

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

**September 20, 2013**

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Co-Chairs:

The Charitable, Penal & Correctional Institutions Subcommittee, Joint Performance Review Committee of the Arkansas General Assembly, and the Senate and House Interim Committees on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs met jointly on Monday, August 26, 2013, at the Southeast Arkansas Community Correction Center in Pine Bluff and Tuesday, August 27, 2013, at the Arkansas Department of Correction – Ouachita River Unit in Malvern. Meeting with the committees were officials representing the Arkansas Board of Corrections and the Departments of Correction and Community Correction.

Ray Hobbs, Director, Department of Correction, presented the Statewide Population Report by Institution, including the number of inmates being held in county jails. Mr. Hobbs provided a briefing on Prison Bed Capacity, including the current number of available beds, number of beds under construction, and projection of new beds.

Sheila Sharp, Director, Department of Community Correction, provided the Performance Incentive and Best Practices Funding report. Ms. Sharp discussed the future implementation of best practices programs deemed to be evidenced based. Programs will be funded for a minimum of 12 months and tracked for success in reducing recidivism and successful reintegration of offenders to the community. Successful programs will be replicated statewide in future years.

Veter Howard, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Community Correction, presented an overview of the Parole/Probation Officer Training Process, including the minimum training requirements for each category of positions and additional training required by the Residential Services staff and Probation/Parole Officers.

Phyllis Silas, Southeast Arkansas Community Center Supervisor, gave an overview and tour of the Southeast Arkansas Community Correction Center.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Subcommittee observed a parole hearing administered by the Arkansas Parole Board Chairman, John Felts. Mr. Felts presented a copy of the letter from the Department of Community Correction and Arkansas Parole Board to the Arkansas Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police requesting that a "hold" be placed on any parolee arrested for any felony or sexual offense until a Revocation Hearing has been conducted.

Rick Hart, Deputy Director, Department of Correction, provided an overview and tour of the Ouachita River Unit and the Omega Technical Violator Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Senator Stephanie Flowers, Co-Chair

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Representative Denny Altes, Co-Chair