



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

REP. THOMAS A ALBERT

CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 13,
2019

10:30 AM

Room 308, House Office
Building

The House Sub-Committee on Appropriations subcommittee on Corrections was called to order by Chairman Albert.

The Chair requested attendance be called:

Present: Reps. Albert, Slagh, VanSingel, Lightner, Maddock, Pagan, Sabo, Anthony, Kennedy.

Absent/Excused: None.

Representative Slagh moved to adopt the meeting minutes from 02/06/2019 10:30 AM. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Overview of the Office of Legislative Corrections Ombudsman

Keith Barber, Ombudsman, appeared before the subcommittee to give an overview of the Office of Legislative Corrections Ombudsman. Mr. Barber discussed establishment of the office, citing statutory authority for the office, as well as statutory authority for responsibilities of the office. He discussed the role of staff in his office and their caseloads. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

Department Overview of Education, Skilled Trades, and Career Readiness Programs

Kyle Kaminski, Offender Success Administrator/Legislative Liaison, appeared before the subcommittee to provide an overview of education, skilled trades, and career readiness programs administered by the Department of Corrections. Mr. Kaminski discussed the following:

a.) Statistics relative to correctional education – the department operates 30 schools with approximately 250 staff; there are approximately 7,500 prisoners in school on any given day.

b.) Statewide educational initiatives that foster offender success – ensure program credentials; expand vocational villages; standardize employment readiness programming; implement workforce development procedures; increase focus on vital documents; develop post-secondary opportunities.

c.) Statewide vocational counseling – test interest and aptitude of prisoner; review PSI report; assess previous work history, training, or post-secondary education; assess jobs available in county of parole; prepare prisoner for applying and interviewing; determine appropriate vocational programming.

d.) Career and technical education – prisoners moved to programs based on aptitude, interest, and job prospects; program curriculums redesigned to ensure prisoners earn state and national credentials; new programs developed to address emerging high-demand skills.

e.) Vocational trades programs include auto mechanics, carpentry, horticulture, food technology and hospitality, computer numerically controlled programming/machine tool, robotics, optical technology, custodial maintenance, welding, masonry and concrete, plumbing, electrical, fork truck operation, and commercial driver's license.

f.) Employment readiness program, workforce development referral packets, certificate of employability, vital documents,

Dan Seal, Job Developer, Handlon Vocational Village, appeared before the subcommittee to provide an overview of the vocational village concept. Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

There being no further business before the committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Representative Thomas Albert, Chair

Robin Risko
Committee Clerk
rrisko@house.mi.gov