

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND  
DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION, PAROLE AND PARDON SERVICES  
STUDY COMMITTEE ON CONSOLIDATION MEETING

August 18, 2010

The first meeting of the study committee on consolidation of the functions of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services was held on Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 209 of the Gressette Building. Those in attendance were Scott English, designee for the Governor, Representative Gary Simrill, designee for the Speaker of the House of Representatives; Senator Mike Fair, Chairman of the Senate Corrections and Penology Committee; Representative Joe Jefferson, designee for the Chairman of the House Medical, Military and Municipal Affairs Committee; Jon Ozmint, Director of the Department of Corrections; Teresa Knox, designee of the Director of the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services, as well as Samuel Glover, Director of the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. Senator Fair explained that Senator Gerald Malloy, designee of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, had been called and was unaware of the meeting but was on the way.

Senator Fair asked Representative Jefferson if he would stand in as Interim Chair to accept nominations for Chair of the committee. At that time Representative Simrill proposed that Senator Fair be nominated by acclamation. Jon Ozmint seconded the nomination and the committee voted by acclamation to nominate and elect Senator Fair as its Chairman.

Senator Fair then spoke to the committee saying he had in the previous legislative session submitted legislation which was not passed that called for consolidation of the two entities, so he obviously has a bias. He said the committee would be charged with providing a blueprint on how staff can utilize time more effectively and determining what model would best serve us. We will be looking for savings since this will be the worst budget year in dollars ever. The committee will also need to look at how service is delivered and how public safety would be affected. If we recommend changes we will need to spell out how the savings are to be accomplished.

Dave Jordan, Director of Research for Corrections and Penology, then recognized other support staff that were in attendance: Earl Powell and Rodney Grizzle, from the Board of Economic Advisors; Dianne Carraway, Senate Finance; Ava Brumfield, House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs; Tim Rogers, Ways and Means; Gloria Shackelford and Carl McIntosh, Legislative Council.

Senator Fair recognized Jon Ozmint, who gave an overview of the Department of Corrections' perspective on consolidation, which is available upon request. Then Teresa Knox was recognized to give an overview of the Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services' agency work. Her power point presentation is also

available upon request. Senator Gerald Malloy arrived at the end of Teresa Knox's presentation and Senator Fair took a few minutes to catch him up with where we were.

After hearing the presentations, Representative Jefferson said he heard no compelling information to make him consider consolidation. Senator Fair thanked him for his input and said he sensed that it was important to keep the character and functions of each agency intact.

Chairman Fair then talked about what the conduct of the committee should be in that they would plan to meet three times by the beginning of December and, since it is a nonfunded committee, would try to take advantage of relationships with other organizations and possibly any committee members' staffs that might be able to crunch information and help us digest additional information, such as the relationship that already exist between the Governor's Office and the Pew Trust.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Gloria G. Shackelford, Administrative Assistant  
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