

**Senate Select Committee on Prison Safety
Monday, April 15, 2019 at 3:00 PM
Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building**

MINUTES

The Senate Select Committee on Prison Safety met at 3:00 PM on April 15, 2019 in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building. Senators Jim Burgin, Ralph Hise, Floyd McKissick, Harper, Peterson, Norman Sanderson, Terry Van Duyn, and Joyce Waddell.

Senator Bob Steinburg, Chairman, presided.

Senator Steinburg began by introducing the Sergeants at Arms, Archie Smith, Tom Burroughs, and Michael Caviness.

Senator Hise made a motion to approve the committee minutes from April 8, 2019. The motion was seconded by Senator Waddell.

Senator Steinburg recognized Dr. Gary Junker, Ph.D., director of Behavioral Health with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, gave a presentation on the mental and behavioral health services for inmates. The presentation materials can be found on the website, entitled "Offender MH__ Senate Committee on Prison Safety."

Senator Steinburg opened the floor for questions.

Sanderson: What does triage and screening process look like for repeat offenders.

Answer: When an offender comes back into the system, they go through the process again

Sanderson: Listen to audio for second question, third question

Sanderson: Are a lot of folks on suicide watch come in with suicidal tendencies already there?

Answer: of the 12 suicides, 9 were not on the MH case load, so many different triggers that serving time can create

McKissick: Are tools adequate to determining mental health of inmates

Answer: Family members ask, Diagnostics varying, Prison systems run a broad range with respect to mental illness, different assessment instruments, don't have resources to administer instruments across the board

McKissick: What additional sources needed to help identify inmates who need care.

Answer: Difficult question, false positives and false negatives, could use a day hospital to receive services. Space very difficult problem

McKissick: What are we doing to help people reintegrate in society? Is there an adequacy of facilities for women?

Answer: In Restrictive Housing, some individuals would prefer to be in a single cell (protective custody), Modified Housing a step down, and then Open Housing. Nursing rounds made for offenders in restrictive housing. System does a good job of getting psychiatric help quickly. NCCIW has close to 1,000 on mental health case load. High percentage seek out and are receiving treatment.

Hise: Listen to audio on the first question
Hise: Listen to the audio on the second question
Hise: Just listen to Hise's audio

Burgin: Significant and more expensive is a concern. Challenge finding competent mental health staff; salary an issue (considered too low), use of contracts exceed salaried positions,
Burgin: Listen to audio for second question
Burgin: Two drugs when you're released to keep one from taking drugs, and one to reverse the effects of the bad drug. Defeating purpose:
Junker: Distribution is ?????

Peterson: What do you attribute to opioid epidemic.
Junker: Individual separate from substance abuse. Not just using opiates, using cocaine, etc. Don't know what they're getting into
Peterson: Recidivism rate
Junker: Stays stable in the last 5-7 years, would prefer lowering

Waddell: Youthful male inmates: 66% long terms drug use much higher than others
Junker: Younger people in denial
Waddell: Expensiveness in housing inmates over a yearly period. Is mental health factored in?
Listen to audio for second response.
Waddell: Listen to audio

Van Duyn: If we did Medicaid expansion, would it help?
Junker: Possibility exists, not sure what it would entail

Senator Steinburg recognized Mr. Michael Dail, Human Resources Director for the North Carolina Department of Public Safety. Mr. Dail's presentation, entitled "Services and Programs for Employees__ Senate Committee on Prison Safety." The presentation can also be found on the committee website.

Senator Steinburg opened the floor for questions.

Van Duyn: How to folks who need services take advantage of them?
Dail: Try to educate all managers at all locations. Some don't understand the process. The more that are educated on these programs, the more likely conversations take place. In some instances, cultural change may need to happen.

Waddell: Internships for additional staff?
Dail: EAP conducted through a vendor. Staff members do this as part of their duties
Waddell: What will happen when two year grant is exhausted?
Dail: Approved for only two year grant, would like to get it on a recurring base

McKissick: How programs fit together, EAP, IBH program. Where would likely go for long term care? Seems like three consultations would not be enough.
Dail: Staff gets three visits and there gets referred to a needed service

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m..

Select or Type Name of Presiding Chair
Presiding

Edward Stiles, Committee Clerk