

FISCAL UPDATE

November 24, 2008

Legislative Services Agency

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<http://staffweb.legis.state.ia.us/lfb>

VETERANS COUNTY GRANT PROGRAM AND WAR MEMORIAL TRANSFER

Transfer: The Department of Management notified the Co-Chairpersons and Ranking Members of the Full Appropriations Committee and the Co-Chairpersons and Ranking Members of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittees on October 16 of the intent to transfer \$100,000 from the Veterans County Grant Program to the Administration line-item of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The \$100,000 is to be used for the State portion of the planned memorial plaza to honor veterans in Dubuque, Iowa. The original \$100,000 for the State portion of the plaza was to be from the proceeds of bond sales authorized in SF 2342 (FY 2009 Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund Act). The State Treasurer announced on October 10, 2008, that all of the bonding authorized in SF 2342 would be delayed until the nationwide credit issues stabilize.

STAFF CONTACT: Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794) Jennifer Acton (Ext. 17846)

IOWA VETERANS BENEFIT STUDY

Study Report Received: The Legislative Services Agency received the report of the Iowa Veterans Benefit Study on October 16, 2008. The Study was required in HF 909 (FY 2008 Health and Human Services Appropriations Act). The Commission on Veterans Affairs contracted with the State Public Policy Group to conduct the Study. The Final Report is available at:
https://www.iowava.org/images/Veterans_Final_Report_2008.pdf

STAFF CONTACT: Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794) Jennifer Acton (Ext. 17846)

IOWA RANKS FIRST IN COLLEGE STUDENT DEBT - 2007

Project on Student Debt: The Project on Student Debt recently issued the third annual report on college student debt trends. College student debt levels continue to rise overall. Nationwide, the average debt for students graduating with loans rose from \$18,976 to \$20,098, a 6.0% increase. For comparison, the earnings for 18- to 24-year-olds with bachelor's degrees rose 3.0% or half the growth rate for student debt. The increase in student debt was roughly the same for public and private colleges. For the class of 2007, the average debt at public colleges was \$18,482 and \$23,065 at private colleges. (Due to data limitations, the average debt estimates are probably somewhat low.)

Iowa's Rank: Iowa ranks first in the nation for college student debt with a \$26,208 average, up from last year's second place ranking of \$24,769. Utah continues in last place with an average debt of \$13,266, up from \$12,296 in 2006. The percentage of Iowa students graduating with debt declined from 74.0% to 73.0%, and the national ranking for the percentage of students graduating with debt declined from second to fourth place. Hawaii continues to rank last for the percentage of students graduating with debt. In 2007, 34.0% of Hawaii's new college graduates had student debt, a 2.0% increase from 2006.

For more information visit the Project on Student Debt website: <http://www.projectonstudentdebt.org/>

STAFF CONTACT: Dwayne Ferguson (Ext. 16561)

CORRECTIONS BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting: The Board of Corrections met November 7 at the new Cedar Rapids Mental Health Residential Facility, the ANCHOR Center. Director Baldwin informed the Board of staff donations to flood victims, a recent escape (apprehended) from the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility, minority over confinement issues, and construction projects. The Department will be upgrading the signal at the nine prisons for high definition television. The Department will use canteen funds to pay for expenses related to securing a viable signal. Inmates will pay for any upgrades to their individual television sets.

Agenda Items: The meeting agenda included the following:

- Sixth Community-Based Corrections (CBC) District Director Hinzman welcomed the Board to the new mental health residential facility and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held.
- Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility staff was recognized by the Board for holding Relay for Life events. Both men and women prisoners participated.
- Research Director Prell updated the Board on recent activities, including research priorities, validation of risk assessment tools, and programs.
- General Counsel Savala provided an overview of proposed administrative rules. The Board approved the rules as presented.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2009, in Des Moines. Additional information is available by contacting the LSA or on the DOC website at: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/default.asp>.

STAFF CONTACT: Beth Lenstra (Ext. 16301)

MEETINGS MONITORED

Following is a list of meetings attended and monitored by Fiscal Services staff since the last Fiscal Update was published. Please contact the staff listed for more information.

