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Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee

January 26, 2017

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. The meeting of the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee was called to order by Chair Edward R. Tallon, Sr., on Thursday, January 26, 2017, in Room 427 of the Blatt Building. The following members of the Subcommittee were present for some or all of the meeting: Chairman Tallon, Rep. Katherine Arrington, and Rep. William M. Hixon. Other members of the Oversight Committee present for some or all of the meeting included: Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton, Rep. Raye Felder (member of the Subcommittee throughout its study of the Department of Juvenile Justice in the 121st General Assembly), and Rep. Gary Clary (newly appointed ex

officio member of the Legislative Audit Council). Other House Member present for some or all of the meeting included: Rep. Caskey and Rep. Magnuson.

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.
- II. Chair Tallon moved to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee’s meeting on August 31, 2016. A roll call vote was held, and the motion passed.

Chair Tallon’s motion to approve the minutes from the Subcommittee’s meeting on August 31, 2016	Yea	Nay	Not Voting (Present)	Not Voting (Absent)
Rep. Arrington			✓	
Rep. Hixon			✓	
Rep. Rutherford				✓
Rep. Tallon	✓			

Discussion on the Department of Juvenile Justice

- I. The following representatives from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) took an oath, in the order below, to provide truthful testimony to the Subcommittee:
 - a. Mr. Bret Macgargle (Senior Deputy Director for Vision, Planning, and Programs);
 - b. Ms. Elizabeth Hill (General Counsel);
 - c. Ms. Katherine Pierson (Director of Constituent Services);
 - d. Mr. Freddie Pough (Inspector General);
 - e. Mr. Jamie Quinn (Deputy Director of Education Services Division);
 - f. Ms. Sharonda Suttton (Director of Institutional Management);
 - g. Mr. Carl Boston (Director of Fiscal Affairs);
 - h. Ms. Sylvia Murray (Director);
 - i. Ms. Robin Owens (Deputy for Administrative Services);
 - j. Ms. Judy Estren (Deputy Director for Community Services);
 - k. Mr. Anthony Wynn (Deputy Director of Rehabilitative Services); and
 - l. Ms. Alana Williams (Deputy Director of Legal Services).
- II. The Legislative Audit Council (LAC) representatives introduced themselves and included:
 - a. Mr. Earle Powell (Agency Director);
 - b. Ms. Marcia Lindsay (Deputy Director of Agency; Audit Manager for this audit);

- c. Mr. Jack Kresslein (Senior Auditor, HR and Data focus on this audit);
- d. Ms. Melissa Gilroy (Auditor, Wilderness Camp focus on this audit);
- e. Mr. Kevin Ryan (Auditor, Security focus on this audit);
- f. Ms. Yolanda Wardlaw (Auditor, Finance and Procurement focus on this audit)

III. Marcia Adams presented the LAC audit of DJJ, section by section. Subcommittee, Committee, and House Members present, asked questions throughout the presentation, to which Ms. Adams, or other members of the LAC audit team, provided responses. The audit included 74 recommendations and was broken into the following sections:

- a. Chapter 1 - Introduction and Background
- b. Chapter 2 - Security and Safety
- c. Chapter 3 - Use of Funds
- d. Chapter 4 - Oversight of Juvenile Services

IV. DJJ was provided an opportunity to provide comments in response to the audit. Subcommittee, Committee, and House Members present, asked questions to representatives from DJJ about various topics addressed in the audit, such as:

- a. Lack of sufficient detail contained within case files prepared by DJJ's case managers;
- b. Nature of DJJ's quality assurance visits to county offices;
- c. Quality assurance methods in use by DJJ;
- d. Accessibility of information about incidents at DJJ via electronic means;
- e. Professional qualifications of teachers at DJJ;
- f. Duties of police officers at DJJ and whether those duties could be contracted out less expensively or assumed by other employees, if proper training and certification was obtained;
- g. Agreements between DJJ and SLED about the ability for SLED agents to carry firearms when called to DJJ's premises;
- h. Procedures in place related to the security of DJJ's premises;
- i. DJJ's hiring practices, specifically its hiring of correctional officers, including whether background checks are performed and how individuals who the Criminal Justice Academy will not accept as a result of prior misconduct, were hired by DJJ in the first place;
- j. Effectiveness of the training process for DJJ's correctional officers; and
- k. Procedures regarding the carrying of weapons by officers inside DJJ premises.

- V. Director Sylvia Murray offered closing comments and stated she looked forward to presenting more information about DJJ's implementation of the recommendations in the LAC audit and security audit report.
- VI. Chairman Tallon requested Director Murray provide a chart which listed the audit recommendations DJJ agreed with and the date by which DJJ could implement the recommendation. Chairman Tallon also provided the next meeting date, which he stated would include a discussion by Subcommittee Members of additional questions for DJJ and the Department of Public Safety, which are under study by the Subcommittee.
- VII. The meeting was adjourned.