

NEBRASKA

DEPT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

R REENTRY 2030

LAUNCH CEREMONY
Thursday, February 1, 2024
at 2:00 p.m.

Nebraska State Capitol
•Warner Legislative Chamber (east)•
1445 K Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

WELCOME

Master of Ceremonies
Dawn-Renee Smith
Deputy Director - Rehabilitative Services

SPEAKERS

Jim Pillen
Governor

Joe Kelly
Lieutenant Governor

Megan Quattlebaum
Director
Council of State Governments Justice Center

Kevin Kempf
Executive Director
Correctional Leaders Association

Rob Jeffreys
Director
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

Dr. Amy Doty
UPWARD | Acting Director Prison Education Program
Southeast Community College

Dr. Carrie Pettus Davis
President, CEO
Wellbeing & Equity Innovations

CLOSING REMARKS

Rob Jeffreys
NDCS Director

PROCLAMATION SIGNING

**FEB
1ST
2024**



REENTRY SUCCESS

- Increase reentry success rate by 15%, equating to a 15% reduction in recidivism.

EDUCATION

- 30% increase in GED completion during incarceration
- 15% increase in GED proctors
- 50% Increase college coursework enrollment

PROGRAMING

- 50% increase utilization of tablet programming
- 25% increase in participation in Vocational and Life Skills (VLS) programming

HEALTH

- 100% of incarcerated individuals will be enrolled in Medicaid or informed how to access healthcare benefits.

CRITICAL DOCUMENTS

- 100% of incarcerated individuals will have a state identification and birth certificate prior to discharge.

EMPLOYEMENT

- 90% of released individuals will be gainfully employed within 30 days of parole placement.

COLLABORATION

- NDCS will develop a systemic approach to reentry through the creation of a statewide Nebraska Reentry Council. The statewide reentry council will be comprised of public, private, and service provider entities. The Nebraska Reentry Council will expand partnerships to connect previously incarcerated individuals to community reintegration enterprises throughout the state.



Reentry 2030 is a national movement that seeks to promote successful reintegration for every individual.

Reentry 2030 is a national initiative uniting leaders across the country—at the state and local levels and across justice, workforce, health, and housing sectors—to improve reentry success for people with criminal records. Through this effort, states are committing to adopt public, ambitious goals that drive the system change needed to achieve better and more equitable reentry and reintegration outcomes.

States that join the Reentry 2030 initiative commit to designing and implementing an action plan to:

1. **Scale up access** to stable housing, education, employment, behavioral health treatment, health care, and other supports for people with criminal records
2. **Clear away unnecessary barriers** to opportunities and economic mobility
3. **Advance racial equity** by using data to understand and address disparities in access to services, quality of services, and outcomes

Reentry 2030 is led by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, Correctional Leaders Association, and JustLeadershipUSA, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance under the Second Chance Act.

Nebraska is joining Reentry 2030 and setting bold, ambitious goals to improve reentry across the state. In collaboration with various partners and agencies across the state, Nebraska is officially launching Reentry 2030 with the support of Governor Jim Pillen and under the leadership of Rob Jeffreys, director of the Nebraska Department of Corrections.

Nebraska’s goals cover reentry success, education, programming, health, critical documents, employment, and collaboration, including:

1. **Increasing reentry success rate by 15 percent, equating to a 15 percent reduction in recidivism;**
2. **Promoting education, such as a 30 percent increase in GED completion during incarceration, 15 percent increase in GED proctors, and 50 percent increase in college coursework enrollment;**

- 3. Expanding program participation, with a 50 percent increase in utilization of tablet programming and 25 percent increase in participation in Vocational and Life Skills programming;**
- 4. Ensuring 100 percent of eligible individuals who are incarcerated are enrolled in Medicaid;**
- 5. Assisting 100 percent of individuals who are incarcerated with obtaining state identification and birth certificates prior to release;**
- 6. Providing support so that at least 90 percent of individuals who are released will be gainfully employed within 30 days of parole placement; and**
- 7. Developing a systemic approach to reentry through the creation of a statewide Nebraska reentry council comprised of public, private, and service provider entities.**

These goals demonstrate Nebraska's commitment to exploring collaborative and systemic solutions, equipping incarcerated individuals with the education and resources they need for reentry success, and building stronger families and communities.

Through Reentry 2030, Nebraska will participate in a national network of states and receive tailored support to move forward and achieve its goals.

- The CSG Justice Center will provide technical assistance to support Nebraska, including assessing potential gaps and challenges that may inhibit progress, bringing additional cross-systems stakeholders to the table, developing metrics to measure progress and success, and more.
- Nebraska will also join a group of leading states in a peer-learning network to share lessons learned and identify opportunities that can be scaled up in their state.



