

Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton

*First Vice-Chair:
Laurie Slade Funderburk*

Legislative Oversight Committee

*Nathan Ballentine
Gary E. Clary
Kirkman Finlay III
Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.
Walton J. McLeod
Joshua Putnam
Samuel Rivers Jr.
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor*



South Carolina House of Representatives

*William K. (Bill) Bowers
Raye Felder
Phyllis J. Henderson
Mia S. McLeod
Ralph W. Norman
Robert L. Ridgeway III
James E. Smith Jr.
Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Robert Q. Williams*

*Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director*

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*

*Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator*

*Carmen J. McCutcheon
Research Analyst/Auditor*

September 12, 2016

VIA EMAIL and U.S. Mail

Director Sylvia Murray
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
PO Box 21069
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1069
SLMURR@scdjj.net

Dear Director Murray:

Thank you for meeting with the House Legislative Oversight Committee's Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee on August 31, 2016. We were pleased to have this meeting in conjunction with the Senate Special Subcommittee to Study the Department of Juvenile Justice. In preparation for future meetings, the House Oversight Subcommittee seeks additional information from the agency. Unless otherwise noted, please provide responses to the questions below on or before Friday, September 23, 2016.

Security Audit

- Timeline of the agency's implementation of the recommendations in the security audit, with as much detail as possible that can be made available to the public.

Programmatic Audit

- List of entities the agency has received from the Center for Children's Law and Policy, or other sources, that could conduct a programmatic audit of the agency along with potential costs and funding sources for the audit as well as a timeline of when the audit could be conducted and completed.
- Status of contact with the Anne E. Casey Foundation regarding assistance the foundation could provide the agency.

Staffing Report

- Provide a copy of the agency's staffing report. This is the report agency personnel testified was the one referenced in the April 26, 2016 correspondence and would be submitted to the agency director by Friday, September 2, 2016.

Standards

- A list of all potential standards which may be applicable to juvenile justice facilities and operations (e.g., Juvenile Detention Institution Alternatives Standards, etc.).
- A copy of the Juvenile Detention Institution Alternatives Standards.

Recidivism

- Explanation of how the agency calculates recidivism (e.g., only juveniles from certain agency facilities, or from all facilities; arrest within a certain time period and if so the time period; conviction within a certain time period and if so the time period)

Feedback

- The subcommittee commends the agency for conducting additional “listening sessions” with agency staff and “community listening sessions” with juveniles incarcerated. The subcommittee is interested in what the agency learned during these sessions and plans it has to address any issues raised. Please provide a summary of what was learned and any agency plans related to it.

Comparable Facility

- List of the other states, name of the states’ agency/facility, and basic facts about agency/facility, which DJJ has researched, based on Director Murray’s testimony, to determine if it is comparable to how DJJ is setup or comparable to the expansive campus at the Broad River Road Complex.

Agency Policies

- List of actions staff may take to diffuse situations with juveniles and training staff receive related to each action option, if any.
- Policies related to OC “pepper” spray (e.g. who and when it may be used) and decontamination training.

In your responses to these questions, please provide the subcommittee with any relevant, necessary context information. **If the agency has any concerns** (1) about the format of these questions yielding answers that do not provide an accurate reflection of the agency, or (2) **that these requests may in any manner compromise the safety and security of juveniles under the agency’s care or agency staff**, please express those concerns, prior to responding to the question, in a written 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.

Sincerely,

Signature Redacted

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.
Senate Special Subcommittee to Study the Department of Juvenile Justice