

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, June 17, 2014 – 3:00 p.m. – Room 250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen, Senate Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher
Sen. Todd Weiler

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis

Staff Present:

Mr. Nathan Brady, Policy Analyst
Ms. Lori Rammell, 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 Madsen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Weiler moved to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of Proposed Appointment of Sharlene Christensen as a member of the Youth Parole Authority

Ms. Susan Burke, Director, Juvenile Justice Services, introduced Mr. Chris Packer, Hearing Officer Staff, and Ms. Sharlene Christensen, nominee to the Youth Parole Authority (YPA). She explained that all members of the authority are volunteers. She said the purpose of the YPA is to determine the length of stay for a juvenile in a secure care facility.

Ms. Sharlene Christensen thanked the committee for its consideration. She gave a brief history of her career, including her current volunteer commitment, once per month, with the Youth Parole Authority. She explained that the position for which she is nominated will include the same responsibilities but increase her commitment to twice per month. She discussed her background working for the Division of Child and Family Services and in various residential and private practice facilities. She outlined her education and her passion for working with and helping youth in the community. She responded to questions from the committee, relating some of her experiences helping youth in crisis. She described her private counseling practice and the flexibility it gives her to serve on the YPA. She stipulated that she does not currently see, in her practice, any youth in a secure care facility, but if one of her clients appeared before her for a hearing, she would recuse herself from that hearing.

Mr. Packer described the types of crimes the youth who appear before the board have committed.

MOTION: Sen. Thatcher moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Ms. Christensen be appointed as a member of the Youth Parole Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Madsen adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.