

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE**

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary**

### **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2020 Interim**

**September 16, 2020**

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 3rd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 8:30 AM, in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Jason Nemes, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Representative Jason Nemes, Co-Chair; Senators John Schickel and Whitney Westerfield; Representatives Daniel Elliott, Angie Hatton, and Jason Petrie.

Guests: Cookie Crews, Commissioner, Department of Corrections (DoC); Hilarye Dailey, Deputy Commissioner of Support Services, DoC; Kirstie R. Willard, Director, Division of Local Facilities, DoC; Lisa Lamb, Deputy Commissioner of Community Services and Local Facilities, DoC; Amy Burke, Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Division, Office of the Attorney General (OAG); and Heather Wagers, Executive Director, Office of Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention and Prosecution, OAG.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Savannah Wiley, and Amie Elam.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting were approved without objection.

#### **Prison and Jail Facility Health Care**

Commissioner Crews, Deputy Commissioner Dailey, and Ms. Willard provided information on health care in correctional facilities.

In response to a question from Representative Hatton, Deputy Commissioner Lamb noted that reentry continues to be a priority for the department. Deputy Commissioner Lamb stated that a reentry services division exists within the Department of Corrections (DoC).

In response to a question from Senator Schickel, Commissioner Crews said that DoC plans to safely move forward with reimplementing services that had been paused since beginning COVID-19 restrictions

In response to questions from Chair Nemes, Commissioner Crews noted that the DoC would commit to follow the rules regarding Requests for Proposal (RFP).

In response to a question from Senator West, Commissioner Crews confirmed that other states do have ten year contracts in place for jail and prison facility health care.

In response to a question from Senator Schickel, Commissioner Crews stated that 13 inmates and one staff member had died due to COVID-19.

In response to a question from Chair Nemes, Deputy Commissioner Dailey noted that it was not the DoC's intention to issue an RFP for jails only regarding a substance abuse pilot project, but that she would provide more information at a later date.

In response to a question from Senator West, Deputy Commissioner Dailey stated that if the RFP was not issued for a month, the DoC would be happy to reissue for a longer period.

### **Human Trafficking and Grant for Child Abuse Prevention**

Ms. Burke and Ms. Wagers spoke about a grant that the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is seeking from the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet to help combat Child Abuse and Human Trafficking.

In response to a question from Senator West, Ms. Burke noted that the OAG has great relationships with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security but that no federal agencies had approached them about additional funding for human trafficking prevention.

In response to a question from Chair Nemes, Ms. Burke noted that the OAG only has one investigator in the Criminal Division. Ms. Wagers stated that the demand is there for an additional 15-20 investigators.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM.