

Draft—Awaiting Formal Approval
**MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE OFFICES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**
Wednesday, January 25, 2017 • 8:00 a.m. • 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Senate Chair
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings, House Chair
Rep. Bruce R. Cutler, House Vice Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Lincoln Fillmore
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. James A. Dunnigan
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson

Rep. Tim Quinn
Rep. Angela Romero
Rep. V. Lowry Snow
Rep. Logan Wilde

Members Absent:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble

Staff Present:

Mr. Gary R. Syphus, Fiscal Analyst
Mr. Alexander R. Wilson, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Debbie Benson, Administrative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at le.utah.gov.

Senate Chair Thatcher called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

1. Introduction

Each new committee member was introduced.

Mr. Gary R. Syphus, Fiscal Analyst, explained the budget process and the responsibilities of appropriations subcommittees.

2. Budget Overview

Mr. Syphus gave an overview of the budget and explained the budget tools and materials available to committee members.

Linked EOCJ Base Budget Bill (SB0006)

Budget Tools for EOCJ - 2017 GS

Calendar - Executive Office and Criminal Justice - 2017 GS

Issue Brief - 2016 Interim - Fiscal Note and Budget Item Follow-Up Report

House Chair Hutchings asked about updates to these documents. Mr. Syphus answered this question. House Chair Hutchings asked committee members to review the documents and to ask the analysts when they have questions or if corrections need to be made.

Rep. Cutler asked about for clarification about what the colors mean in the follow-up report. Mr. Syphus answered this question.

Issue Brief - 2016 Interim - Fiscal Note and Budget Item Follow-Up Report

Senate Chair Thatcher gave further clarification for the budget item follow-up report.

Mr. Syphus discussed the subcommittee prioritization list from last session and items that were funded.

EOCJ Priorities Compared to Final Funding - 2017 GS

Mr. Syphus discussed the Intent Language for Performance Measures.

Issue Brief - 2017 General Session - Intent Language for Performance Measures

Mr. Syphus discussed the Base Budget Options documents.

Base Budget Options - EOCJ - 2017 GS

3. Board of Pardons

Mr. Syphus discussed the base budget for the Board of Pardons.

Mr. Greg Johnson, Director of Administrative Services, Board of Pardons and Parole, introduced Ms. Bev Uipi, Deputy Director and Chair Angela Micklos.

House Chair Hutchings urged committee members to feel free to ask questions of each agency.

Mr. Johnson discussed the recent audit regarding Criminal Justice and the changes that have taken place.

Board of Pardons Presentation

Ms. Uipi gave an overview of the recommendations from the audit.

House Chair Hutchings gave some clarification regarding the Criminal Justice System. Mr. Johnson further explained the process.

Senate Chair Thatcher discussed some unique aspects of sentencing in the Utah Criminal Justice System.

Rep. Quinn asked for clarification regarding the performance measure benchmarks. Mr. Johnson answered this question. He also gave further information regarding sentencing and pardons.

Ms. Uipi discussed the organizational restructuring and the adoption of an electronic records management system.

House Chair Hutchings asked about a forecasted time line for the implementation of this system. Mr. Johnson explained the 2 ½ year basic time line for this system.

Rep. Cutler asked for more information about the software involved in the system. Mr. Johnson will get this information to him.

Sen. Okerlund asked for clarification regarding the requested budget amounts in FY 2018 and FY 2019. Mr. Johnson answered this question. He also asked how the JRI has impacted the workload. Mr. Johnson briefly answered this question, but will provide more details off-line.

Rep. Dunnigan asked why it would take 2 ½ years to have the system completely electronic. Mr. Johnson explained the different phases involved in completing the process.

House Chair Hutchings explained that the committee wants to be helpful and provide resources to support the process and to perhaps implement it more quickly. Mr. Johnson discussed the need for skilled programmers and staff to implement this.

Mr. Johnson discussed performance measures for the Board of Pardons. He explained the earned-time program.

House Chair Hutchings asked about the contracting rate and the incarceration rate. He gave more information about this earned-time program. Mr. Johnson commented on the statements.

Rep. Snow asked about programs available for those individuals serving time for sexual offenses. Mr. Johnson stated that the programs are available, but corrections could give more information. They will discuss this off-line.

