

In 2021, our agency faced a number of significant challenges, including continued adjustments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we have moved much closer to pre-pandemic operations, while taking many steps forward as an agency.

Among other things, we opened more institution-based Job Centers to improve Reentry opportunities, launched [new programs](#) and safely resumed [in-person visitation](#). We [made state history](#) in July when twenty persons in our care earned their bachelor's degree and became the first graduating class of DOC's baccalaureate program. We celebrated the incredible work of our [correctional employees](#) in May and honored the [agency's best](#) in September at the first SALUTE Awards ceremony held since 2019. We expanded [vocational education](#) opportunities for persons in our care, increased [treatment services](#) for clients on community supervision, improved evidence-based programming efforts for youth and made [critical investments](#) in our workforce.

Below are a few more accomplishments from the past year:

### **Office of the Secretary**

The Office of Public Affairs organized a series of virtual town hall meetings throughout the year to maintain connections during a global pandemic, expanded the agency's presence on social media and released DOC's first [stakeholder newsletter](#) in October. The Research and Policy Unit launched several new [data dashboards](#) and published the latest [recidivism data](#) in August. We highlighted the important work of [victim services](#) and the Reentry Unit has collaborated with DWD to expand Job Centers to 11 institutions.

### **Division of Adult Institutions**

In 2021, DAI increased access to [justice-involved programming](#) and expanded treatment and early release opportunities for persons in our care. Loved ones reconnected when in-person visitation resumed in July, while Health Services and other staff worked diligently to protect persons in our care from COVID-19, including vaccine education. Those efforts led to a [PIOC vaccination rate](#) well above 80%.

### **Division of Community Corrections**

In early January, DCC implemented several policy modifications related to violation response and revocation practices. Other highlights include [improving mental health treatment](#) services for clients on community supervision, expanding medication-assisted treatment for individuals with substance use disorders and the creation of an Overdose Death Review Team.

### **Division of Juvenile Corrections**

Reports filed by the court-appointed Monitor this year noted [significant improvements](#) at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake Schools. Other 2021 accomplishments include the ongoing implementation of Dialectical Behavior Therapy, new music and art initiatives, and completing a two-year renovation of all living units at the facility. [Residential programming resumed](#) at the Grow Academy in June and the [Foster Grandparents](#) program earned a Governor's Service Award in September.

### **Division of Management Services**

In May, the Office of Records Management launched a new online [Public Records Center](#) to provide users an easy way to file public records requests, check the status of requests or retrieve records. Over 4,957 public records requests have been processed so far this year. Bureau of Technology Management staff provided critical support to improve video technologies for visitations held on Zoom, completed

equipment upgrades for 10 sites, and installed network connections, software and equipment in several mobile lab units.

***Kevin A. Carr, DOC Secretary***