

Chair Wm. Weston J. Newton

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*Micajah P. (Micah) Caskey, IV
Neal A. Collins
Patricia Moore "Pat" Henegan
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Mandy Powers Norrell
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor
Robert Q. Williams*

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Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

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Legislative Oversight Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, August 13, 2019
Blatt Building 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. Pursuant to Committee Rule 3.1, the public-input meeting of the House Legislative Oversight Committee was called to order by Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton. All members of the Committee were present for all or a portion of the meeting, except Representative Neal A. Collins, Representative Jeffrey E. Johnson, Jr., Representative Martin R. Pendarvis, Representative Tommy M. Stringer, and Representative Bill Taylor.

Minutes

- I. Representative Tallon moved to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 25, 2019. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Representative Tallon’s motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 25, 2019:	Yea	Nay	Not Voting: Present	Not Voting: Absent
Micajah P. “Micah” Caskey, IV	✓			
Gary E. Clary	✓			
Neal A. Collins				✓
Chandra E. Dillard				✓
Laurie Slade Funderburk	✓			
Patricia Moore “Pat” Henegan	✓			
Lee Hewitt	✓			
William M. “Bill” Hixon	✓			
Joseph H. Jefferson, Jr.	✓			
Jeffrey E. Johnson				✓
Mandy Powers Norrell	✓			
Marvin R. Pendarvis				✓
Robert L. Ridgeway, III	✓			
Tommy M. Stringer				✓
Edward R. “Eddie” Tallon, Sr.	✓			
Bill Taylor				✓
John T. West	✓			
Robert Q. Williams	✓			
Christopher Sloan “Chris” Wooten	✓			
Wm. Weston J. Newton	✓			

Discussion of Agenda and Procedure

- I. Chairman Newton stated that one purpose of this meeting was to receive public testimony about the following Departments: Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services; Education; Parole, Probation, and Pardon Services; the Secretary of State’s Office; and the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority. Chairman Newton added that public notice was provided about this public input opportunity in a variety of ways, including notice by statewide press release on July 22, 2019, and through its website.

- II. Chairman Newton further stated that another purpose of the public input meeting is to receive information on agency procedures and practices that are working well or could improve and ways it interacts with individuals and businesses.

- III. **Constituent testimony and Committee minutes summarizing testimony are not the comments or expression of the House Legislative Oversight Committee, any of its Subcommittees, the House of Representatives, or any of these entities staff.**
- IV. **Before each person testified, an oath was administered to the person. Below is the name of each person who testified and the time in the archived video at which the testimony begins.**

Public Input Regarding the Department of Education

- I. No member of the public provided testimony about the Department of Education.

Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman (08:51)

Ms. Spearman testified that the Department of Education has made various improvements. Ms. Spearman stated that safety has improved for students through new equipment and counseling services. Ms. Spearman noted that South Carolina is working with the Department of Mental Health to place counselors in all schools. Ms. Spearman further testified about teacher morale, student achievement, and school district efficiency. Ms. Spearman added that updating textbooks to match the state standards and maintaining data systems are ongoing issues.

Public Input Regarding the Secretary of State's Office

- II. No member of the public provided testimony about the Secretary of State's Office.

Secretary of State Mark Hammond (01:25:46)

Mr. Hammond testified about the positive effects of the Uniform Electronic Transaction Act for the Secretary of State's Office. Mr. Hammond further testified that 2019 was a record year for revenue returned to the General Fund of South Carolina.

Public Input Regarding the Department of Parole, Probation, and Pardon Services

- III. Members of the public provided testimony about the Department of Parole, Probation, and Pardon services or PPP.

Shirene Hansotia (01:43:40)

Ms. Hansotia testified that she resides in Charleston County and is a former public defender who views the agreement to update the South Carolina Department of Corrections inmate classification system positively. Ms. Hansotia further testified that

utilizing this tool to determine release of parolees could be beneficial and enhance community safety.

Stuart Andrews (01:59:29)

Mr. Andrews testified that he resides in Richland County and is a former Chairman of the Department of Education. Mr. Andrews noted that he spoke before the Committee in January and returned to ask for accommodation in public input speaking time extension requests.

Director Jerry Adger (02:11:28)

Mr. Adger is the Director of PPP. Mr. Adger testified about the creation and actions of a task force between SCDC and PPP. Mr. Adger added that PPP is the first probation agency in the United States to receive national accreditation through the Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies.

Public Input Regarding the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority

- IV. Members of the public provided testimony about the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority.

Rhys Quick (00:42)

Mr. Quick testified that he resides in Lexington County and is the President of the Southern Development Management Company. Mr. Quick provided comments about his positive working relationship with South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority. Mr. Quick stated that he is concerned about the federal government contracting out property management, instead of leaving it to the state housing agencies. Mr. Quick further stated concerns regarding households that rely on federal assistance.

