

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

Testimony for Legislative Interim Committees

Conference Call

October 5, 2018 at 1:00 pm

Committee Members on the Phone:

Randy Bowman, Kevin Emerson, Judge Paula Hofaker, Donald Hymer, Max Mendoza, Melody Pappan, Greg Smith, Janet Waugh, Megan Milner, Judge Delia York

Committee Members Absent:

Kathy Armstrong, Lara Bake Bors, Rep. Gail Finney, Sen. Carolyn McGinn, Joe Norwood, Sen. Pat Pettey, Randy Powell, Amy Raymond

Committee Members Sending a Designee:

Keith Bradshaw for Joe Norwood

Criminal Justice Institute (CJI):

Jennifer Christie

Committee Support:

Karyl-Ann Roehl

The call began with Roll Call at 1:10pm. Results of the Roll Call are above.

Jennifer began the meeting by reminding everyone we are working for the same goals, specifically, better outcomes for young people. Some outcomes have been achieved to some degree. Former Sen. Greg Smith reported we are on the Interim Committee agenda for 10/22/2018 sometime between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. He will be there with testimony, and Randy, Megan and Jen also plan to attend. Box lunches are brought in so committee members may work throughout the lunch period. The draft agenda notes the Sentencing Commission at 10:00 am, followed by Stuart Little. Former Sen. Smith then testifies, followed by Chief Budget Officer Larry Campbell, then Randy, and finally, Kyle Kessler with the Mental Health Association.

Judge York thought a good start would be to remind them what reform was all about, along with information about implementation science. Jen added we should mention the difficulty with implementing reforms and the fact it takes a long time. We may want to mention what has happened so far, with reduction of juvenile offender numbers system wide.

Randy suggested we include Annual Report data, such as system trends, IIP data, risk levels, population at the JCF, etc. along with associated cost savings. Judge York said we want to focus on needs, since that is where the reinvestment money will go. She made the point that decreased numbers do not mean youth stay in the community safely without extra help. Evidence-based programs are required to keep the community safe.

Some members on the Legislative committee may be new and have limited knowledge about reform efforts undertaken so far. We probably need to take time to define concepts, like IIP, and avoid using acronyms. Megan said her data for the Annual Report includes pre- and post-IIP numbers, NTAs, and population data by supervision and risk levels. Kevin said Amy is collecting data also. Randy feels youth regularly cycling through intake has not increased. "Churning" has been in the 4.2% range. Former Sen. Smith agreed this preliminary data should be included in his testimony and in Randy's.

SB109 appropriates \$6 million to crisis intervention centers, and this appropriation will be ongoing each fiscal year. Judge Hofaker asked what prevents the legislature from taking more money. Former Sen. Smith noted the implementation efforts do not produce immediate results. If money continues to be taken, we will not have the funds we need to implement the evidence-based programs we want to offer. Judge York feels 2 ½ years is not enough time to understand the needs of the youth population in our communities.

Randy said we need to emphasize what has happened so far, the data, and that we have a process of decision making for the use of the funds by virtue of the new Reinvestment Subcommittee. Our message must be clear about what we are asking for and what we want them to do. Janet added we should state we believe reform is working so far, and if funds are diminished, some juvenile offenders will become adult offenders. We may also want to say we know mental health crisis centers are crucial for our success.

Judge York said we are to monitor expenditures and make recommendations for reinvestment. If we do not have the opportunity to speak to Appropriations, we will be unable to carry out our mandate.

Don said the crisis centers and reform efforts are both important funding issues. The general purpose of SB367 is to keep youth in the home and in the community, avoiding the use of placements. The Senate Bill was set up to avoid removals and placements. Funding streams should be separate. It is important to have the other funding stream (for the crisis centers), just not our funding stream for reforms efforts. Youth are not in placement due to the Senate Bill, yet they will be in these crisis centers. We do not want to say we want to keep the money for money's sake.

Crisis centers are considered an alternative to detention and is something we support. It is our job to decide how money is spent for juvenile offenders. According to SB367, Section 4, Duties of the Oversight Committee, the money is to be spent to keep youth at home.

Randy suggested we ask all bills associated with juvenile justice be brought to this committee before taking action with appropriations. We must have our purpose and wants identified.

Jennifer will draft the main points of the testimony. We will meet again via conference call to edit and finalize it.

There may be questions about the testimony after it is presented. Former Sen. Smith said it is acceptable to say he will get the data and get back to them, yet it is best to provide answers at the time. These committees only meet a couple of times, and the Interim Committee reports are sent to the actual legislative committees. He said he could answer with, "My opinion is..." adding he will go back to the committee to verify. Judge York made the motion we allow Sen. Smith to answer questions on behalf of the committee, and Melody seconded the motion. The motion was withdrawn when Randy noted the committee's bylaws, Article IV, (A) (2) (c) (1), allows Sen. Smith to respond on our behalf. Judge York agreed.

The draft will come out next week.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

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