

**MINUTES**  
**LEGISLATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE**  
**SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT ACCESS LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

**MEETING JOINTLY**

August 25, 2016

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The Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force, the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary, and the Behavioral Health Treatment Access Legislative Task Force met jointly at 2:15 p.m., on Thursday, August 25, 2016, at the Hot Springs Convention Center, 134 Convention Boulevard, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

**Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force members present:** Judge Gary Arnold, Judge Cristi Beaumont, Mr. Ken Casady, Mr. John Felts, Mr. John Wesley Hall, Mr. Tim Helder, Mr. Wendy Kelley, Mr. Benny Magness, Mr. Steve Newsome, Mr. Robin Raveendran and Ms. Sheila Sharp.

**Senate and House Judiciary Committee members present:** Representative Matthew Shepherd, Co-Chair; Senators Linda Collins-Smith, Vice Chair; Joyce Elliott, and Jon Woods. Representatives Bob Ballinger, Rick Beck, Trevor Drown, Douglas House, Laurie Rushing, James Sorvillo, and John Vines.

**Behavioral Health Treatment Access Legislative Task Force members present:** Senator Scott Flippo, Co-Chair; and Representative Clarke Tucker, Co-Chair; and Mr. Kevin Murphy and Dr. David Williams.

**Other legislators present:** Senators Stephanie Alan Clark and Stephanie Flowers. Representatives Bruce Cozart, Jim Dotson, Les Eaves, David Fielding, John Gonzales, and Micah Neal.

Representative Shepherd called the meeting to order.

**Restitution Study Presentation** [Handouts 1-2]

**Ms. Shelia Sharp**, Director, Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) and **Mr. Benny Magness**, Chairman, Arkansas Board of Corrections, were recognized and presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Arkansas Victim Restitution” [see Handout 1 for full report]. Ms. Sharp gave an overview of the James F. Austin (JFA) study. She stated some of the findings and recommendations included: other financial obligations are higher priority, the state has no idea how much victim restitution is ordered or collected, offenders are encumbered with unrealistic financial obligations, there is no systematic mechanism for ordering or tracking restitution, most victims do not receive the restitution owed, and develop an infrastructure to systematically track the order and collection of victim restitution similar to Arkansas’ child support enforcement system. The ACC identified similar problems that the JFA found.

**Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas: Summary of Key Findings and Recommendations for State Leadership**  
[Handout 3]

**Mr. Andy Barbee**, Research Manager, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, presented a report on *Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas* (see Handout 3 for full report). He gave a recap of findings through Justice Reinvestment, policy options for Arkansas, and estimated impacts. Since the fall of 2015, CSG Justice Center staff have made 17 visits to Arkansas. The state now spends more than half a billion dollars on corrections; a 68% increase since 2004. Arkansas’s prison population is projected to increase 19% by the end of FY2023. The building capacity to accommodate this growth will cost \$579 million in additional spending. Referencing page 18, Mr. Barbee stated that on August 8, 2016, information from the analysis presented regarding probation revocation/violators was sent to the Arkansas Department of Community Corrections to verify the correct numbers. Based on the feedback that was received, CSG renamed this group to reflect new commitments to the courts, as the courts had prosecuted the charges the probationer had picked up. Notably, probation violators released from prison in FY2015 spent more than twice as long in prison compared to FY2009.

Representative Shepherd informed the committee and task force members that a vote on the recommendations will likely be taken at a later meeting.

**Discussion/Update by Co-Chairs**

Due to time constraints, Senator Hutchinson briefly reviewed the items below and stated the task force will discuss these matters at the next meeting.

- Consideration and approval of specific ideas to be included in the task force report
- Status and target dates of recommendations for improvements by workgroups/task force
- Discussion and/or adoption of policy recommendations

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

DRAFT