

EXHIBIT C

**MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
MEETING JOINTLY**

November 30, 2015

The Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force and the Senate Committee on Judiciary met jointly at 10:00 a.m., Monday, November 30, 2015, at the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service, 1200 President Clinton Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Representative Matthew Shepherd, Co-Chair; Senator Jeremy Hutchinson, Co-Chair; Senator Joyce Elliott and Representative Dwight Tosh; Cristi Beaumont, Kenton Buckner, Ken Cassidy, John Felts, Tim Helder, Benny Magness, Steve Newsome, and David Talley.

Other legislators present: Senators Alan Clark and Eddie Joe Williams; Representatives R. Trevor Drown, Kenneth Ferguson, Frederick Love, Micah Neal, and Dan Sullivan.

Senator Hutchinson called the meeting to order.

Action/Requests

Approval of the Minutes (Exhibits B.1 & B.2)

Without objection, the Minutes from the October 27, 2015, meetings of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force were approved.

Governor Asa Hutchinson made an appearance during the meeting and thanked the task force for their hard work. He spoke on the importance of taking corrective action to reduce disparity in sentencing guidelines and said the guidelines have little “teeth” and do not carry much weight. Governor Hutchinson said he would like to see these issues addressed during the 2017 legislative session.

Project Launch Presentation: Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas (Handout 1)

Mr. Andy Barbee, Research Manager, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, presented a report on *Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas* (see Handout 1 for full report). He stated that Arkansas is now the 23rd state to work with the Justice Reinvestment Project and said CSG will collaborate with state and local officials, including judges, law enforcement, and prison/community corrections, to compile data from arrest/parole records. CSG will report its findings to the task force in the fall of 2016.

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

Presentation of Research on Criminal Punishments and Race in Arkansas (Exhibits E.1 & E.2) (Handout 2)

Ms. Adjoa Aiyetoro, Professor of Law; and Dr. Tara V. DeJohn, PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor; UALR William H. Bowen School of Law, presented a report on *Racial Disparities in the Arkansas Criminal Justice System: Highlights of the Research Findings*. The purpose of the report is to examine the longstanding racial disparities in the system and to make recommendations for policy, practice, and community programming based on findings from the research (see Exhibits E.1, E.2, & Handout 2 for the executive summary/report/recommendations to the task force).

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.