

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2024 Interim

September 19, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary was held on September 19, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Whitney Westerfield, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Whitney Westerfield, Co-Chair; Representative Daniel Elliott, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Matthew Deneen, Gerald A. Neal, Brandon J. Storm, and Phillip Wheeler; Representatives Kim Banta, Kevin D. Bratcher, Josh Bray, Lindsey Burke, Jennifer Decker, Steven Doan, Patrick Flannery, Peyton Griffee, Keturah Herron, Nima Kulkarni, Jason Nemes, Jason Petrie, Steve Rawlings, Scott Sharp, Pamela Stevenson, and Nick Wilson.

Guests: Mike Bosse, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT); Chip White, Assistant Director, Training Operations Division, DOCJT; Kevin Rader, Assistant Director, Administrative Division, DOCJT; Jeff Asher, Co-Founder, AH Datalytics; Joey Comley, Kentucky & Tennessee State Director, Right on Crime; Amanda Hall, Senior Director of National Campaigns, Dream.org; Cortney Downs, Chief Innovation Officer, Kentucky Youth Advocates; Jayden Spence, Kentuckian Impacted by Parental Incarceration; and Genevieve Muckle, Director of Policy & Government Affairs, Men of Valor Ministry.

LRC Staff: Roberta Kiser, Stephanie Larkin, Eric Rodenberg, Randall Roof, Joshua Shelepak, Matt Trebelhorn, and Robert Wright.

Approval of Minutes of the August 23, 2024 Meeting

A motion was made by Representative Elliott and seconded by Representative Bray to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2024, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Department of Criminal Justice Training Update

Mike Bosse, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT); Chip White, Assistant Director, Training Operations Division, DOCJT; Kevin Rader, Assistant Director, Administrative Division, DOCJT provided an update regarding the department. Mr. Bosse provided an overview of the efforts to reduce the waitlist and training time for police officers. Mr. Bosse also provided an overview of the construction of a new training facility in Madisonville, KY.

In response to questions from Senator Westerfield, Mr. Bosse stated how recruits will be filtered between the training facilities in Richmond and Madisonville. Mr. Bosse reported DOCJT is in the process of hiring credentialed instructors for the Madisonville training facility. Mr. Bosse shared who certifies DOCJT instructors. Mr. White stated police officer applicants have priority over constable applicants regarding admission to the training program.

In response to questions from Senator Carroll, Mr. Bosse discussed the plan to increase recruit class numbers after the Madisonville facility is completed. Mr. Bosse stated the wait list will be eliminated once the Madisonville facility is completed.

In response to a question from Representative Elliott, Mr. Bosse outlined the total time needed to train an applicant.

In response to a question from Representative Sharp, Mr. Bosse discussed DOCJT's campus at Eastern Kentucky University.

Real-Time Crime Index

Jeff Asher, Co-Founder, AH Datalytics, presented on the Real-Time Crime Index (RTCI). Mr. Asher provided an overview of the RTCI and its function. Mr. Asher discussed how the RTCI assists in identifying national trends. Mr. Asher detailed national crime trends from 2022 through June 2024. Mr. Asher detailed Louisville and Lexington crime rates through a RTCI website demonstration. Mr. Asher discussed how the RTCI is evolving and asked for more agency and state participation.

In response to a question from Senator Westerfield, Mr. Asher clarified how the RTCI updates previous data sets.

In response to a question from Representative Nemes, Mr. Asher stated the RTCI intends to rollout a crime scorecard feature that can compare year-to-year crime trends.

In response to a question from Representative Kulkarni, Mr. Asher detailed the barriers to getting more state agencies to participate in the RTCI. Mr. Asher stated there are no plans to train agencies to collect crime data faster.

In response to a question from Representative Bratcher, Mr. Asher discussed crime clearance rates.

In response to a question from Representative Elliott, Mr. Asher stated the RTCI does not currently compile crime clearance rates, but there are plans to add them in the future. Mr.

Asher referred the committee to a current source for crime clearance rate.

In response to a question from Representative Herron, Mr. Asher stated the RTCI does not break down crime trends in regard to circumstances.

Caregivers and Incarceration

Joey Comley, Kentucky & Tennessee State Director, Right on Crime; Amanda Hall, Senior Director of National Campaigns, Dream.org; Cortney Downs, Chief Innovation Officer, Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA); and Jayden Spence, Kentuckian Impacted by Parental Incarceration presented on parental incarceration. Ms. Downs outlined KYA's background and detailed statistics related to parental incarceration in Kentucky and its effect on Kentucky children. Ms. Downs discussed the instability, financial hardships, and overall impacts faced by children with incarcerated parents. Mr. Comley discussed legislation related to parental incarceration in other states. Ms. Hall discussed her previous experience as an incarcerated primary caregiver. Mr. Spence discussed his experience as a Kentuckian impacted by parental incarceration.

In response to questions from Senator Westerfield, Ms. Downs confirmed Kentucky has the third highest incarcerated parent rate in the country. Ms. Downs agreed to share information related to Kentucky's parental incarceration rate.

In response to a question from Representative Herron, Mr. Comley clarified the number of currently incarcerated persons with children in Kentucky.

In response to a question from Representative Kulkarni, Mr. Comley clarified the mechanics of hypothetical parental incarceration legislation.

In response to a question from Representative Burke, Mr. Comley agreed to share examples of parental incarceration legislation from other states.

Men of Valor

Genevieve Muckle, Director of Policy & Government Affairs, Men of Valor Ministry presented on the Men of Valor Ministry and its recent expansion efforts. Ms. Muckle shared her relevant experience, outlined the Men of Valor Ministry's background, and detailed the Men of Valor's programs and services.

In response to a question from Senator Westerfield, Ms. Muckle confirmed that Men of Valor programs have been rolled out in the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, KY.

In response to questions from Representative Decker, Ms. Muckle confirmed Men of Valor is a faith-based organization and receives funding from the state of Tennessee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.