

MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

DATE: February 21, 2018

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

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

I. Approval of Minutes from Previous Subcommittee Meeting

A motion was moved by Representative Yaroch to approve the minutes from the subcommittee meeting held on February 14, 2018. The motion prevailed, a majority of the members voting in the affirmative.

II. Department of Corrections Presentation on Offender Success – Prisoner Programming and Reentry Services

Kyle Kaminski, Reentry Administrator and Legislative Liaison, appeared before the subcommittee to give a presentation on the department's offender success model, prisoner programming, and reentry services.

Mr. Kaminski discussed the department's offender success model, which was adopted in 2015. The focus is to target the provision of services to meet identified needs of offenders. The goal is to give offenders the tools they need to succeed in the community, reduce risk of recidivism, and enhance opportunities for employment. The goal is the same for offenders before they reach prison, as it is for offenders who have been sentenced to prison.

For offenders before they reach prison, a major focus is on diversion programming so they do not end up in prison. Mr. Kaminski discussed various programs the department offers for this population: probation residential services, residential alternative to prison programs, supervising region incentive programs, and medication-assisted treatment programs.

For offenders who have been sentenced to prison, a major focus is on assessing offender needs, to assure needs driving risky behaviors are addressed. Mr. Kaminski discussed various programs the department offers to prisoners: Thinking for a Change, violence prevention, domestic violence prevention, sex offender, substance abuse, educational, and vocational programming. In addition, there is an effort to increase access to programming to higher security level prisoners.

The primary factors in reentry programming are recidivism, job placement, and job retention. The department collaborates with communities to fulfill the needs of prisoners, as well as the needs of communities. The most costly part of reentry services is housing placements for parolees. The department contracts with providers for reentry services, such as transitional housing, employment readiness, education, health, cognitive behavioral services, substance abuse treatment, and continued treatment for sex offenders.

Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

III. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, Representative Pagel adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 11:40 a.m.