

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2022 Interim

July 6, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations & Revenue was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Joseph M. Fischer, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Danny Carroll, Co-Chair; Representative Joseph M. Fischer, Co-Chair; Senators Christian McDaniel and Whitney Westerfield; Representatives McKenzie Cantrell, Jennifer Decker, and Daniel Elliott.

Guests: Randy White, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions, Department of Corrections (DOC); and Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services, DOC.

LRC Staff: Perry Papka, Zachary Ireland, and Benjamin Thompson

Department of Corrections

Mr. White and Ms. Dailey provided an update on strategic plans concerning correctional facilities.

In response to questions from Chair Fischer, Mr. White noted that there had been an additional twenty-two million dollars allocated to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for capital construction purposes in each year of the 2023-2024 fiscal biennium. Mr. White stated that he believed that the one hundred thousand dollars allocated to the DOC for strategic planning purposes would cover incidental expenses and the possible hiring of a dedicated position for planning.

In response to questions from Senator Westerfield, Mr. White stated that while the DOC does employ engineers, some projects require contracting with outside engineering firms. Mr. White confirmed that the DOC employs an architect, noting that the architect designs roof replacements and other smaller projects without the need for entering into a contract with an architectural firm. Mr. White noted that the capital construction budget covers mission critical maintenance needs in twelve of the fourteen state correctional

facilities, with the other two being owned by CoreCivic. CoreCivic is responsible for all maintenance needs in the prisons it owns.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Carroll, Mr. White noted that the Kentucky State Reformatory is nearly one hundred years old and that the Kentucky State Penitentiary is one hundred and thirty-three years old. Mr. White confirmed that those facilities are increasingly expensive to maintain.

In response to a question from Senator Westerfield, Mr. White said that the inmate population at Kentucky State Penitentiary had been reduced from 914 to roughly 455 to account for staffing availability.

In response to a question from Chair Fischer, Ms. Dailey stated that the inmate population is slowly growing since the COVID-19 related commutations in 2020. Ms. Dailey noted that the DOC's inmate population is around 19,000 while the pre-COVID inmate population was roughly 24,000.

In response to a question from Senator McDaniel, Mr. White said that DOC was in the active design phase on a new medical facility on the campus of the Blackburn Correctional Complex.

In response to a question from Co-Chair Carroll, Ms. Dailey noted that capital construction funding likely wouldn't be available for vocational programs unless the purpose was to build a vocational facility.

In response to a question from Representative Decker, Mr. White noted that the Kentucky Correctional Institute for Women is located in Shelby County. Mr. White stated that an order had been placed for new heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

In response to a question from Chair Fischer, Mr. White stated that it is important to understand the lifespan of important components such as roofs, computer systems, and HVAC systems in order to know what repairs or replacements will be needed in the coming years.

In response to questions from Co-Chair Carroll, Mr. White confirmed that low staffing was an issue. Mr. White noted that there was considerable hiring in the eastern region of the state, but other areas remained a concern.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, Senator Westerfield made the motion to adjourn. Senator Carroll seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 AM without objection.