FEBRUARY 20, 2015

DIRECTOR'S
NEWS UPDATE

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 2015-06 REGARDING HIRING FREEZE

As you may already be aware, on February 6, 2015, Governor Mary Fallin signed Executive Order 2015-06 regarding personnel guidelines for state government. Several media outlets reported that Governor Fallin had implemented a "hiring freeze" for state agencies. These reports were followed by many questions, as well as anxiety and confusion, from staff regarding the impact that it will have for our agency.

Over the last several months, we have been carefully analyzing staffing levels and reviewing all requests to fill positions due to the budgetary constraints that our agency is facing. Under the Executive Order, this practice will continue; however, I want to assure you that the agency will move forward with filling vacancies for those positions that are critical and necessary for safe and secure operations within our agency. Positions that are directly related to the care, custody, and control of offenders, including correctional security officers, medical service providers, probation and parole officers, food service, maintenance, and case management jobs, remain a priority for the agency and will continue to be filled.

The main change resulting from this Executive Order is with the supporting paperwork required to authorize the filing of a position. Central Office Human Resources is currently communicating the details of these changes to the local Human Resource Management Specialists and will be working to implement and streamline the process.

I hope this clarifies some of the concerns you may have had regarding the Governor's Executive Order. As always, I appreciate your dedication and service to the agency and will continue to do everything I can to ensure we have the personnel resources that we need to fulfill our mission.