

**REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE**

MAY 27, 2015

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The Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force met at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, in Room A-MAC, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Task Force members present: Senators Jeremy Hutchinson, Co-Chair, and Joyce Elliott; Representatives Matthew Shepherd, Co-Chair, and Dwight Tosh; Judge Gary Arnold, Drew Baker, Kenton Buckner, Tjuana Byrd, Ken Casady, John Felts, John Wesley Hall, Tim Helder, Wendy Kelley, Benny Magness, Steve Newsome, Robin Raveendran, and Sheila Sharp.

Non-member legislators present: Senator Terry Rice; Representatives Monte Hodges, George McGill, and Dan Sullivan.

Senator Hutchinson called the meeting to order and suggested that, going forward, the Task Force be broken up into subgroups to work on different aspects of the required annual legislative report. He asked members to choose an area on which to focus their efforts.

Without objection, delivery of reports will differ from the sequence shown on the agenda.

**Action/Requests**

Without objection, the Minutes of April 30, 2015, were adopted as written.

Mr. Jay Sanders, Deputy Director, and Mr. Jay Neal, Executive Director, Georgia Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry, utilized a PowerPoint presentation and extensively discussed experiences with pitfalls and successes in Georgia's Criminal Justice System.

Dr. Roderick Smothers, President, Philander Smith College, and Dr. Joseph L. Jones, Founding Executive Director of the Social Justice Initiative, Philander Smith College, discussed the commitment of Philander Smith College to urban and rural social justice. Dr. Jones elaborated on the mission of the Social Justice Initiative and discussed creative and innovative accomplishments with regard to social justice and community partnerships. **(Handout 1)**

Mr. Paul Chapman, Pastor, Fellowship Bible Church; Founder and Board member of Under Grace Ministries, and Dr. Fitzgerald Hill, President, Arkansas Baptist College, discussed progressively building programs to bring educational and life skills solutions from the community to those who are incarcerated in the hopes that some could be restored to the community. Mr. Chapman noted that recidivism decreases as education increases and the community engages.

Ms. Max Greenwood, Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield, Mr. John Ryan, Ambetter of Arkansas, Ms. Liz Hubbard, QualChoice Health Insurance, and Dr. Stephen Sorsby, QualChoice Holdings, each stated that gathering information and finding solutions to address the needs raised by the Task Force regarding health care providers is still in progress.

Mr. J. D. Gingerich, Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, explained how legislation had created the Specialty Court Program Advisory Committee and discussed its responsibilities. He provided a list of committee members. **(Handout 2)**

Chief A.J. Gray, Chairman, Legislative Committee, Arkansas Association of Chiefs of Police, discussed two proposals that would implement changes to conditions of parole or probation. **(Handout 3)**

Mr. Jerry Lankford and Mr. Tony Grande, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), utilized a PowerPoint presentation to discuss what is offered by the company in its role as a full-service corrections management provider.

Mr. Robert Brech, Chief Financial Officer, Arkansas Department of Health, updated members on the progress being made and the timeline for implementation of the components of Act 901 of 2015, which will enhance law enforcement access to software for monitoring the prescription drug program.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.