

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2022 Interim

August 17, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations & Revenue was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Danny Carroll, 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; Senator John Schickel; Representatives McKenzie Cantrell, Daniel Elliott, C. Ed Massey, and Jason Nemes.

Guests: Dr. Bill Ralston, Chief Medical Examiner, Office of the State Medical Examiner; Rebecca Norton, Finance Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC); Keith Jackson, Deputy Secretary, JPSC; Kevin Rader, Administrative Division Director, Department of Criminal Justice Training; and Jennifer Linton, Executive Director, Department for Facilities and Support Services, Finance and Administration Cabinet.

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

Approval of Minutes

Senator Schickel made the motion to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2022 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Massey seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Office of the State Medical Examiner

Dr. Ralston and Ms. Norton spoke on the budgetary needs and challenges of the Office of the State Medical Examiner (OSME).

In response to a question from Chair Carroll, Dr. Ralston noted that thanks to investments made by the legislature, the OSME was able to increase salaries to a competitive level in order to retain existing staff and increase staffing at all locations. Funding has also been set aside to provide adequate staffing at the Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office when a site has been determined and properly

outfitted as a medical examiners laboratory. Dr. Ralston stated that the OSME handles between 2,800 and 3,000 cases per year.

In response to questions from Senator Schickel, Ms. Norton noted that the Finance and Administration Cabinet (FAC) had located several possible sites for the Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office and was working to determine the best option. Ms. Norton stated that the FAC was unable to provide a specific timeline on when the office would be opened, citing issues such as necessary renovations after a space is selected and the need for adequate staffing.

In response to question from Chair Carroll, Dr. Ralston said that the site chosen for the Northern Kentucky Regional Medical Examiner's Office would ultimately need to be a medical grade facility when renovations are complete.

In response to a question from Representative Elliott, Dr. Ralston confirmed that rotating staff from other regions to fill out the northern Kentucky office would lead to understaffing in the other regions.

Department of Criminal Justice Training

Mr. Jackson and Mr. Rader provided comments on the possibility of a new training center in the western portion of the state, as well as progress being made on the indoor firing range at the eastern Kentucky campus.

In response to questions from Chair Carroll, Mr. Jackson noted that a feasibility study regarding a proposed criminal justice training site should be completed in October, 2022.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 AM.