

**MINUTES OF THE
PRISON RELOCATION COMMISSION**

Wednesday, October 22, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 415 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson, Senate Chair
Rep. Brad R. Wilson, House Chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
Director Rollin Cook
Director Ron Gordon

Staff Present:

Mr. Bryant R. Howe, Assistant Director
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Sara J. Thomas, 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. Commission Business

Chair Stevenson called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Hughes and Rep. Hutchings were absent for the vote.

2. Progress Report on CCJJ/Pew Justice Reinvestment Project

Mr. Gordon presented "Justice Reinvestment Initiative." He explained that the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) has been working with the Pew Charitable Trust on the Utah Justice Reinvestment Initiative to identify policy trends, including sentencing guidelines and legislative changes to the state's crime laws, and their effects over the past decade to determine whether any of those policies should change.

Mr. Gordon said that while Utah's incarceration rate remains below the national average, its prison population has grown 22% in the past decade and is projected to grow 37% in the next two decades. He said that nonviolent second and third degree offenders are driving prison growth with more admissions and longer time served. He reviewed preliminary recommendations from the initiative's subgroups on sentencing, release, and treatment and supervision that CCJJ estimates will avert 97% of the projected growth in the prison population. Emphasizing that the recommendations were not yet final, he explained that CCJJ plans to formally adopt a final report and present it to Utah's three branches of government on November 12, 2014. He responded to questions from the commission regarding the response of the law enforcement community to the initiative's recommendations and how CCJJ plans to ask the Legislature to support its recommendations.

3. Work Group Reports

Rep. Hutchings reported on the activities of the Criminal Justice System Reform and Programming work group. He thanked work group members and commented that it has been encouraging to see the level of interest in criminal justice system reform increase over the last decade. He discussed the work of the Utah Justice Reinvestment Initiative, noting that the substantial policy changes it recommends are backed up by evidence-based practices. Rep. Hutchings observed that the relocation of the prison affords a great opportunity to implement systemic changes. Explaining that the Utah Justice Reinvestment Initiative has

covered much of the same ground as the work group in greater detail, Rep. Hutchings described the work group's focus on alternatives to incarceration, including substance abuse facilities and mental health treatment. He responded to questions from the commission regarding what the findings of the work group mean for the new correctional facility.

Sen. Mayne commented that the communities of the state need to come together and share responsibility for incarcerated individuals who are released back into the community.

Rep. Wilson reviewed the membership of Plan of Financing work group. He explained that while some of the expense of vacating the Draper site and constructing a new facility will be recouped to the state over the next decade, an initial investment by the Legislature and Governor is required. He stated that the work group has made progress in addressing the challenges presented by this situation.

Rep. Wilson said that the work group has concluded that the best route forward is to replace the Draper prison in a shorter time frame in order to minimize the costs of concurrently running two facilities. Noting that this will be the single largest capital investment project in the state since the reconstruction of Interstate 15 in Utah County, Rep. Wilson reviewed different financing options that the work group has explored. He stated that the work group plans to have a recommendation for the Legislature in time for the 2015 General Session.

Rep. Hughes discussed the costs that would be incurred anyway if the prison was not relocated. He commented that the exhaustive approach the state is taking to relocate the prison is beneficial to the public.

4. Update on the Site Selection Process

Rep. Wilson stated that the commission has narrowed the number of potential sites for a new correctional facility to four, but no further information regarding those or other potential sites would be discussed at the meeting. He explained that the commission felt it was appropriate to work more closely with the communities involved before publically releasing additional information.

Mr. Brad Sassatelli, MGT of America, introduced Mr. Robert Nardi, Senior Vice President, Louis Berger Group, and Mr. George Camp, Criminal Justice Institute.

Mr. Nardi described the progress of the site selection process and reviewed what still needs to be done. He explained that 26 sites were evaluated against the site selection criteria established by the commission at its September 3, 2014, meeting. Mr. Nardi explained that four highly ranked sites will be subject to a rigorous and thorough technical evaluation to further determine whether they are a suitable location for a new correctional facility. He distributed "Site Identification and Selection Process" to the commission members.

Mr. Camp discussed the progress of the architectural and operational programming of the new facility. He distributed "Overview of the Operational/Architectural Program." He noted that the new correctional facility will act, in its way, as a transitional facility for the large majority of inmates who eventually return to their communities. He discussed his collaboration with the Department of Corrections to establish guiding principles and best practices in health care, general housing, and mental health that emanate from Utah and around the country. He responded to questions from the commission.

5. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Mayne was absent for the vote.

Chair Stevenson adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.