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South Carolina House of Representatives

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Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee

**Monday, December 16, 2019
10:30 a.m.
Blatt Room 110**

Archived Video Available

- I. Pursuant to House Legislative Oversight Committee Rule 6.8, South Carolina ETV was allowed access for streaming the meeting. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and clicking on *Committee Postings and Reports*, then under *House Standing Committees* click on *Legislative Oversight*. Then, click on *Video Archives* for a listing of archived videos for the Committee.

Attendance

- I. The Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting is called to order by Chair Edward R. Tallon, Sr., on Monday, December 16, 2019, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building. The following other members of the Subcommittee are present for either all or a portion of the meeting: Representative Gary E. Clary; Representative Chandra E. Dillard; Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.; and Representative Robert Q. Williams. Representative Micajah P. "Micah" Caskey, IV, and Representative Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson are absent.

Minutes

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires standing committees to prepare and make available to the public the minutes of committee meetings, but the minutes do not have to be verbatim accounts of meetings. It is the practice of the Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes for its subcommittee meetings.
- II. Representative Clary moves to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2019, meeting. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

Rep. Clary's motion to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2019, meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Clary	✓		
Rep. Caskey			✓ (absent)
Rep. Dillard	✓		
Rep. Jefferson	✓		
Rep. Johnson			✓ (absent)
Rep. Tallon	✓		
Rep. Williams	✓		

Discussion of the S.C. Department of Corrections

- I. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon explains the purpose of today's meeting is to receive public testimony and discuss a plan for covering the agency's law recommendations.
- II. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon explains that all testimony given to this subcommittee, which is an investigating committee, must be under oath. He reminds agency personnel previously sworn in that they remain under oath. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon places the following individuals under oath:
 - a. Ms. Shirene Hansotia;
 - b. Reverend Chuck Pollack;
 - c. Ms. Cathy DeCourcy;
 - d. Mr. Stan Burt;
 - e. Mr. Carter Elliott;
 - f. Ms. Nadia Sales;
 - g. Ms. Ashley Price;
 - h. Mr. Lester Young; and
 - i. Ms. Louisa Tobias.

- III. Mr. Bryan Stirling, SCDC Director, provides the subcommittee information on contraband cell phones and their impact on SCDC operations and the safety of inmates and SCDC staff. Members ask questions, which Director Stirling answers.
- IV. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Shirene Hansotia from Charleston County to provide public testimony. Ms. Hansotia provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. Hansotia answers member questions.
- V. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Reverend Chuck Pollack from Colleton County to provide public testimony. Rev. Pollack provides testimony and members ask questions. Rev. Pollack answers member questions.
- VI. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Mr. Carter Elliott from Georgetown County to provide public testimony. Mr. Elliott provides testimony and members ask questions. Mr. Elliott answers member questions.
- VII. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Cathy DeCourcy from Jasper County to provide public testimony. Ms. DeCourcy provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. DeCourcy answers member questions.
- VIII. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Nadia Sales from Orangeburg County to provide public testimony. Ms. Sales provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. Sales answers member questions.
- IX. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Ashley Price from Jacksonville, Florida to provide public testimony. Ms. Price provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. Price answers member questions.
- X. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Mr. Lester Young from Richland County to provide public testimony. Mr. Young provides testimony and members ask questions. Mr. Young answers member questions.
- XI. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Louisa Tobias from Richland County to provide public testimony. Ms. Sales provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. Sales answers member questions.
- XII. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon asks Director Stirling if SCDC has any response to testimony from members of the public. Director Stirling provides comments. Members ask question which Director Stirling answers.

- XIII. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon asks Director Stirling the most efficient way to cover SCDC's law recommendations. Director Stirling suggests, and members agree, that SCDC will send a letter with all recommendations. This will allow members an opportunity to review the recommendations prior to the next meeting. At the next meeting, members will ask any questions they have about the recommendations.
- XIV. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.