[Associated Builders and Contractors](#)



Classroom and hands-on construction training, including Carpentry, Construction Tech Electrical, HVAC, OSHA 10, General Industry, OSHA 30, Plumbing, Virtual Electric and Virtual Welding



[Black Men United of Omaha](#)

Kumani Restorative Justice Center – Education, training, employment support, food bank, computer stations, support with housing and basic needs.

[Bristol Station](#)



15 transitional living beds: includes case management, cognitive programming, skill building, and supportive employment services.



[Community Alliance](#)

Integrated health care organization that offers a whole-person approach, including psychiatric services, mental health and substance use counseling, primary medical care, rehabilitation, employment, community supports, and family and peer support programming.





[Community Justice Center](#)

Advance community safety, respect, responsibility, repair, reintegration, and healing in the aftermath of harm through evidence-based restorative justice programming and practices. Programming includes Circles of Support, Community/Family Support, Emotional Hygiene and Victim Impact.



[Mental Health Association](#)

Peer operated and participant-driven organization dedicated to services and providing alternative programs to those who live with mental health and/or substance use and addiction issues. Programming includes Supported Employment Program, HONU Home, Peer Outreach, individual case planning, and wraparound services.



[Metropolitan Community College](#)

180 RAP Educational and work readiness training, career planning, credit and non-credit education offerings in the facilities and on campus, mentoring, coaching, job search and placement support, access to wraparound support including basic needs and referrals to community resources.



[Midland University](#)

Reentry Code Academy teaches students the basics of web development, focusing on HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and how to apply the methodology behind Agile project management. These skills will enable the student to become a Junior Full Stack Developer.



[Opening Doors](#)

A community reentry program for currently and formerly incarcerated individuals. The program focuses on providing practical training to translate new and existing abilities into reentry success. Programs include job-skill training in forklift operation, computer classes, welding, online manufacturing courses and basic life and job skills.



[Persevere](#)

Coding Program at NCCW– Provides training to become a Junior Full Stack Developer.



[Project Reset](#)

Mentor justice involved individuals into a life changing career in the skilled labor and trades industry. Provides up to 40 hours of pre-apprenticeship training. Job assistance within the Trades.





ReConnect, Inc.

ReConnect

Improve reentry and life outcomes for justice involved adults and youth. Programming provides new start support and services, job readiness and life skills, education tutoring, and family mediation.



RISE

RISE Reentry Specialist assist RISE graduates in helping to identify needs associated with housing, transportation, critical documents, clothing, mental and physical healthcare, substance use support, other needs identified as critical for reentry.



York University

Provides the opportunity for participants at NCCW to achieve an Associate of Arts in General Studies via an on-site 60-hour course of college study.



Wellbeing & Equity Innovations

Wellbeing & Equity Innovations (WEI) is working alongside Nebraska Department of Correctional Services as a part of the TRANSFORM Nebraska platform and the adoption of WEI's 5-Key Model for Reentry and Well-Being Development. This includes partnering with the cutting edge and data driven work NDCS is doing to integrate peer specialists in the delivery and support of reentry programming beginning on day one of incarceration.



Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts

Communicate and coordinate interstate compact agreement processes.

Nebraska Adult Probation Services Division

Timely communication and coordination in post release supervision placement planning; process improvements active engagement; and participation in Vocational and Life Skills grant application review and assessment.

Nebraska Crime Commission

Victim support service access, communication, and coordination.

**COLLABORATION
& PARTNERSHIPS**

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Nebraska Department of Administrative Services

Information technology (OCIO) partnership for distribution of computers, purchasing, personnel, payroll, accounting, facilities management, design and construction, and a work release site.

Nebraska Department of Education

Special education and vocational rehabilitation; resource fairs; workforce development; adult education and literacy; Title I Programs; Carl Perkins Grant partnership (employability skills); high school equivalency exam; pre-apprenticeship planning; and registered apprenticeship planning.

**COLLABORATION
& PARTNERSHIPS**

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Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Birth certificates; health education; resource fairs; Medicaid reimbursement agreement; medication-assistance; substance use treatment; psychiatric services; public health updates; community health issues; death certificate data match at no cost to probation and parole offices; child support education; parental child support collection in partnership with DOC offender finance; information sharing; and SNAP applications pre-release.

Nebraska Department of Labor

Pre-apprenticeship planning and pre-apprenticeship collaboration with education; registered apprenticeship planning; job link listings pre-release; Workforce Investment board participation with NDCS leadership; Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) partnership; pre-release job placement program; resource fairs; employability skills programming; financial literacy; and planning.

