REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
Pursuant to P.A. 252 of 2014
Section 403
LEAN Process Evaluation – Prisoner Programming

Sec. 403. (1) The department shall undertake a request for proposal to institute a LEAN process in determining ways to reduce the backlog for programming for prisoners who are within 6 months of their earliest release date (ERD). The programming that the LEAN process shall prioritize is: Violence Prevention Programming (VPP), Sex Offender Programming (SOP), and Thinking For Change.

(2) The LEAN process shall also look into ways of instituting LEAN principles which may lead to the elimination of the backlog for ERD prisoners from continuing to occur.

(3) Not later than 1 month after completion of a LEAN process evaluation, the department shall provide a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on corrections, the legislative corrections ombudsman, and the senate and house fiscal agencies detailing the outcomes of the LEAN process, the department's progress in achieving the reduction in providing programming, and the department's plan for implementing efficiency standards identified in the LEAN process throughout the department.

A lean process improvement "Programming" Team was assembled in November of 2014 to reduce the backlog for programming for prisoners who are within 6 months of their earliest release date (ERD). This team completed its task as of August 31, 2015.

The Lean Programming Team members represented Health Care, Mental Health, Reentry Services and Education. The Team focused on the Violence Prevention Program (VPP), Sex Offender Programming (SOP/MSOP), and Thinking For Change (T4C).

The following numbers extend beyond just a six month reporting period. Previous reports to the Legislature grouped together all prisoners who were within 1 year of their ERD, and did not differentiate between those who were within 6 months and those who were between 6 months and 1 year. For this report, and for that reason, the data is broken out as follows:

(a) **As of the second quarter of 2014** there were **768** offenders on the waitlist for the Violence Prevention Program (VPP): within 1 year of their Earliest Release Date (583); or, past their Earliest Release Date (185).

   As of the third quarter of 2015 there were **428** offenders on the waitlist for the Violence Prevention Program (VPP): between 6 months and 1 year from their Earliest Release Date (249); within 6 months of their Earliest Release Date (81); or, past their Earliest Release Date (98).

(b) **As of the second quarter of 2014** there were **451** offenders on the waitlist for Thinking For A Change (T4C): within 1 year of their Earliest Release Date (447); or, past their Earliest Release Date (4).

As of the third quarter of 2015, there were **576** offenders on the waitlist for Thinking For A Change (T4C): between 6 months and 1 year from their Earliest Release Date (465); within 6 months of their Earliest Release Date (101); or, past their Earliest Release Date (10) **Note:** The majority of these prisoners are in the 6 to 12 month category, which was not the focus of the current LEAN process evaluation.

(c) **As of the second quarter of 2014** there were **753** offenders on the waitlist for the Sex Offender Program (SOP): within 1 year of their Earliest Release Date (527); or, past their Earliest Release Date (226).

As of the third quarter of 2015, there were **517** offenders on the waitlist for the Sex Offender Program (SOP): between 6 months and 1 year from their Earliest Release Date (224); within 6 months of their Earliest Release Date (105); or, past their Earliest Release Date (188).

LEAN Process and Principles:

The Team reviewed program referral rules which have been established and ratified across MDOC administrations, and have been applied to the existing waiting lists as well as being utilized at RGC during intake processing. The program referral rules were implemented to ensure the Department's programming resources are being efficiently utilized, and that duplicate or redundant programming is not being provided to prisoners. All program referrals, enrollments, terminations, and completions are being documented in Offender Management Network Information (OMNI), the Department's central tracking database. Referrals are being monitored by CFA facility staff as well as staff in the Reentry Division Central Office. Central Office staff utilizes the OMNI data to formulate official reports of wait list data. The Department continues to do a systematic review of prisoner records to determine duplicate cases, inappropriate referrals and/or other errors, and make appropriate corrections.

VPP is being delivered at all facilities, with the exception of RGC, SAI, WCC and WHV. With the statewide launch of VPP, the wait list has been affected at an even faster pace and the need to transfer prisoners for VPP programming has been reduced significantly.

The T4C program is running at all facilities, with the exception of RGC, SAI, WCC and WHV. Due to the availability of T4C at every facility, its past ERD waitlist has been reduced to nearly zero (0).

With regards to the VPP and T4C programs, priority placement is given to prisoners who are past or within six months of their ERD. Quality Assurance monitoring for VPP and T4C is conducted on a frequent basis by trained Reentry Division Central Office and CFA facility staff to ensure that groups are continuously running at capacity, as well as to maintain program fidelity and staff accountability.

The EPIC Programming Team reviewed these practices, and accepted them as sufficient methods for continuing to keep the backlog of offenders who are both past their ERD and waiting for these programs to a minimum. The EPIC lean process improvement "Reentry" Team will incorporate these practices into other offender programs.