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October 20, 2021

Acting Executive Director Eden Hendrick  
Department of Juvenile Justice  
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Via Email: [EdenHendrick@scdj.net](mailto:EdenHendrick@scdj.net)

RE: House Legislative Oversight Committee's Study of the Legislative Audit Council's April 2021 follow up audit of the Department of Juvenile Justice

Dear Director Hendrick:

The House Legislative Oversight Committee's Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee (House Subcommittee) requests an update on Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) operations at our next Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. in the Blatt Building, Room 321.

During the meeting, the House Subcommittee requests testimony on the following:

- Before your appointment as acting director
  - Your background and past experience with DJJ;
  - Initial purpose/areas in which Department of Administration (DOA) was to assist DJJ;
  - Situations discovered during DOA's initial assistance to DJJ and impact those situations had on problems occurring at the agency (e.g., assaults, isolation, vacancies, etc.);
- After your appointment as acting director
  - Changes made including staff, policies, etc. (to the extent not covered during prior testimony);

- Current short-term (less than 6 months), mid-range (6-18 months), and long-term (greater than 18 months) goals in priority order;
- Information you regularly receive to track status of progress on the goal and general agency operations, including which you are willing to post online for transparency purposes (e.g., vacancy/application status report, PbS reports, etc.);
- Accountability for staff;
- Accountability for entities with whom the agency contracts for services (recruitment entity, wilderness camps, etc.); and
- Ways in which the Oversight Committee and General Assembly may assist the agency.

At the conclusion of your testimony members may have questions on these or other topics. Also, please work with Committee staff to develop a summary of the information you provided in the legislative meeting on October 19, 2021. This information may enable some efficiency at to the initial information on which you have already testified.

After the meeting, the House Subcommittee desires in writing:

- List of the agency's understanding of all its duties and responsibilities, with specific reference to applicable authorities (e.g., state laws, federal laws, regulations, executive orders);
- Current short-term (less than 6 months), mid-range (6-18 months), and long-term (greater than 18 months) goals in priority order, noting which associate to specific statutory obligations and which relate to general statutory objectives of the agency;
- Information the agency will post online, with location and frequency of updates, that members, employees, and public, can reference for agency progress in achievement of its goals; and
- Update on the agency response and status in relation to the 2017 and 2021 LAC recommendations.

Please do not include information in DJJ's written responses or testimony, which may endanger the safety of juveniles or agency staff. Additionally, please inform us, prior to responding, of any information requested that cannot be published online due to provisions in contract or law.

We look forward to working collaboratively with DJJ to improve safety and outcomes for our juveniles and staff. Thank you and your team for your service to the citizens of South Carolina.

Sincerely,



Chris Wooten

Chair, House Legislative Oversight Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee

cc: Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton, House Legislative Oversight Committee Chair  
House Legislative Oversight Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee  
Marcia Adams, Department of Administration Executive Director