

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2024 Interim

June 5, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary was held on June 5, 2024, at 9:30 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Patrick Flannery, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Patrick Flannery Co-Chair; Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer Co-Chair; Senators Christian McDaniel, and Robin L. Webb; Representatives Adam Bowling, Josh Bray, George Brown Jr., and Nima Kulkarni.

Guests: Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; Roberta McCann, Acting Executive Director, Office of Administrative Services, Department of Juvenile Justice; Rebecca Norton, Budget Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

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

Update - Department of Juvenile Justice

Randy White, Commissioner, Department of Juvenile Justice; Roberta McCann, Acting Executive Director, Office of Administrative Services, Department of Juvenile Justice; and Rebecca Norton, Budget Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet provided a presentation on the Department of Juvenile Justice.

In response to questions from Chair Flannery, Commissioner White confirmed that salary increases for youth workers contained in 2023 RS SB162 have reduced staffing issues related to recruitment and retention. Ms. McCann noted that additional funding was provided in 2024 RS HB 6 to complete projects that were enacted by the General Assembly in 2023 RS HB 3.

In response to questions from Senator Funke Frommeyer, Commissioner White confirmed that the Department plans to keep the Campbell Regional Juvenile Detention Center as an all male, lower security facility. Commissioner White agreed that there were some staffing challenges that need to be addressed at the facility. The superintendent of the facility has announced retirement and an interim superintendent has been appointed while the search for a new permanent superintendent takes place.

In response to a question from Senator Webb, Commissioner White noted that the penalty of misusing pepper spray can vary. Possible penalties are suspension or documented counseling. Any penalty for misuse is coupled with retraining.

In response to questions from Representative Kulkarni, Commissioner White noted that the Department has hired additional licensed clinical social workers. Commissioner White stated that juveniles being transferred from the Louisville area would initially be going to the Adair County Youth Development Center.

In response to a question from Senator Funke Frommeyer, Ms. Norton noted that the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet was working with a team of experts and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to develop a well rounded proposal for a youth mental health facility. The Department is looking at all locations for the possible new facility, whether an existing department owned building or a site where a facility would need to be constructed.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.