

**REPORT OF THE
CHARITABLE, PENAL & CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 18, 2009**

Mr. Chairmen:

The Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at the Department of Correction's Willis Sargent Training Academy in Tucker, Arkansas. Meeting with the subcommittee were officials from the Board of Corrections, Sheriffs Association, the Department of Correction and Community Correction. In addition to the meeting the subcommittee toured the Maximum Security Unit.

Larry Norris, Director, Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) recognized Warden Dale Reed and Warden Gaylon Lay for a presentation of the history of Arkansas Corrections, including different methods of torture and execution, the prison rodeo, and the prior inmate to guard ratio of 65:1. Ray Hobbs, Chief Deputy Director, ADC, gave an overview of the American Correctional Association (ACA) Standards and Accreditation process. ACA accreditation is the national benchmark for effective operation of correctional facilities. Mr. Hobbs stated that Arkansas has evolved from the dark and evil environment of the past to only one of sixteen states fully accredited, reporting ADC and DCC recipients of the Golden Eagle Award. Shelia Sharp, Assistant Director, ADC, presented an overview of the employee training program, including training requirements, mandatory training and various areas of specialized training. Mrs. Sharp reported the employee turnover rate is 27%, down from 50% in 2000.

Senator Glover reiterated the committee objective to continue discussion regarding the increasing inmate population in Arkansas and to explore what other states are doing in efforts to curtail future prison growth.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Bobby Glover, Co-Chair

Representative Adcock, Co-Chair