Executive Director Bonita Shropshire (14:49)

Ms. Shropshire testified that she is the Executive Director of the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority. Ms. Shropshire provided background on this agency and its mission. Ms. Shropshire voiced concerns about the concept of “teacher villages” and conflicts with the federal Fair Housing Act. Ms. Shropshire also testified about the affordable housing crisis in South Carolina. Ms. Shropshire also provided background details on the Housing Trust Fund Emergency Repair Program and waiting lists for Section 8 housing. Ms. Shropshire further testified about a housing need report created by her agency.

Public Input Regarding the Department of Alcohol and Other Abuse Services

- V. Members of the public provided testimony about the Department of Alcohol and Other Abuse Services or DAODAS.

Charlie Stinson (57:52)

Mr. Stinson testified that he resides in Lawrence County and is a member of the Behavioral Health Services Association or BHSA. Mr. Stinson provided background information on BHSA and addiction treatment in South Carolina.

Hubert Yarborough (01:02:50)

Mr. Yarborough testified that he resides in Greenville County and is the Senior Director of Emergency Room Services at FAVOR Greenville. Mr. Yarborough discussed the background of FAVOR and its Emergency Room Program. Mr. Yarborough stated that the program has expanded to seven hospitals in upstate South Carolina and he believes it has been successful.

James Campbell (01:08:31)

Mr. Campbell testified that he resides in Anderson County and is the President of the South Carolina Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (SCAADAC). Mr. Campbell discussed the importance of agency and community collaboration in the realm of addiction. Mr. Campbell further testified about the positive impact of SCAADAC's collaboration with DAODAS.

Terre Marshall (01:13:27)

Ms. Marshall testified that she resides in Lexington County and is the Deputy Director of Health Services for the Department of Corrections or SCDC. Ms. Marshall provided positive feedback regarding the collaborative efforts between SCDC and DAODAS. Ms. Marshall detailed three new programs at SCDC: medication-assisted treatment, NARCAN training, and peer-support specialist training sessions.

Christine Martin (01:20:23)

Ms. Martin testified that she resides in Charleston County and is the Chairperson for the South Carolina Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependents or SCATOD. She provided background information on SCATOD and positive feedback regarding its

collaboration with DAODAS. Ms. Martin stated that she believes DAODAS has done important work and the need for the role this entity fills in South Carolina.

Ed Johnson (01:24:55)

Mr. Johnson testified that he resides in Charleston County and he has been involved with addiction treatment in South Carolina for approximately 30 years. Mr. Johnson further testified that he has been involved with DAODAS technical assistance and training. Mr. Johnson stated that DAODAS is critical to South Carolina's handling of the opioid crisis. Mr. Johnson testified further that it is likely preferable for DAODAS to maintain an independent agency structure instead of merging with another agency.

Virginie Dhequise (01:30:00)

Ms. Dhequise testified that she resides in Richland County and she is the Chronic Disease Director for the Department of Health and Environmental Control or DHEC. Ms. Dhequise also manages the Bureau of Chronic Disease and Prevention, in addition to representing this agency on its emergency response team. Ms. Dhequise stated that she is in favor of DAODAS continuing and positively testifies about the collaborations it has created.

Bobby Brazell (01:35:28)

Mr. Brazell testified that he resides in Lexington County and he is the Executive Director of the Midlands Recovery Center. Mr. Brazell provided background information on the Midlands Recovery Center and its relationship with DAODAS. Mr. Brazell further testified that DAODAS has had a significant positive impact on the expansion of the Midlands Recovery Center through funding.

Director Sara Goldsby (01:40:24)

Ms. Goldsby testified that she is the director of DAODAS and provided background information on this entity. Ms. Goldsby further testified that she looks forward to working more with the Legislative Oversight Committee. Ms. Goldsby took questions from committee members about daily organization activities and budgetary concerns.

Discussion of Committee Administrative Matters

- I. Representative Funderburk provided an overview of administrative matters, including the ability of members to submit written statements for inclusion in Committee Studies pursuant to Standard Practice Rule 12.6.

Representative Ridgeway provided an overview of recent activities regarding the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Employment and Workforce; and the South Carolina State Fire Academy.

Representative Funderburk announced that the following studies are available for review by the Committee:

- Economic Development, Transportation, and Natural Resources Subcommittee study of the Department of Motor Vehicles
- Education and Cultural Affairs Subcommittee Study of the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School.

Also, the Executive Subcommittee's study of the Aeronautics Commission is in the drafting phase and will most likely be available for consideration later in August.

II. There being no further business; the meeting adjourned.