

**MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, June 15, 2005 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W20 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. D. Chris Buttars, Chair
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman, Chair
Sen. Allen Christensen
Sen. Fred J. Fife III
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. D. Gregg Buxton
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Rep. David Litvak
Rep. Michael T. Morley
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Paul Ray

Members Absent:

Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith, Policy Analyst
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of related materials can be found at www.le.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Wendy Bangerter, at 538-1032. A recording of the meeting is available from the committee secretary.

1. Committee Business

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Buxton moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Allen Christensen, Rep. Bowman, Rep. LaVar Christensen, Rep. Jones, Rep. Kiser, and Rep. Morley absent for the vote.

2. Sex Offender Treatment

Mr. Stewart Smith, Policy Analyst, distributed and reviewed a staff report, "Utah Sex Offender Registration." Mr. Smith reviewed the covered offenses, criminal penalties, the operation of the registry, and the availability of the information.

Several presenters were asked to respond to questions from the Committee. Those responding to questions included:

Mr. Leo Lucey, Assistant to the Director, UDC (Utah Department of Corrections);
Dr. Ron Sanchez, Supervising Psychologist, UDC;
Mr. Cliff Butter, UDC;
Ms. Kathy Ockey, Director, Fremont Community Corrections Center, UDC;
Dr. Larry Fox, Private Provider, Psychological Services, Inc.; and
Mr. Tom Patterson, Director, Utah Sentencing Commission.

Mr. Butter, UDC, distributed and reviewed the following materials:

"Growth in the Sex Offender Population";

"Growth in the Incarcerated Sex Offender Population";

"Sex Offender Treatment Expenditures (FY' 02-04)";
"Sex Offender Treatment Program Funding Needs"; and
"Sex Offender Treatment and Recidivism."

Mr. Mike Sibbett, Chair, Utah Board of Pardons and Parole, also responded to questions from the Committee regarding sex offender treatment and parole. When asked what recommendations he had that would help the department, he responded that by decreasing the wait list for sex offenders to receive treatment, the money saved from shorter incarceration would more than pay the costs of increased treatment facilities and personnel. He believes that sex offenses would decrease if Internet pornography could somehow be stopped.

Dr. Fox described those offenders who are placed on parole without treatment, noting that even if they do receive treatment after parole, they would have received even more treatment during incarceration.

3. Teen Dating Violence

Rep. David Litvak addressed the issue relating to teen dating violence. He noted the similarity to domestic violence. He emphasized the importance of considering the prevention opportunities.

Ms. Susan Burke, Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-violence Coordinating Council, stated that a teen dating violence work group has been formed, as well as other groups that have the tools to help teens. One major goal of the work group is to educate teens on the characteristics of a violent person and of the Domestic Violence Link Line, 1-800-897-LINK (5465) where they can call to receive 24-hour help. The work group's second goal is to study possible legislation that would give victims the option to obtain a protective order against the abuser.

Ms. Sarah Sutherland, member of the work group, shared her personal story of domestic violence as a dating teen and after marriage. She emphasized the need to educate the public regarding the characteristics of dating and domestic violence.

Rep. Jones spoke in favor of a strong education program.

Sen. Madsen commented on the characteristics that should be included in an education program, including sexual intimacy's affect on dating violence.

Rep. Litvak referred to, "Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative" included in the packet and strongly encouraged the Committee's support.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Oda moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen.Christensen, Sen. Madsen, Rep.Christensen, and Rep. Morley absent for the vote.

Chair Buttars adjourned the meeting at 4:42 p.m.