

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pat Colloton at 1:30 p.m. on January 22, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Jan Pauls- excused

Committee staff present:

Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jerry Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Department of Corrections
Kevan Pellant, Deputy Secretary, Community and Field Services, Kansas Department of Corrections
Charles E. Simmons, Deputy Secretary, Facilities Management, Kansas Department of Corrections

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Colloton called on Jarod Waltner, Legislative Research. Mr. Waltner announced to the Committee the Transportation and Public Service Committee scheduled a tour of the Topeka Correctional Facility, January 26, 2009, and a tour of the Kansas Juvenile Complex on January 28, 2009. They are extending an invitation to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee to join them. The Department of Corrections will be providing transportation on both of those days picking up in the ground level of the parking garage at 3:30 p.m. and returning between 5:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Chairperson Colloton called for a show of hands of the Committee members wishing to attend.

Next, Chairperson Colloton called for bill introductions and there being none, she reviewed what the Committee would be doing for the next two weeks. The chairman introduced Kevin Pellant, Deputy Secretary, Community Field Services, Kansas Department of Correction, to give her presentation. Deputy Secretary Pellant provided a written copy of her power point presentation. (Attachment 1) She stated she would be giving a brief overview of what post release is and what they are doing. She opened her presentation by highlighting the following:

- Primary Focus-Risk Reduction
- Enhanced Release Planning
- Research Driven Supervision
- Use of Classification Instruments
- Case Planning
- Provision of Appropriate Resources
- Use of Responsivity Principle (Matching the right people to the right kinds of intervention in their life)
- Parole/Reentry/Community Collaboration

While giving her presentation, Deputy Secretary Pellant addressed the questions of the Committee. It was noted the Kansas Department of Corrections is merging reentry and parole into one unit.

She also explained the Interstate Compact by stating it is an agreement that exists with all 50 states and 2 U.S. territories to cooperate and agree on a set of rules that allow for the transfer of supervision between states of adult felony and some misdemeanor offenders .

During questions from the Committee it was noted that approximately 25% of the prison population in Kansas are classified as sex offenders.

Deputy Secretary Pellant stated there are 19 parole offices across the state that are staffed. However, staff

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Corrections And Juvenile Justice Committee at 1:30 p.m. on January 22, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

must travel to meet offenders in different counties. Because of the need for specific supervision expertise, certain types of offenders have been assigned to specialized caseloads, primarily in the urban offices. Specialized caseload types include:

- Sex offender
- Mentally ill
- Gang
- DUI
- Interstate compact cases
- Reduced supervision level

The Specialized Sex Offender GPS Unit is made up of offenders with multiple child sex offenses. They are intensely supervised and are monitored with GPS equipment. During questions from the Committee, it was noted the equipment used for this unit is a continuous signal and when it is broken a signal is sent to computers with an alert sent to parole office and police officers. They also get alerts for low battery and out of location. The response time in most cases is fairly short.

At one point in the discussion Representative Kinzer asked Deputy Secretary Pellant if there is any good reason they need both Community Corrections and Parole. She stated “no”. Chairperson Colloton joined the discussion stating that across the United States half of the states have combined Parole and Community Corrections and the other half has not.

Upon the conclusion of Deputy Secretary Pellant’s very informative presentation, a lengthy questions and answered session followed.

Chairperson Colloton announced the Committee needed to rap up their question and answer session due to time restraint and introduced Charles Simmons, Deputy Secretary, Facilities Management, Kansas Department of Corrections. Deputy Secretary Simmons made note that the possession and use of cell phones by inmates is becoming an increasingly serious and significant security risk in Kansas correctional facilities and in correctional facilities across the country. He stated that to prevent inmates from successfully being able to communicate with others through the use of contraband cell phones, the Kansas Department of Corrections is supportive of legislation that will allow cell phone signals in correctional facilities to be jammed. He presented written copy. (Attachment 2)

Deputy Secretary Simmons also wanted to address the issue of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003. He stated if the present standards are adopted by the Attorney General, the Kansas Department of Corrections will not be able to comply. Being in noncompliance will result in the loss of some federal funding, but since most of the Kansas Department of Corrections’ budget is made up of SGF, the loss should not be significant. Deputy Secretary Simmons presented written copy of his statements. (Attachment 3)

With no questions of Deputy Secretary Simmons, Chairperson Colloton quickly reviewed what the Committee would do in the following week and adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in room 535 N.