

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

DATE: October 11, 2017

The subcommittee meeting was called to order by Representative Pagel at 10:30 a.m.

Roll was taken: Present – Representatives Pagel, Yaroch, Afendoulis, VanSingel, Santana, and Durhal III
Absent – None

I. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was moved by Representative Yaroch to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on March 29, 2017. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

II. Department of Corrections Presentation

Kyle Kaminski, Reentry Administrator and Legislative Liaison, appeared before the subcommittee to present information on the following topics: prisoner population, female prison population, Vocational Village, W.R.A.P., Online High School Education, and other fiscal year 2018 updates. He provided subcommittee members and others in attendance with copies of a PowerPoint presentation.

A. Prison Population

The prison population is down below 40,000 for the first time in over 20 years due to a number of factors: felony court dispositions have declined, the prison commitment rate is lower, violator intakes have declined, prison intake has declined, the parole approval rate has increased, and there are fewer offenders returning to prison.

B. Female Prison Population

The female prison population has declined since 2016, but is still higher than it was five years ago. The department is continuing to focus on creating more gender specific vocational training programs.

C. Vocational Village

The Handlon Vocational Village is producing graduates with a post incarceration employment rate of 68%. The Handlon Vocational Village is focused on offenders returning to the northern and western parts of the state. The Parnall Vocational Village opened in the summer of 2017, and will produce its first graduates within the next year. The Parnall Vocational Village is focused on offenders returning to the southeast part of the state.

D. W.R.A.P.

W.R.A.P. at the Detroit Reentry Center currently serves Wayne County and continues to divert high-risk probation violators away from long prison sentences. There have been 280 probationer participants, with 228 of them completing the program successfully. Discussions continue on expansion of the program to include Oakland and Monroe Counties. The department is finalizing the RFP for the west side W.R.A.P. program.

E. Online High School Education

The department is finalizing the RFP for the pilot program, which will focus on three correctional facility sites. Students will be tested at the beginning of the program and again at the end, in order to assess the program.

F. Other Fiscal Year 2018 Updates

The department has Offender Success administrative agencies on performance-based contracts providing reentry services to every county in the state. The department is developing new programs under the Regional Supervision Incentive Program that will launch this year.

Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

III. Announce Next Subcommittee Meeting

The next subcommittee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. The meeting will be held in room 326 of the House Office Building. The main topic will be health care, to include integrated physical and mental health services, care of elderly and medically frail prisoners, and an update on the treatment of prisoners with Hepatitis C.

IV. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, Representative Pagel adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 11:31 a.m.