

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Peggy Long at 9:10 a.m. on January 23, 2001 in Room 521-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Rep. Rick Rehorn - excused
 Rep. Gwen Welshimer - excused

Committee staff present: Bob Nugent, Revisor of Statutes
 Renaë Jeffries, Revisor of Statutes
 Jerry Donaldson, Legislative Research Department
 Bev Adams, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Steve Rarrick, Attorney General's Office
 Patrick Streck, State Director of Correctional Education
 Lorna Mathison, CPMI, Lansing Correctional Facility

Others attending: See attached list

Rep. Grant made a motion to approve the minutes of January 17 and 18 as written. Rep. Levinson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes were adopted as written.

Introduction of Bills

Steve Rarrick, Deputy Attorney General for Consumer Protection, appeared on behalf of Attorney General Carla J. Stovall to introduce a bill that amends the definition of consumer in the Kansas Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) to include husband and wife or family partnership purchases. (Attachment 1) Rep. Ballou made a motion to introduce the bill. It was seconded by Rep. Johnson. The motion carried.

Presentation on Prison to Work Program

Rep. Ruff wanted the committee to learn a little bit more about the Prison to Work Program. It is part of the Workforce Development Program. One of the things that drive up the cost of prisons are the numbers of offenders who come back inside the walls for various reasons. One of these reasons is that they don't have significant jobs that they can go to once they are released from prison. She introduced Patrick Streck who is State Director of Correctional Education.

Mr. Streck explained that Correctional Program Management, Inc. (CPMI) is a not-for-profit public service organization formed in 1997 to provide the correctional education programs in Kansas. They operate programs in all eight of the prison facilities at this time. They have a staff of 70 with a combined total of over 585 years of experience in the correctional system. Correction Program Management staff attending the meeting were: Lorna Mathison from Leavenworth, Max VanLaningham from Buhler, Vivian McCulley from Topeka, Duane Krueger from Hutchinson and Jack Massey from Winfield.

Mr. Streck explained that there is an increased need to place qualified people in the workplace, there are thousands of jobs available in the state that go unfilled each year, and there is a need to increase the number of citizens who move from dependency of welfare to the workplace. There's also a need to look at the number of inmates in the Kansas correctional system who are ready to leave the system prepared to be responsible citizens by having a place to go. The Prison to Work Program addresses the common factors of all three of these needs—a trained, prepared workforce. The program is research based, with 20 years of experience in research, labeled the "What Works" literature. Two keys of the program is 1) get the right people in the right program and 2) invest the resources in that group that has the highest risk of recidivism of coming back to prison.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Statehouse, at 9:10 a.m. on January 23, 2001

Lorna Mathison, CPMI, explained the program as a continuum, from the day of incarceration to self-sufficiency upon release, designed to assist offenders in preparing to re-enter society as productive, law-abiding citizens. She then walked the committee members through the six stages that comprise the program, explaining each step in further detail. Also offered is a Service component open to all interested inmates who desire to complete a GED or participate in voluntary educational opportunities.

With cuts in the Kansas Department of Corrections Budget, the Correctional Program Management, Inc. needs alternative funding sources to expand their program and add more staff. They work with about 1,000 inmates per year with between 480 and 500 involved at one time. They feel that the Prison to Work Program is a good investment of our workforce development dollars.

Mr. Streck and Ms. Mathison finished their presentation by answering many questions from the committee members. (Attachment 2)

Vice Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting will be announced.