

Appropriations Committee
Deficiency Hearing
April 13, 2021
Testimony of
Angel Quiros, Commissioner
Department of Correction

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Winfield, Representative Candelaria and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Angel Quiros, Commissioner for the Department of Correction. I am here today to speak on our projected deficiency and our appropriations status for the current fiscal year.

The Governor's deficiency bill represents deficiencies as projected on January 20, 2021, however OPM is currently projecting a shortfall, for the Department of Correction, of \$3.65 million, with \$2 million projected in Personal Services,

\$2 million in Inmate Medical Services. The agency's deficiencies in Personal Services and Inmate Medical Services are offset by a surplus of \$350,000 in the Board of Pardons and Parole account due to vacancies.

We have made every effort to work within the budget allotted to the agency however, responding to the pandemic while maintaining the integrity of our mission and the safety and security of our staff and facilities has proven to be challenging.

The deficiencies the agency is currently experiencing, in its Personal Services and Inmate Medical Services accounts, are being driven by higher than budgeted and anticipated overtime, primarily due to the continuing demands of the pandemic.

As a part of our standard operating procedure we routinely examine all aspects of our business model for opportunities

to improve offender outcomes, increase operational efficiencies, reduce costs and improve and enhance safety and security. The department is dedicated to honoring the rights of crime victims, and to making sure that high-risk offenders receive proper oversight and interventions as we continue our efforts to reduce recidivism and lower crime. We remain committed to continuing our primary mission of maintaining a safe, professional, and efficient correctional system.

I appreciate this opportunity to speak with you today, and we would be happy to respond to your questions.