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Legislative Oversight Committee



South Carolina House of Representatives

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July 13, 2016

VIA EMAIL and U.S. Mail
Director Sylvia Murray
South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
PO Box 21069
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-1069
SLMURR@scdij.net

Dear Ms. Murray:

Thank you for meeting with the House Legislative Oversight Committee's Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Subcommittee on May 26, 2016. We were pleased to have this meeting in conjunction with the Senate Special Subcommittee to Study the Department of Juvenile Justice. In preparation for future meetings, the House Oversight Subcommittee seeks additional information from the agency. Please provide responses to the questions below on or before Friday, August 5, 2016.

Reporting System

- Since this review process has been undertaken has the agency made any substantial improvements to the Event Reporting Management Information System (ERMIS) and, if so, what changes have been implemented?
- Has the agency implemented any new system(s) for entering and tracking information on events at the agency and, if so, please explain the new system(s)?

Rapid Response and Emergency Situations

- Please list the details of each cause to activate the Rapid Response Team, the team recently re-instituted at the agency, the actions of the team, and the end result.
- Who has the authority to contact the Rapid Response team for assistance?
- Has the agency produced a written training manual for emergency situations including riots and destruction of property?
- Is there training in place for storm preparedness and emergency evacuation?

Overall Security

- Has the agency implemented any changes in security relating to Juvenile Correction Officers (JCO) and other guards (not the agency police force) interaction with juveniles other than the change in uniforms and disbandment of the Balance and Restorative Justice Program (BARJ) at the agency?
- Is the new system, which the agency indicated will replace BARJ, been implemented? If not, when will it be implemented and what system is the agency currently utilizing since it is no longer using BARJ?
- Has parking of employees been more scrutinized for safety and contraband?
- What changes, if any, have been made with regards to increased scrutiny and searches of vendors entering agency facilities and documentation of any items found during these searches?
- Is the Gang Specialist position filled and, if not, is another employee taking responsibility to gather information on the behavior of known gang leaders and gang members within the agency's facilities?
- At what implementation level statewide is the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT), the anti-gang curriculum and anti-gang intervention services?
- In the past few months some of the juveniles from Richland County's Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center were returned to the population at the Broad River Road Complex (BRRC). How is the agency monitoring the return of these juveniles to ensure continued safety of all juveniles at the facilities and to prevent situations which occurred prior to these juveniles being sent to Alvin S. Glen Detention Center?

Education

- Explain how the agency is aligning the education opportunities at its school district to the "Profile of the South Carolina graduate"?
- Please provide the most recent results for the "Work Keys" testing that is required by state statute.

Finances

• With the 3.8% steady decline in referrals to the agency annually please provide an update on any carry over or contingency funds that are available?

Organization Structure

- Please provide an updated organization chart.
- Please list the positions in which there has been a termination or resignation during the last 12 months as well as whether the person currently serving in the position is an interim or permanent replacement.
- Please provide an update on any searches the agency is currently performing for positions.

In your responses to these questions, please provide the subcommittee with any relevant, necessary context information. If the agency has any concerns about the format of these questions yielding answers that do not provide an accurate reflection of the agency, please express those concerns, prior to responding to the question, in a written letter with a copy to staff for the subcommittee. Please retain your working papers for these responses in the event the subcommittee would like to view those.

Sincerely,

Signature Redacted

Kirkman Finlay III Subcommittee Chair

cc: The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton

The Honorable William K. Bowers

The Honorable Raye Felder

The Honorable Edward R. Tallon Sr.

Senate Special Subcommittee to Study the Department of Juvenile Justice