

MINUTES  
**HOUSE JUDICIARY, RULES & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, January 25, 2017
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW42
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Luker, Vice Chairman Malek, Representatives Dayley, Trujillo, McDonald, Cheatham, Kerby, Nate, Chaney, Amador, Hanks, Zito, Zollinger, Gannon, McCrostie, Wintrow
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative Perry
- GUESTS:** Kim Simmons, Idaho State Public Defense Commission; Kelly Jennings, ISPDC; Andrew Masser IPDC; Sharon Harrigfeld, Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections; Marcy Chadwell, IDJC; Darrell Boll, PDC; Eric Fredriksen, ISPDC; Sandy Jones, Parole Commission; Jarod Cash, Parole Commission; Holly Koole Rebholtz, IPAA; Sara Thomas, ICJC
- Chairman Luker** called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting. **Motion carried by a voice vote.**
- Kim Simmons**, Executive Director, Idaho State Public Defense Commission (ISPDC), presented a brief history leading to the establishment of the Idaho Public Defense Act **H 542** in 2014 along with the power and duties that expanded following the expansion of the ISPDC. Through **H 504** the ISPDC improved the delivery of trial-level indigent defense services by providing funding and creating standards with which counties must comply. This year the ISPDC have been training defending attorneys, collaborating with Idaho's counties, and working on defining Idaho's workload studies. Ms. Simmons summarized for the 43 of 44 counties that applied for an Indigent Defense Grant all were eligible and 20 of the counties were eligible for more than \$25,000.
- In response to questions, **Ms. Simmons** explained ISPDC is working with Boise State University to look at how other states are collecting data. They are looking to collect data from rural and urban counties to obtain a good sample.
- Sandy Jones**, Executive Director, Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole presented a description of the Parole Commissions organizational structure, the commission workload, and a description of the parole system review of an inmate who has met the standards for release. Taken into consideration are the inmate's criminal history, the nature of the crime, institutional behavior and victim's input. When an inmate has their parole revoked the commissioners are responsible for addressing violations and hold an initial hearing by a Hearing Officer.
- In response to questions, **Ms. Jones** explained when an inmate decides to "top out" their time and complete their full sentence, it is not always for mental health issues. Some individuals do not want to participate in parole and have somebody monitoring them. If the commission observes a possible mental health reason to a person's decision to stay in prison for the full duration, they will work with staff and the inmate to seek mental health and medication to stabilize the inmate for approximately a year, then review the inmates progress for release. The commission does not feel pressure to release at risk inmates due to over crowding.

**Sharon Harrigfeld**, Director, Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (CJC), presented the legislative update of the strategic plan to combat crime and protect citizens by reducing victimization and providing education, prevention, and accountability. The goals of the CJC also include advanced delivery of justice through effective interventions by proposing balanced solutions which are cost effective and based on the best practices. Another goal is to promote well-informed policy decisions by identifying strategies, implementing data, and maintaining awareness of substance abuse trends and priority issues.

In response to questions, **Ms. Harrigfeld** explained CJC is unique to Idaho, it uses Problem Solving courts to reduce recidivism rates using statewide standards depending on the program.

**Sharon Harrigfeld**, Director, Idaho Department of Correction, presented community incentive programs used to diverting Idaho's youth from the courts. The programs ensure juvenile accountability through effective use of evidence-based practices such as Positive Peer Culture (PPC) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Use of family engagement and ensuring community protection is teaching skills of improvement to the families. The returning juveniles to the community following these engagements have had positive outcomes and an increase academically in reading and math scores. Utilizing the substance use disorder system providing timely screenings, assessments, and treatments served 1,247 juveniles in 2016.

In response to questions, **Ms. Harrigfeld** explained the decrease in 2017 substance abuse funding went through Health and Welfare, the separation made changes in the budget for the year.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:22 P.M.

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Representative Luker  
Chair

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Heidi McKay  
Secretary