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Legislative Oversight Committee



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South Carolina House of Representatives

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Department of Corrections Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Wednesday, October 23, 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 Wednesday, October 23, 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 Micajah P. "Micah" Caskey, IV; Representative Chandra E. Dillard; Representative Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.; Representative Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Johnson; and Representative Robert Q. Williams.

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 Jefferson moves to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2019, meeting. A roll call vote is held, and the motion passes.

Rep. Jefferson's motion to approve the minutes from the October 2, 2019, meeting:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Rep. Clary	✓		
Rep. Caskey	✓		
Rep. Dillard			✓ (absent for vote)
Rep. Jefferson	✓		
Rep. Johnson			✓ (absent for Oct. 2 meeting)
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, continue discussion of the agency's legal and compliance unit, and discuss the agency's administration unit.
- 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 swears in the following individuals:
 - a. SCDC personnel:
 - i. Ms. Betty Smith, Food Service Director;
 - ii. Ms. Ruthie Bishop, Division Director for Procurement;
 - iii. Ms. Donnette Jeffcoat, Division Director for Human Resources;
 - iv. Mr. Isaiah Gray, Division Director for Transportation;
 - v. Ms. Georganna Martin, Fiscal Manager I;
 - vi. Ms. Debra Long, Program Administrator;
 - vii. Mr. Rick Dorn, Division Director for Agriculture;
 - viii. Dr. James Austin, Consultant;

- b. Members of the public testifying:
 - i. Ms. Christa Williams (SCDC personnel not testifying as part of the agency's presentation);
 - ii. Dr. Pamela Crawford (SCDC personnel not testifying as part of the agency's presentation);
 - iii. Ms. Kathy Martin; and
 - iv. Ms. Beth Franco
- III. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Christa Williams to provide public testimony. Ms. Williams provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. Williams and agency personnel answer member questions.
- IV. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Dr. Pamela Crawford to provide public testimony. Dr. Crawford provides testimony and members ask questions. Dr. Crawford and agency personnel answer member questions.
- V. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Kathy Martin to provide public testimony. Ms. Martin provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. Martin answers member questions.
- VI. Ad hoc subcommittee Chairman Tallon recognizes Ms. Beth Franco to provide public testimony. Ms. Franco provides testimony and members ask questions. Ms. Franco answers member questions.
- VII. Dr. James Austin, SCDC Classification consultant, provides information on the new inmate classification system and progress related to implementing the new system. Members ask questions which Dr. Austin answers.
- VIII. SCDC Director Bryan Stirling provides information related to the mental health lawsuit, including events prior to the lawsuit, his actions to resolve the lawsuit once he became director, and agency actions to make changes related to mental health since settlement of the lawsuit. Members ask questions which Director Stirling answers.
- IX. Members make a motion during the meeting, which is listed on the next page. A roll call vote is held for the motion, and, among the members present, the motion passes unanimously.

Rep. Clary moves that the Subcommittee Study include recommendations that SCDC do the following: (1) Randomly test employee knowledge of agency policies and procedures, Random testing should include both written tests and hands-on strategies to gauge employee knowledge. (2) Use the data from the random tests of employee knowledge of agency policies and procedures to implement a method to determine which of the trainings it offers are effective or may be in need of revision. and (3) Review the current ways in which agency employees may share health, safety, and welfare concerns, including anonymously, and implement any changes necessary to improve these reporting mechanisms. These reporting mechanisms should be communicated to all agency personnel.	Yea	Nay	Not Voting (Not Present)
Rep. Clary	✓		
Rep. Caskey	✓		
Rep. Dillard	✓		
Rep. Jefferson	✓		
Rep. Johnson			✓
Rep. Tallon	✓		
Rep. Williams			✓

X. There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned.