

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

DATE: November 6, 2019

Representative Albert called the subcommittee meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Roll was taken: Present – Representatives Albert, Slagh, VanSingel, Lightner, Maddock, Pagan, Sabo,
Anthony, and Kennedy
Absent – None

I. Approval of Minutes from Previous Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was moved by Representative Slagh to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on October 30, 2019. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

II. Department of Education – Career Tech High School Programs

Candace Vinson, Education Consultant with the Department of Education, Office of Career Education, appeared before the subcommittee to describe career and technical education (CTE) programs administered by the Department of Education, specifically, Corrections-related programming. High school instructional programs teach students skills in specific career clusters. Most programs offer early college credit opportunities to provide a seamless transition to postsecondary education. The idea is to prepare students so they have the necessary academic, technical, and work behavior skills to enter, compete, and advance in education and their careers. There are 18 state-recognized career clusters. The Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security career cluster houses Corrections-related programming.

The Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security career cluster is focused on planning, managing, and providing legal, public safety, and protective services, and homeland security, including professional and technical support services. The career pathways are Corrections Services, Emergency & Fire Management Services, Law Enforcement Services, Legal Services, and Security & Protective Services. This career cluster is small in our state, and the Corrections Services pathway is smaller yet. The Department of Education is working with the Department of Corrections, non-profit organizations, and teachers to get input on how to best adjust the curriculum in order to grow student participation.

Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

III. Department of Corrections – Health Care Staffing Shortages

Marti Kay Sherry, Acting Health Services Administrator, and Kyle Kaminski, Legislative Liaison, appeared before the subcommittee to give a presentation on health care staffing shortages in the department. Due to nursing vacancies, a wing at Duane Waters Health Center was consolidated, and 34 beds cannot be used. Vacancies have affected the department's ability to provide nightly nursing coverage at 10 correctional facilities, and have affected the department's ambulatory clinics statewide. Nursing staff are mandated to

work overtime to adequately cover clinic shifts, and the department is forced to use contractual staff to fill nursing vacancies. There are 50 RN and 13 LPN contractual staff filling about 69% of the current nursing vacancies. The same is true for dentists. Currently, there are 22 dental vacancies out of 35 positions, and contractors cover 20 of those vacancies. In order to attract health care staff, the department needs to pay a higher rate of pay.

Recruitment challenges include non-competitive salaries, the location of some of the open positions, the work environment, work hours and lack of flexibility, and having to compete with local hospitals, doctor offices, and dentist offices. Activities the department has taken on in an effort to recruit more staff include clinical rotations, internships, job shadowing, job and career fairs, and speaking engagements with community colleges and universities.

Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

IV. Public Testimony

Maria Enriquez, Legislative Liaison, UAW Local 6000, and Tim Greimel, Legislative Director, AFSCME Council 25, both appeared before the subcommittee to discuss health care staffing shortages in the Department of Corrections and their hopes that the department does not consider privatizing those positions.

V. Adjourn

Representative Albert adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 11:45 a.m.