Mr. Johnson discussed the cost savings involved with the earned-time program. Ms. Uipi appreciated the committee's support and stated that they are working on the recommendations.

House Chair Hutchings asked if the entire process was exhaustive and if public safety has been defended. Mr. Johnson discussed the integrity of the programs.

Ms. Uipi discussed the Board's a structured decision making tool. Senate Chair Thatcher explained the reason for the committee's scrutiny of the Board of Pardons.

4. Corrections

Mr. Syphus discussed the Department of Corrections performance measures and budget information. He discussed possible options for budget reductions.

Senate Chair Thatcher explained the base budget review process to identify possible budget reallocations.

Mr. Rollin Cook, Executive Director, Department of Corrections briefly discussed the functions and the great work of this department.

Corrections Presentation

Mr. Jerry Pope, Director of Prison Operations reviewed the accomplishments of the Utah prison system. He specifically discussed restrictive housing.

Mr. Pope explained the direct supervision model in the West One Ironwood facility in Gunnison.

Mr. Pope discussed the classification system revision.

House Chair Hutchings elaborated on the importance of the classification of inmates. Mr. Pope gave more clarification for committee members.

Mr. Pope talked about the Movement/Critical Incident Response Team (MCIRT).

Mr. Pope discussed the current staffing challenges in the department. Mr. Cook stated that issue will be covered in greater detail.

Senate Chair Thatcher discussed the \$5.8 million budget request regarding some of these issues. He stated that this has been neglected for decades.

Sen. Okerlund thanked the corrections department for their great work. He asked if the vacancies mentioned would include the new hires in the Gunnison facility. He asked about impact of the appropriation given last year as well as the impact if the request was funded. Mr. Pope answered these questions and mentioned that more information would be given next week.

Sen. Thatcher discussed the problem of training these individuals who leave after two years for another position with much higher pay.

Rep. Cutler asked about the amount of overtime for the employees. He mentioned that reducing overtime would result in a pay cut for these individuals. Mr. Pope addressed this concern.

House Chair Hutchings gave some historical perspective regarding how economic downturns impacted this department.

Rep. King discussed the stress that is being put on these corrections personnel. He asked how quality of life might be improved without direct compensation. Mr. Pope mentioned some recent staff suicides and gave some suggestions regarding this issue.

Sen. Iwamoto thanked the teams for their compassion for this work. He asked about the number of individuals who have a second job. Mr. Pope answered this question.

Ms. Carrie Cochran, Community Programming Director, expressed willingness to answer questions offline. She discussed the expansion of Treatment Resource Centers. House Chair Hutchings asked about open positions and Ms. Cochran answered this session

Ms. Cochran discussed the work of the transition agents. She mentioned the new lease for office space in the West Valley area.

Ms. Cochran mentioned the space they have secured in the new public safety complex in Cedar City. She gave an update on the parole violator program. House Chair Hutchings asked for clarification about this program.

Ms. Cochran talked about some of the challenges including the fact that the number of offenders on community supervision has greatly increased. Because of the recent changes with the JRI, their agents have had to do their jobs very differently.

House Chair Hutchings asked for clarification regarding earned time. Ms. Cochran answered this question. He discussed the recent reform initiatives and stated that this area needs continued support.

Ms. Cochran discussed the challenges with lack of space because of the expanded services now being provided.

Mr. Cook stated that they will next address the budget issues. He explained that there were three areas that they didn't have time to discuss with respect to programming, sex offender treatment, the correctional industries program, and justice reinvestment.

Mr. Mike Haddon, Deputy Director, discussed their budget recommendations. He mentioned the Governor's budget recommendations and some internal budget reallocations. He stressed the importance of the compensation plan.

Senate Chair Thatcher noted how important this information is for the committee. He asked committee members to look at these reallocation requests and determine if the committee should vote to support the agency or to do something else.

Mr. Haddon continued with ongoing budget requests.

House Chair Hutchings asked about the medical line item. Mr. Haddon discussed this budget request and continued with other ongoing requests. He discussed the costs of Hepatitis C. He discussed the programs and operations line item. He mentioned the alternative proposal for budget reallocations.

MOTION: Rep. Quinn moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously

Senate Chair Thatcher adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.