



Response to Questions from Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 28, 2023

The Honorable Jason Kropf, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

Subject: Senate Bill 211 – Responses to Questions Posed During Public Hearing

Chair Kropf and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on SB 211 during the April 27, 2023 public hearing before the House Committee on Judiciary. I write to provide responses to questions from committee members.

Question from Representative Chaichi: Why was the original concept implemented?

The concept for the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide its own Basic Corrections Course (BCC) training was proposed in the 2009 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB), as a cost-savings measure for both the DOC and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) which retained responsibility for the 200-hour Basic Corrections Local (BCL) course.

Through HB 3199 (2009), DOC was directed to develop and deliver basic corrections training for DOC correctional officers hired on or after August 4, 2009. A sunset date of January 2, 2015 was established to ensure the law changes resulted in budget savings for both the DOC and DPSST, and that DOC's BCC training continued to meet state standards. In 2013, HB 2235 extended the sunset date to January 2, 2026.

The approval for DOC-provided BCC training already has and continues to prove a responsible fiscal decision. Providing training within or in closer proximity to the DOC institutions where the correctional officers work, reduces travel and related expenses, reduces the period of time backfilling officers are required to cover workloads, ensures trainees are trained in a corrections-specific environment, and increases the number of correctional officers attending BCC-specific training much sooner.

DOC's BCC training results in certification recognized by DPSST as having met or exceeded required standards. DOC's BCC training is also audited to ensure standards remain high.

Request from Representative Conrad: Comparability and Efficacy of the BCC program versus the BCL program

The BCC and BCL trainings have some similarities such as meeting the minimum state standards, subject category hours, test questions, and critical and essential tasks of a correctional officer as identified in a job task analysis. However, DOC's curriculum, scenarios,

online assessments, quizzes, final exam, and performance objectives differ as they intentionally focus on the role, work duties and responsibilities of a state prison correctional officer working with Adults in Custody (AICs) with longer sentences of incarceration (no less than one year and one day, up to life in prison), and in greater numbers (in facilities ranging from just under 500 to over 3,000 beds) than AICs being supervised by officers in most local jails.

Since 2009 DOC has conducted 177 BCCs for 2,760 newly hired correctional officers. Eighty-six percent (86%) of those new officers have completed the additional 50 hours of Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP) as part of their basic certification.

In the period between January 2021 and March 2022, DOC conducted 18 BCC classes instructing approximately 213 students. The BCC consists of twelve on-line courses, each with multiple questions per topic for a total of sixty questions. The BCC classroom curriculum consists of two quizzes and a final exam bringing the total number of questions to 235. To receive a passing rate, their score must be meet or exceed 75%. The average student score for quizzes and the final exam was 89.4% during this time period.

Between January 2021 and March 2022, DPSST conducted 7 BCL classes instructing approximately 280 students. The maximum BCL class size is 40 students. The course consists of five quizzes and a final exam for a total of 210 questions. The average student score across all questions during this time period was 90.45%.

Note: This above-mentioned time period provides a little over a year of data because the BCC and BCL courses have different delivery timelines. The DOC BCC is delivered over a 7-week period and corrections officers complete field training at their respective DOC institutions. The DPSST BCL Course is delivered over a 6-week period and corrections officers complete field training through their employing agency.

Below is a compare and contrast of the BCC and BCL programs:

Basic Corrections Course (BCC)	Basic Corrections Local (BCL)
<p>Department of Corrections – BCC</p>	<p>Department of Public Safety Standards and Training - BCL</p>
<p>7-week BCC curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets statewide standards with course content focused on Oregon Administrative Rules, department policies, and prison environment. • Mandated course as outlined by OAR 259-008-0085 	<p>6-Week BCL curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructed as a result of communication between DPSST and its local corrections constituents and is focused on operating Oregon’s 36 county jails and municipal detention facilities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC training includes Ethics, Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Boundaries, Emotional Survival, Suicide Prevention, AIC supervision, and rights and access to health care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandated course as outlined by OAR 259-008-0085
<p>DOC training totals 246.5 hours for basic certification. An additional 60 hours are required for firearms training, DOC reality-based training, online rules/policies.</p>	<p>BCL is 240 hours for basic certification.</p>
<p>Specific DOC course material not covered in BCL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC Mission, Values and Vision • Oregon Accountability Model • Cell Extraction • DOC Emergency Preparedness • Rifle, shotgun, and mobile patrol • Correctional Case Management • Security Threat Management • Oregon Way 	<p>BCL classes are held at DPSST and do not provide all of the information needed for a State Correctional Officer and that they would need to supplement with a 2-3-week post-academy class held at a state facility.</p>
<p>Basic Corrections Course and field training portion must be completed within 12 months from the date of employment.</p>	<p>Basic Corrections Local and field training portion must be completed within 12 months from the date of employment.</p>
<p>F24 Corrections Field Training Manual – DPSST Approved Equivalent</p>	<p>F32 – Corrections Field Training Manual</p>

Submitted by:

Oregon Department of Corrections

Gail Levario, Assistant Director for Employee Services

Gail.M.Levario@doc.oregon.gov

Phone (971) 600-6131