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**Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Subcommittee Meeting  
Thursday, April 13, 2016  
3:30 p.m.  
Room 110 - Blatt Building**

### **Archived Video Available**

- I. You may access an archived video of this meeting by visiting the South Carolina General Assembly's website (<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>) and click on "Citizens' Interests," then click on "House Legislative Oversight Committee Postings and Reports." Lastly, click on "Video Archives" for a listing of archived videos for the Legislative Oversight Committee.

### **Attendance**

- I. The Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting was called to order by Chairman Kirkman Finlay on Thursday, April 13, 2016, in Room 110 of the Blatt Building, Columbia, South Carolina. The following Subcommittee Members were present for all or a portion of the meeting: Representative Edward R. Tallon, Representative Raye Felder, and Chairman Kirkman Finlay. Representative Wm. Weston J. Newton was also in attendance.

### **Minutes**

- I. House Rule 4.5 requires the standing committees of the House to prepare and make available for public inspection, in compliance with Section 30-4-90, the minutes of full committee meetings. House Rule 4.5 further provides that such minutes need not be verbatim accounts of such meetings. It is the practice of the House Legislative Oversight Committee to provide minutes, which are not verbatim accounts of such meetings, for its Subcommittee meetings.
- II. Representative Tallon moved to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2016 Subcommittee meeting. A roll call vote was held, and all present voted in favor of approval.

<b>Rep. Tallon's motion to approve the Subcommittee minutes from March 10, 2016:</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Not Voting</b>
Rep. Bowers			✓
Rep. Felder	✓		
Rep. Tallon	✓		
Rep. Finlay	✓		

III. Chairman Finlay began the meeting by briefly explaining that this meeting would allow the Subcommittee to continue their study of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) as well as allow DJJ representatives to address the Subcommittee directly.

At the direction of the Committee Chair, Committee staff provided a summary of the study to date.

**Discussion of Event Reporting Issues**

I. Chairman Finlay requested a DJJ representative come forward and explain to the committee the process for reporting and addressing incidents at DJJ facilities.

Interim DJJ Inspector General, Mr. Freddie Pugh testified under oath to the Subcommittee. Highlights of his testimony include:

- ***Reporting Procedure/Multiple Chances for Report to not get where it is needed*** - Mr. Pugh testified, referencing an event flow chart which is published online, any employee can fill out an event report, which is then sent to the Inspector General's Office where the information from the event report is made into a file in the Event Reporting Management Information System (ERMIS). The ERMIS file is sent to the Chief Inspector's Office where it is determined if the incident should be handled internally or if outside intervention is necessary.
- ***Contraband on Campus*** - Mr. Pugh explained the difference between prohibited items, contraband, and evidence as well as explained the procedures and discipline for bringing contraband onto a DJJ facility.
- ***Lack of officer presence on the ground*** - Mr. Pugh testified lack of officer presence on the ground was the largest issue he saw when he arrived at DJJ this year. Notably, he was a Juvenile Correction Officer over ten years ago.

Mr. Pugh outlined some improvements to issues at the agency which he is in the process of implementing:

- ***Improved efficiency for reporting incidents with better IT and information management*** that will allow for a single electronic location where all event reports will be entered.
- ***Increased searches of employee vehicles entering DJJ facilities*** to prevent contraband on campus. Traffic control officers search every vehicle that enters the premise and DJJ police officers do random searches as well.

Also, DJJ's new Deputy Director for Rehabilitative Services, Ms. Sharonda Sutton testified under oath to the Subcommittee. Highlights of her testimony include the following:

- ***Procedure for addressing incidents*** - Ms. Sutton testified onsite juvenile correction officers are the first defense, then DJJ's rapid response team, which is made up of current DJJ employees, and finally outside help such as SLED or Richland County Sheriff's office are contacted.
- ***Revised procedures*** - Ms. Sutton testified the agency is currently revising its procedure pertaining to loss of control of facilities.
- ***Disciplining juveniles onsite in the moment*** - Ms. Sutton testified that it depends on the severity of the incident, however, the supervisor on duty has the authority to make those decisions.

Chairman Finlay, Representative Felder, and Representative Tallon had questions on the topics above to which Mr. Pugh and Ms. Sutton responded.

II. With no further business, the Subcommittee adjourned.