

# MINUTES

## HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

**DATE: Thursday, December 3, 2015**

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

Roll was taken: Present - Representatives Pagel, Afendoulis, Poleski, Canfield, Irwin, Yanez, and Durhal III

Absent - None

### I. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Subcommittee Meetings

A motion was moved by Representative Afendoulis to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on October 29, 2015. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

A motion was moved by Representative Yanez to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on November 12, 2015. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

### II. Presentations

- A. Keith Bennett, Founder and Program Director, Goodwill Flip the Script, appeared before the subcommittee and provided background information on the program. The program serves low income, City of Detroit/Wayne County residents, aged 16-30, who are motivated and committed to focus on positive life, academic, and social change, and who are able to commit to a 16-18 week, seven hour per day, program. The program is an outcome-based life transformational mentoring and job training program that prepares participants for non-traditional careers including skilled trades, building and construction industries, and entry level green jobs. The program's curriculum focuses on training participants in critical areas such as mathematics, reading enrichment, positive relationship development, male responsibility, fatherhood, positive citizenship, and workplace ethics. The primary goal of the program is to enable men to become economically self-sufficient individuals and positive heads of households while preparing them for entry level jobs and non-traditional careers. The program offers financial services including financial counseling, coaching, planning/budgeting, income supports, and workforce and career development opportunities. Also, the program has a component for women, which offers services focused on issues related to poverty and trauma that pose barriers to employment and sustainable career paths. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).
- B. The Honorable Judge Deborah Thomas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Court - Wayne County, appeared before the subcommittee to discuss Goodwill Flip the Script as a key diversion program used by the court to divert young offenders from being sentenced to prison. She believes the program is very beneficial in providing youth with the ability to become self-sufficient and successful in the community. The education component is critical, along with the support that is offered to participants, which in turn enables them to gain dignity and self-respect. Having these qualities, along with an education and job skills, will ensure that youth are making better choices. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).
- C. Derrick Plumber and Lorenzo Johnson, participants of Goodwill Flip the Script, appeared before the subcommittee to testify about their experiences with the program, what they have learned, and their accomplishments as a result of participating. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).
- D. Bill DeBoer, President and CEO, and Jim Edwards, Chief Operations Officer, appeared before the subcommittee to give an overview of the Kalamazoo Probation Enhancement Program (KPEP) and the new Parole Sanction Certainty pilot program. KPEP provides residential and outpatient services to

probationers and parolees in seven locations in the state. There are a total of 500 beds and 150 employees. Programs are focused on rehabilitation and include: therapy, alcohol and drug-free living, and employment services, while specializing in the specific needs of participants. More specifically, residential programs include: work release, drug court, special alternatives to incarceration, federal programming, sobering center, domiciliary intensive outpatient program, transitional housing, Friend of the Court, residential sex offender program, residential substance abuse treatment, and social detox. Outpatient programs include: anger management, young offenders, life enhancing decision series, domestic violence, substance abuse treatment, sex offender treatment, assessments, cognitive behavioral therapy, drug testing, employment program, and district court probation. The Parole Sanction Certainty pilot program began on November 1, 2015. The program was developed by the Department of Corrections and KPEP. The program is designed specifically for offenders with heroin and methamphetamine-related crimes, and is modeled after former, successful programs, such as Project HOPE in Hawaii (Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement), POM in Georgia (Probation Options Management), and STOP in Calhoun County, Michigan. Programs for men are located in Benton Harbor, Muskegon, and Battle Creek. Programs for women are located in Kalamazoo and Detroit. Participants must report for random drug tests. They receive sanction days for violations, and are committed to treatment programs after having three violations. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

### III. Adjourn

There being no further business before the subcommittee, Representative Pagel adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.