Questions for Consideration by the 101 Commission

1. Is it possible to define “a funding formula for the department of correction and each sheriff’s department based, in part, on the number of people in their custody and control and the utilization of best practices in recidivism reduction to safely reduce the population of incarcerated people.”
2. If not, how should the commission approach its charge to “compare existing funding levels and expenses at each state prison and house of correction and include a recommendation for an appropriate level or allocation of funding. The commission shall recommend targeted solutions for each state prison and house of correction to reduce spending if actual spending is above the recommended level.”
3. Does the NIC Staffing analysis offer a way forward -- (a) as a future recommendation for all correctional facilities in the Commonwealth? (b) as a current method for setting recommended spending levels in the facilities we have examined? To what extent was the analysis implemented in a consistent way?
4. If we cannot recommend spending levels, can we at least define stronger more standardized reporting requirements to the budgeting committees? What would actually be helpful?
   1. Inmate population details?
   2. Programming details?
   3. Post analysis and relief factors to define staffing levels?
5. Is it valid from an accounting standpoint to distinguish care and custody from programming expenses?
6. Is it feasible and advisable to establish “distinct line items for the department of correction and each sheriff’s department to identify funding specifically designated for: (i) fixed costs and payroll spending on care and custody personnel; (ii) recidivism reduction programming; and (iii) any other separate categories as may be identified by the commission.”
7. How should the commission view non-correctional activities by sheriffs – how should the mission of sheriffs be defined?
8. Should the commission endeavor to compare compensation levels across the sheriffs? How does the mix of professionals vary across facilities?
9. Variations in scale and capacity utilization drive variation of per inmate costs. Should the commission consider low scale and/or low utilization as problems to be solved through altered governance or increased exchange of prisoners?
10. Should the statutory division of labor between Sheriffs and DOC be re-examined – should HOC’s be able to receive longer sentenced inmates?
11. Can we deepen the understanding of the impact of Chapter 69 by showing how housing arrangements and inmate out-of-cell routines have changed?
12. How do staffing shortages figure into our larger conversation about staffing and cost recommendations?
13. How can we standardize clinical needs assessment tools and clinical programming?
14. How can we standardize outcome metrics, including recidivism?