

JAIL & CORRECTIONS REFORM TASK FORCE

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2023 Interim

July 24, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Jail & Corrections Reform Task Force was held on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 9:30 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator John Schickel, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator John Schickel, Co-Chair; Representative Josh Bray, Co-Chair; Senators Brandon J. Storm, and Whitney Westerfield; Representatives David Hale, Keturah Herron, and Jason Petrie.

Guests: Kiern Fannin, Director of Population Management, Department of Corrections; Randy White, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions, Department of Corrections; Toney Bailey, Director of Kentucky Correctional Industries, Department of Corrections; Kristie Willard, Director of Local Facilities, Department of Corrections; James Daley, Campbell County Jailer, President, Kentucky Jailers Association; Jason Maydak, Boone County Jailer; Jason Woosley, Grayson County Jailer; Barry Brady, Marion County Jailer; and Josh Lindblom, Hardin County Jailer.

LRC Staff: Roberta Kiser, Randall Roof, and Jennifer Smith.

Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2023 Meeting

Representative Hale motioned to approve the June 12, 2023, minutes, seconded by Senator Storm, passed by voice vote.

Department of Corrections Update on Classification and Work Programs

Kiern Fannin, Director of Population Management, Department of Corrections, provided an overview of the classification process. Ms. Fannin stated that inmates that are eligible under KRS 532.100 will be classified on paper and remain in a county jail, while all other inmates will be maintained on controlled intake and scheduled for admission to a Department of Corrections assessment center. Ms. Fannin stated that the Department of Corrections did not classify as many inmates during the COVID-19 pandemic as they did before the pandemic. However, the average number of inmates classified per month is returning to pre-pandemic levels.

In response to Chairman Bray, Ms. Fannin explained that some inmates experience delays in the classification process due to the Department of Corrections waiting on a sentencing order or presentence investigation report.

In response to Senator Westerfield, Ms. Fannin stated that a Class D inmate will be classified at a higher level of custody until the presentence investigation report is complete. Once the Department of Corrections has received the presentence investigation report, the inmate will be reclassified.

Randy White, Deputy Commissioner of Adult Institutions and Toney Bailey, Director of Kentucky Correctional Industries with the Department of Corrections provided an overview of the various Kentucky Correctional Industries facilities and the goods they manufacture.

In response to Representative Herron, Mr. White stated that the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain issues forced Kentucky Correctional Industries to downsize the workforce. Mr. White added that Kentucky Correctional Industries is profitable and the profits are used to fund the operations of the facilities and to pay staff and inmates.

In response to Chairman Bray, Mr. White stated that a study done by Eastern Kentucky University found that only 13.5 percent of inmates that participated in the work programs provided by Kentucky Correctional Industries returned to prison.

In response to Representative Petrie, Mr. White stated that the Department does work with colleges and universities to provide education programs to inmates throughout the Commonwealth.

Kristie Willard, Director of Local Facilities, Department of Corrections provided an overview of jail work programs for state inmates. The Department of Corrections allows state inmates housed in local jails to participate in community service-related projects and work release programs. In fiscal year 2023, 73 jails had active work programs and there was an average of 3,600 inmates working each month. Ms. Willard stated that these work programs saved counties \$35,958,434 in fiscal year 2023.

County Jail Work Programs

Chairman Schickel and Jason Maydak, Boone County Jailer, presented an overview of the Boone County Jail work camp. Chairman Schickel described the type of work that is done by the inmates throughout Boone County. Jason Woosley, Grayson County Jailer, presented on the Grayson County Jail work program and provided an overview of the projects that have been completed by the inmates in the county.

In response to Chairman Bray, Mr. Woosley stated that state inmates could be transferred between county jails.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 A.M.