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Healthcare Subcommittee

May 26, 2016

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 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 Healthcare Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Representative Walton J. McLeod on Thursday, May 26, 2016, in Room 403 of the Blatt Building. Representative Bill Taylor arrived to the meeting later.

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.

Because a quorum was not present, the Subcommittee did not address the minutes from the prior meeting.

Discussion of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind

- I. Representative McLeod administered the oath to the following who were present to testify on behalf of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind: Wanda Miller (Director of Human Resources), Juan Sims (Comptroller), James Kirby (Commissioner), and Elaine Robertson (Special Projects Coordinator).

- II. Mr. Sims provided a brief overview of the Commission's finances.

Representative McLeod asked for a comparison of the most recent budget allocation for the Commission to the previous year's allocation.

Representative McLeod asked if the Commission's entire budget was spent at the state office in Columbia, or if portions of the budget were spent at satellite offices throughout the state. Mr. Sims testified that the Commission's budget was spent across eight satellite locations across the state.

- III. Ms. Miller provided an overview of the Commission from a human resource perspective.

- IV. Representative McLeod asked for the ways in which a parent could enroll his visually impaired child in Commission services. Ms. Robertson answered the question, and explained the ways in which children are identified for Commission services.

Representative McLeod asked if Commission services can be enjoyed by visually impaired individuals in their own communities. Ms. Robertson testified that the Commission offers services for the visually impaired in their own communities and school.

- V. Commissioner Kirby provided an overview of the Commission's services and the factors contributing to the high rate of visual impairment in South Carolina.

Representative McLeod asked for the number of children and adults served by the Commission in South Carolina.

Representative Taylor asked for the factors contributing the low turnover rate at the Commission compared to the public employee turnover rate across the state. Commissioner Kirby testified that, in his opinion, many of

the employees at the Commission are personally committed to the mission of the agency, and are dedicated to staying on with the agency, even in the face of low compensation.

Representative Taylor asked what the Commission would do to further its mission if it were to receive a budget increase of several million dollars. Commission Kirby testified that the Commission would hire more rehabilitation counselors to services the counties across the state and expand its preventative health programs.

Representative McLeod asked for an estimate of the number of employees working at each of the Commission's satellite locations. Commissioner Kirby testified that the typical satellite location has two to four employees. Commissioner Kirby listed many of the services that the Commission offers at its residential campus in Columbia.

Representative McLeod asked if the Commission's mission conflicted at all with the mission of the School for the Deaf and Blind with regards to serving visually impaired children.

Representative Taylor asked for an explanation of the most common complaints that the Commission gets from visually impaired clients.

Representative McLeod asked if the Commission experienced difficulty in filling the staff positions at its satellite offices.

- VI. Ms. Robertson provided a brief explanation of a summary of the information about staff allocation that she had previously provided to the Subcommittee.
- VII. The meeting was adjourned.