

**APPROVED JULY 26, 2016**

# **EXHIBIT B**

**MINUTES  
LEGISLATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE  
MEETING**

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

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The Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force met at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 22, 2016, in the Multi-Complex Building (MAC Room A) in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Committee members present:** Senators Jeremy Hutchinson, Co-Chair; and Joyce Elliott. Representative Matthew Shepherd, Co-Chair; Mr. Drew Baker, Chief Kenton Buckner, Ms. Tjuana Byrd, Mr. Ken Casady, Mr. John Felts, Mr. John Wesley Hall, Mr. Tim Helder, Ms. Wendy Kelley, Mr. Benny Magness, Mr. Steve Newsom, Ms. Ashley Harris (Mr. Robin Raveendran), and Ms. Sheila Sharp.

**Other legislators present:** Senator Scott Flippo; Representatives Jon Eubanks, Michael Gray, Kim Hammer, and James Sorvillo.

Representative Shepherd called the meeting to order.

**Approval of the Minutes [Exhibit B]**

Mr. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2016, joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and the Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force. Mr. Helder seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas: Fifth Presentation to the Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force [Handout 1]**

**Mr. Andy Barbee, Research Manager, and Mr. Mack Jenkins, Senior Policy Advisor, The Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSGJC),** presented the fifth report on *Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas* (see Handout 1 for full report). Mr. Barbee gave a brief update on the overcrowded prisons and jails, costly status quo, and sentencing of low-level felons to prison. He stated as of today, there is still a high county backlog in Arkansas prisons. Mr. Barbee discussed comparisons of probation and prison for similar types of individuals, various approaches that Arkansas is taking to sanction violators of individuals who are supervised and the cost associated with those approaches, public safety outcomes, key essential ingredients for maximizing community supervision, reducing recidivism, and next steps.

Regarding maximizing supervision outcomes, Mr. Jenkins stated that reducing the prison population by identifying a population of individuals that may not need to be imprisoned can be properly served at another level in the justice system, but it has to be done in a smart way. San Diego County undertook this challenge by taking a parole population and shifting it to the local county level probation department. As a result, every probation department in California is responsible for supervising probationers and parolees. There was a significant investment made to maximize the outcome for supervising the aforementioned populations. Reducing recidivism for individuals under community supervision involves a shift from focusing mostly on compliance monitoring with a focus on behavior change. Mr. Jenkins encouraged the task force to look at supervision as a behavioral intervention for a justice involved population.

Mr. Barbee will provide the crime rate data on Little Rock, Hot Springs, Fort Smith, and Fayetteville. He stated that since the mid-1990's to now, crime rates have been on a downward trend across the country. He announced CSGJC will return to Arkansas in late July to discuss parole decision making practices and the pressures that jails are experiencing and investigate how individuals are being supervised in the system and whether they are given the opportunity to connect to programs and services that they need to address behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse issues, etc. CSGJC will visit Hot Springs in late August and may return to Little Rock in September to follow up. Mr. Newsome announced the Mental Health Institute will convene a meeting in Hot Springs on August 9, 2016.

**Ms. Lonita Davis, Citizen,** was recognized for comments. She spoke on de facto life sentencing of juveniles for non-homicide offenses.

**Lunch Break: 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**The task force reconvened at 1:00 p.m.**

### **Discussion**

The task force discussed the following recommendations:

- Task force supports funding ACC caseworker staffing levels based on caseload standards relating to the different risk levels of the probation and parole population in order to ensure that appropriate supervision focus is provided to individuals based on their risk of recidivism.
- Task force requests specific recommendations on policies, investments and practices aimed at optimizing Arkansas's programming, treatment sanctioning resources for the supervision of individuals on probation or parole, with the specific objective of reducing recidivism in the most cost-effective manner.
- Task force supports funding and policy enhancements designed to improve the ACC's incorporation of and adherence to evidence-based practices, including programming and treatment resources, training for staff and regular measurement of key indicators of success. **[Handout 2]**

**Senator Elliott made a motion to adopt the recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Magness. Without objection, the motion was approved.**

Senator Hutchinson asked that Mr. Barbee review the recommendations to present more specific recommendations to the task force at a later date. He stated the task force will need to have a discussion regarding issues relating to individuals receiving jail time for failing to pay fines and speeding tickets.

### **Next Meeting**

Senator Hutchinson announced the next task force meeting will be held on July 26, 2016, at 10:00 a.m., in the Multi-Complex Building (MAC Room B) in Little Rock, Arkansas. The task force will convene meetings in Hot Springs on August 24-25, 2016, in conjunction with the Association of Arkansas Counties conference.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.