Meeting	Date	Staff Contact
Public Health and Health Care Task Force (RIAC)	10/13/2008	Jess Benson (14611) Sue Lerdal (17794)
IPERS Benefit Advisory Committee	10/13/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Child Welfare Advisory Committee	10/14/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Housing Task Force (Rebuild Iowa Office)	10/14/2008	Ron Robinson (16256) Shawn Snyder (17799)
Limited Jurisdiction Task Force Committee	10/14/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Iowa Choice Health Care Coverage Advisory Council	10/15/2008 & 10/29/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764) Jess Benson (14611)
Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board	10/15/2008	Jen Acton (17846) Sue Lerdal (17794)
Economic Development Board	10/16/2008	Ron Robinson (16256)
MH/MR/DD/BI Commission	10/16/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Senior Living Coordinating Unit	10/16/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Child Care Advisory Committee	10/16/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764) Sue Lerdal (17794)
Electricians Board	10/16/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Foundational Provision Subcommittee of the Crime Code Interim	10/20/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
<i>hawk-i</i> Board	10/20/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Healthy Kids Task Force – Physical Activity	10/22/2008	Robin Madison (15270)
Rebuild Iowa Flood Task Force Flood Plain Mitigation	10/22/2008	Deb Koziel (16767)

Meeting	Date	Staff Contact
Advisory Council on Brain Injuries	10/23/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Higher Education Research Conference (College Student Aid)	10/23/2008	Dwayne Ferguson (16561)
Institute for Tomorrow's Workforce	10/23/2008	Robin Madison (15270)
Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System - 411	10/24/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Rebuild Iowa Task Force Long-Term Recovery Planning	10/24/2008	Mary Beth Mellick (18223)
Deer Advisory Board	10/28/2008	Deb Kozel (16767)
National Emergency Number Association (NENA) Annual Conference	10/28/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Board of Regents	10/29/2008	Dwayne Ferguson (16561)
Sex Offender Research Council	10/29/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Child Welfare Growth Funding Workgroup	11/4/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission	11/5/2008 & 11/6/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Administrative Rules Committee	11/7/2008	Sue Lerdal (17794)
Board of Corrections	11/7/2008	Beth Lenstra (16301)
Direct Care Workers Workgroup	11/7/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Human Services Council	11/12/2008	Jess Benson (14611) Deborah Helsen (16764)
State Board of Health	11/12/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764) Jess Benson (14611)
Iowa Child Health Care Coverage	11/12/2008	Jess Benson (14611) Deborah Helsen (16764)
Child Care Advisory Committee	11/13/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Medicaid Waiver Interim Committee	11/13/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Mental Health Risk Pool	11/13/2008 & 11/14/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
State Fire Service and Emergency Response Council	11/13/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Medical Home Advisory Council	11/14/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Tobacco Prevention Commission	11/14/2005	Deborah Helsen (16764) Sue Lerdal (17794)
Property Tax Interim	11/14/2008	Jeff Robinson (14614) Shawn Snyder (17799)
Child and Family Services Stakeholder Panel	11/17/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Child Welfare Advisory Council	11/17/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
MH/MR/DD/BI Commission	11/17/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Child Protection Council	11/18/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764)
Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board	11/18/2008	Jen Acton (17846) Sue Lerdal (17794)
Medicaid Prescription Drug Coverage Interim Committee	11/19/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Prevention and Chronic Care Council	11/19/2008	Deborah Helsen (16764) Jess Benson (14611)
Mental Health Planning Council	11/19/2008	Jess Benson (14611)
Honey Creek Premier Destination Park Authority	11/19/2008	Marcia Tannian (17942)
Iowa College Student Aid Commission	11/20/2008	Dwayne Ferguson (16561)
Iowa Electrical Examining Board	11/20/2008	Jen Acton (17846)
Criminal Code Interim Sentencing Subcommittee	11/20/2008	Jen Acton (17846) Beth Lenstra (16301)

This document can be accessed at the LSA website: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Fiscal/fiscupdt/>