

Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code

Sen. Michael Young
Chairperson

Rep. Thomas Washburne
Vice-Chairperson



Authority: IC 2-5-1.3-4

MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 19, 2017
Time: 10:00 AM
Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 130
City: Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present

Sen. Rodric Bray
Rep. Edward DeLaney
Sen. Aaron Freeman
Sen. Timothy Lanane
Rep. Wendy McNamara
Rep. Sharon Negele
Rep. Matt Pierce
Rep. Gregory Steuerwald
Sen. Karen Tallian
Sen. Greg Taylor
Rep. Thomas Washburne
Sen. Michael Young
Kellie Bittorf, Executive Director, Lake County Community Corrections
Linda Brady, Chief Probation Officer, Monroe County Circuit Court Probation Department
Robert Carter, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
Michael McAlexander, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Allen County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Members Absent

Rep. Ryan Hatfield
Sen. James Tomes

1. Call to order – Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Christopher Johnston, KSM Consulting – Mr. Johnson presented a summary of his analysis of the financial effects of criminal sentencing reforms on the Department of Correction. The report is included in Exhibit 1.

3. Representatives of Community Corrections Agencies – Bill Watson, executive director of the Vigo County Community Correction Agency and president of the Indiana Association of Community Corrections Act Counties, provided an overview of criminal sentencing reform and funding from the standpoint of community correction agencies.

4. Representatives of Probation Departments:

Linda Brady, Chief Probation Officer of Monroe County Probation Department and Committee member, described the potential drop in court revenue that could occur by permitting certain nonviolent criminal defendants to be released without paying cash bonds.

Deputy Chief Probation Officer Troy Hatfield, Monroe County Probation Department, described Monroe County's pretrial program. He provided additional statistical information about the Monroe County Probation Department (Exhibit 2).

Sarah Lochner, Chief Probation Officer of Wabash County, described the new positions that her department has added because of new funding for community corrections and probation programs.

Christine Kerl, Chief Probation Officer of Marion County Probation Department, described the problems with housing pretrial defendants in Marion County jails and the additional staff she has been able to hire because of the community corrections funding increase.

Alan Davis, a recovering addict, described the assistance that he has received from programs and medication funded in part by the Recovery Works Program.

5. Indiana Supreme Court Staff:

Jane Siegel, Executive Director of the Office of Court Services Indiana Supreme Court, described how additional appropriations for funding assistance to community corrections programs was being used by counties.

Lisa Thompson, Project Manager for Trial Court Technology, provided an update of the county jail survey that she and her staff completed with the assistance of the Indiana Sheriffs' Association. This is an update from the previous meeting (Exhibit 3).

Mary Kay Hudson, Deputy Director Indiana Supreme Court Indiana Office of Court Services, described the problem-solving court programs that courts with criminal jurisdiction have established. She also described the counties participating in a pilot study which permits the release of certain nonviolent

defendants awaiting trial (Exhibit 4).

5. Representatives of County Sheriffs:

Sheriff Dave Wedding, Vanderburgh County, discussed the problem of allowing Level 6 felons to be housed with pretrial defendants in county jails.

Sheriff Brett Clark, Hendricks County, provided answers to questions that committee members asked at the meeting on September 3 (Exhibit 5).

Steve Luce, Executive Director, Indiana Sheriffs' Association, discussed the merits and disadvantages of using regional jails in Indiana.

6. Indiana Judges Association – Robert Freese, Hendricks Superior Court Judge and president of the Indiana Judges Association, described the effects of HEA 1006 on his county, the issues associated with permitting more criminal defendants on pretrial detention to be released before trial without paying a cash or surety bond.

7. Other Interested Parties:

Aaron Negangard, Office of the Attorney General, described the concerns of local law enforcement officers about the effects of sentencing reform on local communities. He also presented to the committee a summary of the Dearborn County Jail Chemical Addictions Program (Exhibit 6).

Greg Wathen, President and CEO, Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, discussed the topic of regional treatment centers for persons with opioid addictions in southern Indiana.

8. Staff Report on New Funding Available for Both Community Corrections and Mental Health And Addiction Forensic Treatment Services Grant – Mark Goodpaster, Legislative Services Agency, presented a memo that summarized the new funding that the Indiana General Assembly appropriated for community corrections supervision and addictions recovery assistance for convicted felons for FY 2016 through FY 2019. He also explained that unspent monies for reimbursing sheriffs for housing DOC felons would no longer be reverted to the state General Fund (Exhibit 7).

9. Other Business and Announcements – Chairman Young announced that the third meeting of the Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code has been rescheduled for October 11 at 10:00 a.m. He also indicated that he is requesting permission from the Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Council to schedule a fourth meeting.

Senator Young adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

The Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code meeting can be viewed by doing the following:

(1) Download the minutes.

(2) Click on the link within the minutes:

[https://iga.in.gov/information/archives/2017/video/committee_i_corrections_and_criminal_code_interim_study_committee_on/]

(3) After opening the linked web page, select the date of the meeting to begin viewing the video.