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Sen. Louis Pate

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Rep. Jaqueline Schaffer
Rep. John Torbett
Sen. Shirley B. Randleman

December 15, 2015

Members of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services:

G.S. 120-208.2(d) authorizes the Committee Cochairs to establish subcommittees of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services to examine issues pertaining to services provided by Divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services. Session Law 2015-241 directs the establishment of two subcommittees of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. Pursuant to the authority provided in G.S. 120-208.2(d) and S.L. 2015-241, Section 12B.8, the Committee Cochairs are appointing a subcommittee to study early childhood and family support programs. Pursuant to the authority provided in G.S. 120-208.2(d) and S.L. 2015-241, Section 12F.10, the Committee Cochairs are appointing a subcommittee to work with the subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety to study the intersection of Justice and Public Safety and behavioral health.

Instead of any dates that may be specified by Session Law, the chairs request each subcommittee be prepared to present reports to the March 2016 meeting of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. This will enable the full Committee to consider the work of the subcommittees prior to completing work this interim. Provided below is an excerpt of the Section from the Session Law providing for each subcommittee and the members appointed to each subcommittee.

S.L. 2015-241, Section 12B.8: STATEWIDE EARLY EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

SECTION 12B.8.(a) The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services shall appoint a subcommittee to study early childhood and family support programs, including the Child Care Subsidy program, NC Prekindergarten program (NC Pre-K), and the Smart Start program. In conducting the study, the subcommittee shall consider the following:

- (1) The purpose, outcomes, and effectiveness of each program.
- (2) The flexibility needed to ensure the needs of young children in counties across the State are met.
- (3) The potential for streamlined administration across the programs.
- (4) Any other relevant issues the subcommittee deems appropriate.

SECTION 12B.8.(b) The subcommittee may seek input from other states, stakeholders, and national experts on early child and family support programs as it deems necessary.

SECTION 12B.8.(c) The subcommittee shall develop a proposal for a statewide plan that addresses how to meet county or regional needs of children by county or region. The subcommittee shall submit a report on the proposed statewide plan to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before April 1, 2016, at which time the subcommittee shall terminate.

Early Childhood and Family Support Programs Subcommittee Members:

Senator Louis Pate, Chair
Senator Chad Barefoot
Senator Norman Sanderson
Senator Valerie Foushee

Representative Josh Dobson, Chair
Representative Craig Horn
Representative Donny Lambeth
Representative Beverly Earle

S.L. 2015-241, Section 12F.10: JOINT STUDY OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SECTION 12F.10. The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and

Public Safety shall each appoint a subcommittee to study the intersection of Justice and Public Safety and behavioral health and report their findings and recommendations to their respective Committees. The subcommittees shall meet jointly to study and report on the following issues:

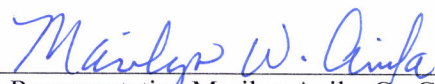
- (1) The impact of the Justice Reinvestment Act on the State's behavioral health system, including the following:
 - a. The impact of the Justice Reinvestment Act on the demand for community-based behavioral health services available through local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs).
 - b. The change in the number of criminal offenders referred to the Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) program since 2010 and other demands on the TASC program that have arisen since that time.
 - c. The sources and amounts of funding available to serve this population, as well as any other support or resources that are provided by the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health and Human Services or the LME/MCOs.
 - d. An analysis of the supply and demand for behavioral health providers who serve this population.
- (2) The impact of mental illness and substance abuse on county law enforcement agencies, including the following:
 - a. The number of people with mental illness and substance abuse issues held in county jails.
 - b. The impact on local law enforcement agencies, particularly with respect to their budgets and personnel.
- (3) The impact of judicial decisions on the State's behavioral health and social services system, including the following:
 - a. The role and impact of family court decisions on the demand for and delivery of county social services.
 - b. The role and impact of decisions by drug treatment courts, veterans' mental health courts, and driving while impaired courts.
 - c. The impact of judicial decisions on the availability of beds in State-operated psychiatric facilities as a result of involuntary commitment orders and incapacity to proceed decisions.
- (4) Any other relevant issues the subcommittees jointly deem appropriate.

Justice and Public Safety and Behavioral Health Subcommittee Members:

Senator Tommy Tucker, Chair
Senator Tamara Barringer
Senator Jeff Tarte
Senator Mike Woodard

Representative Marilyn Avila, Chair
Representative Dan Bishop
Representative Susan Martin
Representative William Brisson

Sincerely,


Representative Marilyn Avila, Co-Chair


Senator Louis Pate, Co-Chair


Representative Josh Dobson, Co-Chair