

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pat Colloton at 1:30 p.m. on January 27, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Nile Dillmore

Committee staff present:
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant
Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Christina Butler, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jerry Donaldson, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:
Russell Jennings, Commissioner, Juvenile Justice Authority

Others attending:
See attached list.

Chairperson Colloton opened the meeting by calling the Committee's attention to a handout entitled *House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Bill List* by Jason Thompson, Revisor's Office. Chairperson Colloton then recognized Jarod Waltner, Legislative Research. Mr. Waltner stated that the tour of the Juvenile Justice Detention Complex was still scheduled for today and transportation would be available in the basement, ground level, at 3:30 p.m. for those wishing to go. Chairperson Colloton asked for a show of hands for those going.

Chairperson Colloton then called for bill introductions, being none, she turned the floor over to Commissioner Jennings to continue his presentation from January 26, 2009.

Commissioner Jennings called the Committee's attention to a new handout entitled *JJA Community Funding Methodology* ([Attachment 2](#)) and gave a brief explanation before he continued with his presentation. His presentation started with reviewing Medicaid Transition and the screening to classify Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) placement and Youth Residential Care (YRC) placement while addressing questions from the Committee. All YRC youth qualify for medical card coverage for health services as well as incidental mental health and substance abuse treatments. Commissioner Jennings reviewed all the programs available, average length of stays, and capacity. He noted that there are four Juvenile Correctional Facilities in the state:

- Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility
- Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility
- Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex in Topeka
- Atchison Juvenile Correctional Facility

He stated the goal of these facilities is to provide protection through changing the behavior of the youth residents. They provide a safe and humane environment for these youth to live in along with effective opportunities for education and also program opportunities. They provide medical and psychiatric services that meet the communities standard of care. They remain focused on the youth and their outcome. The Juvenile Justice Authority's work is two fold: to protect the public and to change the behavior of the youth so they do not re-offend and end up back in the juvenile system or in the adult correctional system. Commissioner Jennings reviewed each of these facilities citing changes and improvements along with the capacity.

Commissioner Jennings stated the Governor formed a Facilities Closure and Realignment Commission to review the facilities and report its findings by December 1, 2009. The Governor will issue an Executive Reorganization Order based on the findings of the Commission. The Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility is on that list for review. He also stated that the Atchison Facility will be closed by December 8, 2009 with a plan to repurpose the facility, but due to budget restraints this facility plan may not go forward and some of the present programs may be cut.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Corrections And Juvenile Justice Committee at 1:30 p.m. on January 27, 2009, in Room 535-N of the Capitol.

In closing, Commissioner Jennings stated the budget cuts are systemically taking apart a system that has just gained health in the last six months.

A question and answer session followed regarding the budget cuts.

With no further questions, Chairperson Colloton, commended Commissioner Jennings for an excellent presentation and adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for January 28, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in room 535 N.