

Approved: February 22, 1995
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE CRIME.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Bob Tomlinson at 9:00 a.m. on February 8, 1995 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: David Adkins
Jim Garner
Mike O'Neal

Committee staff present: Leah Robinson, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes
Leona Fultz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Robbie Alexander, Mentoring Program at King Middle School,
Kansas City, MO
Sheila Harper, Mentoring Program at Southeast Middle School,
Kansas City, MO

Others attending: See attached list

Bob Tomlinson, co-chairman, introduced Rep. Clifford Franklin who gave a brief overview of what mentoring programs are and how they work. He is involved with a mentoring program in Kansas City. Most mentoring programs require spending at least one hour of time a week with each mentee and usually lasts for a minimum two-year time frame. The mentees are usually those children who are having problems in school, in their home environments, behavior etc. Once mentors get to know the children, the main emphasis is academics.

Rep. Franklin then introduced Robbie Alexander who in turn introduced the speaker, Sheila Harper. Sheila said the Challenge Program she is involved with has several lifeskills that they emphasize; these include academic achievement, building leadership abilities, choices that children will make so that they choose to go to school, integrity, respect for self, and reinforce respect for others.

Money alone cannot fix all our problems. There are other structures in which we need to look. One of the most important things is committed people to help make a difference in the lives of young people. Over the past five years they have had over 500 mentors working with children through the Challenge Program. Absenteeism to school has dropped dramatically and grades have steadily improved. 20th Century Investors has provided some financial backing for their program. However, some mentoring programs have no financial backing of any kind.

The Committee adjourned at 10:00. The next Committee meeting will be February 9, 1995.

