

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2023 Interim

July 19, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary was held on July 19, 2023, at 9:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Co-Chair; Representative Patrick Flannery, Co-Chair; Representative Daniel Elliott, Senator Christian McDaniel, Senator Michael J. Nemes, Senator John Schickel, Representative Nima Kulkarni, and Representative Scott Sharp.

Guests: Keith L. Jackson, Deputy Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet; Randy White, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Corrections; and Rebecca Norton, Budget Director, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.

LRC Staff: Zachary Ireland, Perry Papka, and Jennifer Luttrell.

Update - Justice & Public Safety Cabinet - Capital Project Priorities for 2024-2026 Biennium
Deputy Secretary Jackson and Ms. Norton provided an overview of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet's (JPSC) capital project priorities for the upcoming biennium.

In response to a question from Senator McDaniel, Ms. Norton stated that the JPSC is working with Northern Kentucky University on reestablishing a Northern Kentucky branch of the Office of the State Medical Examiner.

Update - Report on Strategic Master Plan for Correctional Facilities - HB1 (2022)

Deputy Commissioner White provided an overview of the strategic master plan for correctional facilities.

In response to questions from Senator McDaniel, Deputy Commissioner White noted that the Kentucky State Reformatory located in Oldham County faces challenges due to a very competitive job market in the area as well as significant deterioration of the facility. The Department of Corrections is expanding the Little Sandy Correctional Complex as well as looking to build a new complex in Fayette County on the campus of the Blackburn Correctional Complex in order to offset the bed reductions being seen in the Kentucky State Reformatory. Deputy Commissioner White noted that the Luther Lockett Correctional Complex has not had the same level of staffing challenges as the Kentucky State Reformatory.

In response to questions from Senator Schickel, Deputy Commissioner White stated that staff at the Kentucky State Penitentiary are prepared to carry out executions if they are required to do so. Deputy Secretary Jackson noted that the juvenile justice facility in northern Kentucky would begin accepting juvenile inmates again after a retraining and reorganization process is completed. Deputy Secretary Jackson confirmed that the northern Kentucky juvenile justice

facility would house only female juveniles.

In response to a question from Chair Funke Frommeyer, Deputy Secretary Jackson stated that the cabinet is working to recruit employees to the Department of Juvenile Justice, while attempting to retain existing employees.

In response to questions from Senator McDaniel, Deputy Secretary Jackson noted that additional defensive equipment has been acquired for officers in juvenile justice facilities.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.