

JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

JULY 22, 2014

MINUTES

The Joint Performance Review Committee met Tuesday, June 22, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Room A, MAC Building, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present were Senators Jane English, Senate Co-Chair, Jimmy Hickey, Keith Ingram, and Representatives Terry Rice, House Co-Chair, Harold Copenhaver, Debra Hobbs, Douglas House, Josh Miller, James Ratliff, Brent Talley, and Wes Wagner.

Other members present were Senators Stephanie Flowers, Johnny Key, Bill Sample, and Representatives Denny Altes, Charles Armstrong, Scott Baltz, Ken Bragg, David Branscum, Ann Clemmer, David Fielding, Charlene Fite, Jeremy Gillam, Kim Hammer, John Hutchison, Sheila Lampkin, Homer Lenderman, Kelley Linck, Stephanie Malone, Walls McCrary, Mark McElroy, Micah Neal, Betty Overbey, Chris Richey, Sue Scott, Tommy Thompson, Jeff Wardlaw, Butch Wilkins, and Marshall Wright.

Approval of Minutes – June 24, 25, and 26, 2014 [Exhibit B, B-1, B-2]

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 25, and 26, 2014 meetings of the Joint Performance Review (JPR) Committee was made by Representative James Ratliff and seconded by Representative Douglas House. The motion carried.

Review of Workforce Training and Education Programs Offered in Arkansas

Senator English recognized Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) Information Systems Manager, Tiffany Compton, ADC Chief Deputy Director Wendy Kelley, and Riverside Vocational Technical School Director Joe Kelnhofer.

Ms. Compton discussed the following programs listed in the Arkansas Department of Correction (ADC) Agency Survey Report: (Handout)

- ❖ Riverside Vocational Technical School
- ❖ ADC Work Release Program
- ❖ Arkansas Correctional School System
- ❖ Correctional Industry Program
- ❖ Farm program

Ms. Compton described several of their programs. She said the inmates who participate in the Correctional Industry Program learn a trade or skill they can use when they are released from the correctional system. The Arkansas Correctional School System program provides inmates the opportunity to complete their General

Education Development (GED) certificate. In the Farm program, inmates work in many different areas learning skills they can use to work on private farms when they are released from the correctional system.

Ms. Kelley told the committee that ADC has certification programs within the farm, industry, construction, and maintenance programs. Inmates can earn certificates on three different levels within the programs. When an inmate obtains a certificate, it is reflected on his or her record and given to them upon their release. Ms. Kelley listed the ADC Work Release Centers located in Northwest Arkansas, Mississippi County, Texarkana, Pine Bluff, and Wrightsville, Arkansas. Inmates are employed through the centers by free world employers. Transportation to and from job assignments is provided. She then discussed the Workforce Alliance for Growth in Economy (WAGE) program currently being provided to inmates. She gave an overview of the WAGE program.

Riverside Vocational Technical School Director Joe Kelnhofer detailed the WAGE program, which is funded through the Arkansas Department of Career Education. It is offered in two ADC facilities; the Pulaski County unit and a satellite unit in Wrightsville, Arkansas. Inmates participating in this program have the potential to earn up to five certificates. The design of the program helps determine an individual's job skills and abilities. Computer-based tests are given to participants. Test results indicate different levels of a participant's ability to perform tasks used in business and industry fields. There are three different levels of certificate training, similar to classes provided in community colleges.

Mr. Kelnhofer was asked if job placement of inmates is difficult. He said the ADC and the Riverside Vocational Technical School do not work directly with employers to hire parolees. A more intensive approach to job placement for inmates upon release is being utilized due to passage of Act 1190, 2013, known as the "Reentry Act". Inmates will be provided with employability skills at the Riverside Vocational Technical School as part of a pre-release and reentry program. Mr. Kelnhofer said recidivism rates greatly decrease when individuals receive training and are able to obtain and keep jobs once they are released from correctional institutions. Mr. Kelnhofer was asked to give examples of the types of trades and skills inmates are taught. Their programs include:

- Welding
- Computer application technology
- Cosmetology
- Facilities maintenance
- Finish carpentry and cabinetry
- Food service and culinary arts
- Heating ventilation and air conditioning
- Horticulture landscape design and construction
- Office technology
- Plumbing apprenticeship

- Residential carpentry and construction
- Residential electricity
- Small engine repair

Mr. Kelnhofer was asked where the schools are located. He said the three primary locations are at the Tucker Unit, Tucker, Arkansas, the Varner Unit at Varner, Arkansas and the McPherson Unit at Newport, Arkansas. Mr. Kelnhofer told legislators new facilities are under construction at the East Arkansas Regional Unit at Brickeys, Arkansas, and the Ouachita River Unit in Malvern, Arkansas.

Arkansas Department of Community Correction (DCC) Director Sheila Sharp responded to questions by legislators regarding costs of farm operations at ADC as well as costs for training programs. Ms. Sharp was also asked whether an income statement has been completed. She said the reports will be submitted to the Legislative Audit Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.