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February 5, 2016

Director Sylvia Murray
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Post Office Box 21069
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1069

Dear Ms. Murray:

On January 28, 2016, the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee met to continue its study of the Department of Juvenile Justice. The testimony of Ms. Katherine Pierson, the agency's Director of Constituent Services, was appreciated during this meeting.

The purpose of this meeting was to determine what questions the subcommittee would like to submit to the agency for a written response, and the purpose of this letter is to provide the agency with those questions. In general, the subcommittee would like to know the following about the Department of Juvenile Justice: (1) who is there, (2) what do they do, and (3) where does the agency money go? This general information is provided to assist the agency in responding to the subcommittee's specific questions. Specifically, the subcommittee seeks additional information from the agency by Wednesday, February 10, 2016, on the questions listed below.

WorkKeys

- How many Department of Juvenile Justice students were eligible to take the job skills assessment, WorkKeys for the past three years?

Federal Prison Rape Elimination Act

- Please provide the calculation of how many guards are required by the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) with the present juvenile population, which includes a response based on the agency utilizing three eight hour shifts.

- Is there a penalty associated with not complying with PREA? If yes, what is the penalty for the agency not complying with PREA? If yes, does the penalty include loss of funding? How much funding can be lost if not compliant with PREA?
- Identify funding received and programs effected because the agency has certified an intent to become PREA compliant?

Facilities

- What is the unused land footprint at each facility?
- Has there been any consideration for a reduction in the number of facilities? If yes, please explain how the issue has been considered. If no, please explain why.

Employees

- Please provide a breakdown of employees by functional job duties.

Incidents and Responses

- How many incidents at the agency, of any nature, within the past three years have given rise to the agency director considering the need for SLED involvement in the incident?
- In past, what duties did the agency's rapid response team perform?
- How long has the agency been without a rapid response team?
- Who made the decision to no longer have a rapid response team?
- What is the cost of a rapid response team?
- With existing agency resources, can a rapid response team be implemented without additional costs to the state?
- What could be done to ensure there are fewer incidents (i.e. fires, gang fights, etc.) at the long term facility?

Other Questions

- Please provide background information about any funding available from the Legislative and Citizens Committee on Children. If there is funding available, what is the agency's plan for its specific uses?
- Which of the agency's current activities is the lowest priority?
- What is the evidence that the progress on the agency goals was a result of the agency's actions, rather than outside factors beyond the agency's control?
- What other agencies have the same goals as this agency?
- Why should the subcommittee recommend your agency programs that help achieve those goals continue instead of recommending the other agency take on those programs?
- Are there any functions that would be better contracted out to the private sector (guard services, phone answering services, etc.) to save costs or improve performance?

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Director Murray

In your responses to these questions, please provide the subcommittee with any relevant, necessary context information. If the agency has any concerns about the format of these questions yielding answers that do not provide an accurate reflection of the agency, please express those concerns prior to responding in writing to a letter to me with a copy to committee staff. Please retain your working papers for these responses in the event the subcommittee would like to view those.

Your continued cooperation in the legislative oversight process is appreciated. The Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee looks forward to assisting the agency in its plans to improve its efficiency and outcomes.

Sincerely,



Kirkman Finlay III
Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton
The Honorable William K. Bowers
The Honorable Raye Felder
The Honorable Edward R. Tallon Sr.