**COLLABORATION
& PARTNERSHIPS**

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Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles

Mobile driver's license reinstatement program at each secure facility.

Nebraska Department of Transportation

Roadway maintenance by incarcerated individuals at community centers and collaboration on CDL training.

Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Services and benefits education; benefits application; job center resources; and provide documentation.

**COLLABORATION
& PARTNERSHIPS**

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Nebraska Division of Parole Supervision

Timely communication and coordination in parole planning, and process improvements with the Board of Parole and Parole Administration; participation in Vocational and Life Skills grant reviews and assessments; and participation in cross training activities to enhance understanding and build a common language.

**COLLABORATION
& PARTNERSHIPS**

NEBRASKA
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ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen

was sworn in as Nebraska's 41st Governor on January 5, 2023.

He enters office with the goal of protecting, training, and keeping our kids in Nebraska, cutting taxes, growing agriculture, and defending our commonsense, conservative values.

Governor Pillen grew up on a farm in Platte County, Nebraska and raised pigs with his father, Dale. He graduated from Lakeview High School.

He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from UNL, and married Suzanne Shreve. Governor Pillen then earned a doctor of veterinary medicine from Kansas State. In 1983, he returned to Nebraska and opened a small animal practice and swine consulting practice.

Governor Pillen and his father, Dale, partnered together, raising 60 sows and 1,200 market hogs on a dirt lot on their home farm. In 1993, Jim started Pillen Family Farms. In 2003, he added DNA Genetics. In 2010, his two oldest children, Sarah and Brock, joined the business.

Pillen Family Farms and DNA Genetics are now a multigenerational family-run business, composed of over 1,100 team members. The family business operates by some basic core beliefs—do what is right, do the best you can, and treat others the way you want to be treated.

Jim and wife, Suzanne, have four children, Sarah, Brock, Polly and Izic, and seven grandchildren, William, Halle, Eloise, Henry, Harrison, Ava, and Thomas.





Joe Kelly
Lieutenant Governor

Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly

was sworn in as Nebraska's 42nd Lieutenant Governor on January 5, 2023.

Born and raised in Lexington, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Nebraska in 1978 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1981. Lieutenant Governor Kelly served as a criminal prosecutor in the Lancaster County Attorney's Office from 1981 to 1985.

From 1986 through 1990 he was an associate with Berniger, Berg, and Diver in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He returned to his career as a prosecutor with the Lancaster County Attorney's Office in 1990 and was subsequently elected County Attorney in 2010 and again in 2014.

In 2018, President Trump appointed him as the United States Attorney for Nebraska where he served until February 2021. Lieutenant Governor Kelly most recently served as the Criminal Bureau Chief for the Nebraska Attorney General. He and his wife of more than 30 years, Susan, have two children, Shannon and Tom. The Kellys live in Lincoln, where they attend St. Peter Catholic Church.



NDCS Director Rob Jeffreys

In April 2023, Governor Jim Pillen appointed Rob Jeffreys director of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). Director Jeffreys brings more than 28 years of correctional experience to his role at NDCS, where he oversees an agency with approximately 5,500 incarcerated individuals, leads a workforce of 2,300 team members, and serves as a member of Governor Pillen's cabinet.

Prior to becoming director of NDCS, Mr. Jeffreys led transformational criminal justice reform as the director of the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) from 2019-2023. At IDOC, he created a dedicated reentry division, reduced the department's restrictive housing population by 40 percent, and restructured and streamlined population reduction mechanisms that resulted in the state's lowest population level since 1991. He also held several executive level positions with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC), including chief of staff, regional director, bureau chief of classification, and warden.

Mr. Jeffreys is a nationally recognized criminal justice expert with a wealth of experience in national and international corrections incentives recognized by federal, state, and local correction agencies and criminal justice entities. As a consultant and trainer for the U.S. Department of Justice, the Crime and Justice Institute, and The Moss Group, he has provided policy, program development, and specialized training to aid agencies in meeting their targeted goals and advancing their mission. Mr. Jeffreys is a champion of using research and data to drive decision-making, improve outcomes, and increase efficiency and effectiveness.

He was elected to serve as the President of the Correctional Leaders Association and is chairman of its Racial Disparity Committee. He also serves on the Department of Justice (DOJ) steering committees, including the National Institute of Corrections' Restrictive Housing and the Bureau of Justice Assistance/The Moss Group's Improving Institutional Corrections Academy Training committees.

Mr. Jeffreys holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in criminal justice with a concentration in Correctional Administration from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.



Rob Jeffreys
NDCS Director



CSG Director Megan Quattlebaum

As director of the CSG Justice Center, Megan Quattlebaum leads a staff of more than 140 who work across an array of specialties that span the criminal justice continuum to develop research-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities. Before joining the organization, Megan most recently served as a research scholar in law and the program director of the Justice Collaboratory at the Yale Law School, where she taught as well as developed and oversaw research projects and led the organization's work on behalf of the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice. She was also the Senior Liman Fellow in Residence for the Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law and served as a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School. Additionally, she has served as a practicing criminal and civil defense attorney with Zuckerman Spaeder LLP in New York and an Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellow and attorney at the Neighborhood Legal Services Association in Pittsburgh. She also clerked for the Hon. Julio M. Fuentes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She received her BA from Sarah Lawrence College and her JD from the Yale Law School.

REENTRY
2030



Megan Quattlebaum
Director, CSG Justice Center





Kevin Kempf
Executive Director, CLA



Executive Director Kevin Kempf

Kempf began his career in 1995 as a correctional officer at Pocatello Women's Correctional Center in the State of Idaho. He went on to serve in a variety of positions including parole officer, investigator, section supervisor, district manager, warden, chief of prisons and deputy director. The Idaho Board of Correction appointed Kempf director of the department in December 2014.

As director, Kempf was responsible for the entirety of IDOC's operations including its 10 prisons, four community re-entry centers and seven probation and parole districts. The department has an annual budget of \$220 million and employs nearly 2,000 corrections professionals. They are responsible for the incarceration and community supervision of 22,000 felony offenders.

Under Kempf's leadership, the Department of Correction experienced reform in almost every area. Projects like Justice Reinvestment, Justice Program Assessment and Restrictive Housing Reform continue to have many positive effects on the system and elevated IDOC as one of the best corrections agencies in the country.

In 2006, Kempf was appointed to the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision. The commission is the national organization that oversees the transfer and relocation of felony offenders across state lines. During Kempf's six years as Idaho's representative, his peers twice elected him to leadership positions. He first served as treasurer and later as vice president of the organization.

Kempf was an active member of the Correctional Leaders Association (CLA). Kempf served as Chairman of the Program and Training Committee and Treasurer of the Western States CLA.

In December 2016 Kempf was chosen as the Executive Director of the Correctional Leaders Association (CLA). CLA members are the CEO of Corrections for the United States.

The Governor of the State of Idaho, C.L. Butch Otter, named December 16th "Kevin Kempf" day in Idaho for his tireless work and dedication to public safety.



Dr. Amy Doty

is the Acting Director of Southeast Community College's prison education program, UPWARD (Unlocking Potential With Academic Resources and Development), and is dedicated to increasing successful reentry and reintegration in Nebraska through the transformative power of educational access, intentional support for pre and post-release individuals, and collaboration with community partners and the Department of Corrections.



Dr. Amy Doty
Acting Director PEP, SCC





Dr. Carrie Pettus

Dr. Pettus founded and leads a national equity-centered translational research nonprofit, comprised of a multidisciplinary team committed to assisting legal/justice system and community partners with transforming their systems using researcher-practitioner partnerships. Wellbeing & Equity Innovations, Inc (WEI) team members work with service providers, advocates, businesses, policymakers, and legal/justice system organizations to develop capacity to implement, evaluate, and improve the adoption of evidence-based programs. WEI helps partners innovate and reimagine their work by combining rigorous research-to-practice feedback loops, technical assistance, and delivery of evidence-informed practices and strategies.

Dr. Pettus' intervention and implementation science research and policy reform work facilitates racial, behavioral health, and economic equity throughout the criminal justice and legal systems, from an individual's first contact with law enforcement to their release from incarceration. Dr. Pettus has spent her research career working with community partners to develop, implement, and research interventions to reduce community violence, enhance positive social support, respond to trauma experiences among justice-involved adults, treat substance use and mental health disorders, and generate overall wellbeing for those impacted by justice involvement. Dr. Pettus has two violence interruption and gun violence diversion researcher-practitioner projects in two states in collaboration with prosecutors and community-based organizations. As a social worker in field settings for ten years before joining academia, Dr. Pettus conducts all her research in partnership with legal/justice system stakeholders and community service providers. This blend of prior field-based practitioner experience and community-engaged scholarship has allowed Pettus to understand the depth and nuance of complications that can occur with applied, real-world research and implementation in community settings. Prior to founding WEI, Dr. Pettus led research centers on transforming criminal legal/justice systems in departments of social work at Florida State University and Washington University in St. Louis.

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Scan for
event program



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