

**MINUTES OF THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 19, 2006 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W020 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. D. Chris Buttars, Chair
Rep. DeMar "Bud" Bowman, Chair
Rep. J. Stuart Adams
Rep. D. Gregg Buxton
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Michael T. Morley
Rep. Curtis Oda
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig

Members Absent:

Sen. Allen Christensen
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. Paul Ray

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith, Policy Analyst/Special Projects Mgr.
Ms. Susan Creager Allred, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Minutes of the June 21, 2006 meeting were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

2. Methamphetamine Addiction and Toxicity

Dr. Glen R. Hanson, Ph.D., D.D.S.; Director, Utah Addiction Center; Professor of Pharmacy and Toxicology, University of Utah; and Senior Advisor, National Institute on Drug Abuse and National Institute on Health, showed a slide presentation and discussed the pharmacology and physiology of methamphetamine addiction and abuse and the implications for public policy. He noted that methamphetamine is the primary drug choice for women who are going into treatment. He explained that methamphetamine use is a significant issue because it impacts so many areas of public policy.

3. Prison Population Changes

Mr. Scott Carver, Executive Director, UDC (Utah Department of Corrections), distributed "New Commitment Admissions to Prison," which illustrates the changes in prison population, especially over the past ten years.

Mr. Cliff Butter, Director, Planning and Research, UDC, reviewed the trends illustrated in the handout. He reviewed the offense type by location, showing field-based offenders compared to the incarceration-based population. He also reviewed the under AP&P (Adult Probation and Parole) supervision population. Of those reporting methamphetamine use, 44.64 percent were females and males and 27.98 percent were males. He expressed the department's concern that the treatment resources have not kept pace with the growing need among the inmate population.

4. Drug Courts

Mr. Brent Kelsey, Program Manager, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, described drug courts as a collaboration between the counties, the state, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the family drug courts. He described family drug courts as comprehensive treatment that is the most successful model

available for reducing drug use and criminal behavior among those in the courts' jurisdiction. He noted that because of state funding from last year, he will be able to fund three programs this year.

Mr. Rick Schwermer, Assistant Court Administrator, emphasized that drug courts work because courts, and especially judges, take a different role and are more directly involved with the offenders' progress. He explained that phase two of the drug court program is determining which kinds of drug courts work best, so funding is spent for best practices. He asked for legislative support in this phase as his office gleans the best practices.

Judge Robert S. Yeates, Third District Juvenile Court, spoke about the beginning of the first family drug court in 1999 in collaboration with DCFS (Division of Child and Family Services). He introduced those staff people involved in the family drug court who help determine what level of treatment is appropriate for each client.

Mr. Don Leither, Drug Court Coordinator, Third District Juvenile Court, distributed the "Drug Court Practitioner" fact sheet from the national Drug Court Institute. He also distributed and reviewed "Family Dependency Drug Court," a slide presentation from the Third District Juvenile Court. He explained the program's mission, the various assessments and treatments, and motivators that work.

Ms. Jodi Delaney, a Parent Program graduate who is in long-term stable recovery, told the committee members how she came to be in drug court and the effects of her methamphetamine addiction. Her motivation to succeed in drug court was to regain custody of her daughter. She told of the treatments she received that changed her thinking about her recovery, including an improved lifestyle, not simply abstinence from drug use.

Ms. Amy Provost, a Parent Program graduate, spoke of the positive impact the drug court program had in her life. She found that the program was not just about regaining custody of her children, but improving her own life and her functionality. She continues to participate in a daily relapse prevention program.

5. DORA (Drug Offender Reform Act) Update

Mr. Schwermer reviewed the original concept of DORA and the treatment process it has developed into today.

Ms. Mary Lou Emerson, Director, USAAV (Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-violence Coordinating Council), Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, distributed and reviewed a brief interim progress report on DORA. She also distributed "USAAV Adopted DORA Implementation Guidelines." She stated the strongest characteristic of DORA is the collaboration between AP&P and the treatment providers. She expressed her appreciation for the Legislature's support of DORA and recognition that substance abuse increases crime in Utah and treatment will bring needed results.

Ms. Audrey Hickert, Utah Criminal Justice Center, University of Utah, explained that DORA research has been process oriented. She explained that they are continuing to collect data on the type of offenses that meet the criteria for drug convictions and that treatment and supervision results will be available in 2008.

Sen. Buttars and Rep. Bowman left the meeting to other obligations. Rep. Oda was asked to chair in their absence.

6. Other Item/Adjournment

MOTION: Rep. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Buttars, Rep. Bowman, Rep. Litvack, and Rep. Morley absent for the vote.

Acting Chair Oda adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.