

Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton

*First Vice-Chair:
Laurie Slade Funderburk*

Legislative Oversight Committee

*Micajah P. (Micah) Caskey, IV
Neal A. Collins
Patricia Moore (Pat) Henegan
William M. (Bill) Hixon
Jeffrey E. (Jeff) Johnson
Marvin R. Pendarvis
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor
Robert Q. Williams*



South Carolina House of Representatives

*Gary E. Clary
Chandra E. Dillard
Lee Hewitt
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.
Mandy Powers Norrell
Robert L. Ridgeway, III
Edward R. Tallon, Sr.
John Taliaferro (Jay) West, IV
Chris Wooten*

*Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director*

*Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator*

**Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811
Room 228 Blatt Building**

*Charles L. Appleby, IV
Legal Counsel*

*Carmen J. McCutcheon Simon
Research Analyst/Auditor*

*Kendra H. Wilkerson
Fiscal/Research Analyst*

June 28, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Bryan P. Stirling, Director
South Carolina Department of Corrections
Post Office Box 21787
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: Follow-up to June 18, 2019 Subcommittee meeting

Dear Director Stirling:

The Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee appreciates the S.C. Department of Corrections' (SCDC) partnership in the oversight process. As follow-up from the meeting on June 18, 2019, we seek some additional information. Please provide this information by Friday, July 26, 2019. In SCDC's responses, if the information applies differently to male and female inmates, please indicate any differences. Please do not include information in SCDC's responses which may endanger the safety of inmates or agency staff.

Inmate Participation in Programs

1. Please provide, with the agency's updated Program Evaluation Report, recommended legislation that would enable participation in programs to qualify inmates for additional good time or other credit, as suggested during testimony from agency personnel.

Contraband – Cell Phone Usage

2. Please provide, with the agency's updated Program Evaluation Report, recommended legislation to address the situation which recently occurred with a local cell phone provider turning its satellite and overwhelming the agency's managed access system (e.g., required notification to prison, penalties).

Assaults

3. What analysis, if any, is performed to determine common characteristics of those involved in inmate on inmate and inmate on staff assaults?
4. Please provide the following information for *inmate on inmate* assaults, for each of the last three years:
 - (a) total number of incidents;
 - (b) total number of inmates involved in all incidents;
 - (c) percentage of inmates involved with validated gang affiliation; and
 - (d) percentage of inmates involved who are suspected of having gang affiliation.
5. Please provide the following information for *inmate on staff* assaults, for each of the last three years:
 - (a) total number of incidents;
 - (b) total number of staff involved in all incidents;
 - (c) total number of inmates involved in all incidents;
 - (c) percentage of inmates involved with validated gang affiliation; and
 - (d) percentage of inmates involved who are suspected of having gang affiliation.

Program Decisions/Evaluation

6. When evaluating a potential new inmate program does the agency obtain data on the following:
 - (a) past successes achieved through implementation of the program at other local or state correctional facilities;
 - (b) intended outcomes;
 - (c) level of inmate interest;
 - (d) resource costs associated with having the program (e.g., escorting inmates to/from the program);or
 - (e) anything else?
7. Does the agency seek, and/or consider, input from inmates about ways to improve current programs or to determine other programs that may be helpful?
8. How does the agency evaluate whether the Critical Incident Stress Management program, established to provide support services to staff, is successful? What data, if any, is tracked (e.g., customer satisfaction from staff participating in the program)?
9. Did the agency request 2019-20 Proviso 65.6 which limits the marketing and sale of retreaded tires from Lieber Correctional Institution's tire retreading program to state governmental entities? If so, why? If not, what is the agency's understanding of why it was needed?
10. What is the recidivism rate for inmates who participate in the Self-Paced In-Class Education (SPICE) program?

Victim Notification

11. Please list the standard information included in victim notification, for the various events in which victims are notified, and provide sample notifications.
12. Do the events in which SCDC notifies victims, or the standard information SCDC includes in the victim notifications, differ from victim notification requirements of other entities (e.g. county jail, sheriff)? If so, how?

Agency Policy Review

13. During the meeting it was revealed an agency policy, relating to payment for transportation when inmates visit sick or dying family members (e.g., only in person versus online), may be outdated. In light of this, please explain the agency's schedule for regularly reviewing and updating, as necessary, not only this policy, but all agency policies. Please provide an explanation for lack of a schedule, if the agency does not have a schedule.

Positive Impact Examples

14. Please provide examples of noteworthy work and positive impacts made by agency personnel.
15. What actions does the agency take to maintain agency personnel morale and motivation (e.g., do agency personnel receive regular communication showing how their efforts are assisting inmates rehabilitate so they can see they are making a difference)?

In responding to these questions, please remember the Committee's expectations which are provided in the Committee's Standard Practice 9. The Subcommittee looks forward to working collaboratively with SCDC during the oversight process.

Thank you and your team for your service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward R. Tallon Sr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Subcommittee Chair

cc: Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee Members

