

## MINUTES

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

March 26, 2008  
Room 526-S—Statehouse

#### Members Present

Representative Tim Owens, Chairperson  
Senator Pete Brungardt, Vice-Chairperson  
Senator Karin Brownlee  
Senator Greta Goodwin  
Senator David Haley  
Senator Phil Journey  
Senator Jean Schodorf  
Senator David Wysong  
Representative Bob Bethell  
Representative Doug Gatewood  
Representative Jerry Henry  
Representative Dan Johnson

#### Members Absent

Representative Jim Ward  
Representative Jason Watkins

#### Staff Present

Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jerry Ann Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Michael Steiner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jarod Waltner, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jill Wolters, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tim Owens. The first order of business was to elect new officers for the 2008 Interim.

*Senator Greta Goodwin nominated Senator Pete Brungardt as the new Chairperson. Representative Dan Johnson seconded the motion and requested closing the nomination and to elect Senator Brungardt by unanimous acclamation. Senator Brungardt was elected by unanimous acclamation.*

*Representative Doug Gatewood nominated Representative Tim Owens as the Vice-Chairperson for the 2008 Interim. Representative Jerry Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*Representative Tim Owens nominated Senator Greta Goodwin as the Ranking Minority member. Representative Doug Gatewood seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

## **Statutory Requirements for Committee**

Chairperson Brungardt reviewed the Committee's statutory charge. The Committee is statutorily directed in KSA 46-2801 to monitor the adult inmate population and study the programs, activities, plans and operations of the Kansas Department of Corrections and the adult correctional institutions; monitor the establishment of the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) and study its programs, activities, plans and operations and the juvenile correctional facilities; review and study the adult correctional and juvenile offender local programs and related entities; and report annually to the Legislative Coordinating Council.

## **Requested Interim Topics**

Commissioner Russ Jennings, JJA, provided information on proposed interim topics in order of importance to the Commissioner (Attachment 1).

- Study Juvenile Correctional Officer recruitment, retention, compensation, and retirement benefits parity with people who are doing like work at similar facilities;
- Study Juvenile Offender Reentry Best Practices —JJA has a reentry grant from the federal government and, by the interim time, would like the opportunity to come to the Committee on what effective reentry practices JJA has initiated in reducing the recidivism and not returning juveniles to facilities;
- Study whether it is advisable to develop centralized training for facility staff and community staff who prepare intake and assessments or who provide Intensive Supervision and Case Management;
- Study Targeted Populations:
  - Sex Offenders—programs and Adam Walsh Act. There are shared programs of interest between JJA and the Department of Corrections, particularly on the Adam Walsh Act, which relates with registration of sex offenders. This is a timely issue with compliance with federal requirement of reporting;
  - Substance Abuse/Mental Health;
- Study system coordination between Court Services and the Juvenile Justice Authority to develop the ability to move kids up or down in the systems seamlessly according to their level of risk and supervision.

Jeremy Barclay, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Corrections (Attachment 2), requested the Joint Committee examine the following two issues during the 2008 Interim:

- Study the inclusion of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) into the Kansas Police & Firemen's (KP&F) Retirement System. It would provide more of a reason for these employees to stay under the employment of KDOC as well as provide the KDOC with another tool to offer potential employees when recruiting; and
- Study the impact of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) on the Corrections system. Previous studies have pinpointed that 60 percent of adults and adolescents with FASD experience trouble with the law.

### **Other Topics of Concern**

- Representative Tim Owens stated that the House Select Committee on Corrections Reform and Oversight looked at the issues surrounding a fourth conviction of Driving Under the Influence. He contacted the Legislative Coordinating Council to request a more in-depth look at this topic.
- Review 2008 SB 409 regarding substance abuse treatment for certain offenders in a state substance abuse treatment facility.
- Review 2008 SB 590 regarding the creation of a substance abuse policy board. The bill passed the Senate and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee late in the Session.
- Study drug courts and the Minnesota model.
- Review using the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) as a statewide assessment tool. The Department of Corrections and Johnson County are currently using the LSI-R as a tool to identify risk and needs of offenders.
- Review the sex offender program at Larned.

Chairman Brungardt stated that the Committee should look at the sentencing guidelines, bed space impact, current practices, and reentry in both adult and juvenile corrections to ensure the Joint Committee is kept up to date.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Prepared by Connie Burns  
Edited by Athena Andaya

Approved by Committee on:

August 8, 2008  
(Date)

