

EXHIBIT C.1

**MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE**

July 26, 2016

The Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force met at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 26, 2016, in the Multi-Complex Building (MAC Room B) in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Committee members present: Senator Jeremy Hutchinson, Co-Chair; and Representative Matthew Shepherd, Co-Chair; Mr. Drew Baker, Judge Cristi Beaumont, Chief Kenton Buckner, Ms. Tjuana Byrd, Mr. Nathan Smith (Ken Casady), Mr. John Felts, Mr. John Wesley Hall, Ms. Wendy Kelley, Benny Magness, Steve Newsome, and Ms. Sheila Sharp.

Other legislators present: Representatives Douglas House and Dan Douglas.

Representative Shepherd called the meeting to order.

Action/Requests

Approval of the Minutes (Exhibit B)

Without objection, the Minutes from the June 22, 2016, meeting of the Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force were approved.

Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas: Sixth Presentation to the Legislative Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force (Exhibit C)

Mr. Andy Barbee, Research Manager, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, Mr. Steve Allen, Senior Policy Advisor, CSG, and Ms. Grace Call, Senior Policy Analyst, CSG, were recognized and presented the sixth report on *Justice Reinvestment in Arkansas* (see Exhibit C for full report). Mr. Barbee gave a brief summary of past presentations. He discussed issues related to the following areas: parole and reentry, overcrowded jails, behavioral health for criminal justice involved populations, victim issues, and next steps. Parole is key to supporting safe reentry to the community. New commitments present a growing number of challenges, as more than half of the prison population are new commitments. Arkansas's jail population increased 53% between 2000 and 2014. Many counties are operating at or above capacity. Overcrowding jails creates public safety dilemmas; such as, not being able to detain certain types of lower level offenses. Changing the behavior of those most likely to recidivate is most effective through interventions after release.

Behavioral health treatment is a necessary component of criminal justice. Mr. Allen stated there is a high prevalence of individuals incarcerated who have serious mental illnesses. Arkansas has an estimated 1,617 prisoners who have a serious mental illness and 5,356 prisoners who have a substance use disorder.

Regarding victim issues, Ms. Call stated victim advocates want transparency and accountability. She reported victim advocates identified the key aspects of improving safety that will:

- strengthen programming, supervision and pretrial decision-making by adding assessments that measure risk, dangerousness and/or lethality,
- expand sexual assault orders of protection for offenders not residing in the same household as the victim, and;
- enhance crime victims reparations to meet additional safety needs of victims.

Representative Shepherd announced the next task force meeting will be held on August 25, 2016, in Hot Springs. CSG will present its next presentation during this meeting and ideas about possible positions and directions that the task force can examine.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.