

Alabama Prison Reform Task Force

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Alabama State House

Montgomery, Alabama

The first meeting of the Alabama Prison Reform Task Force was held on June 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 304 of the Alabama State House. Senator Cam Ward, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Members present: Ms. Shay Farley, Alabama Appleseed; Mr. Michael Dean for Mr. Thomas Govan, AG's Office; Ms. Shelly Linderman for Ms. Janette Grantham, VOCAL; Mr. John Hamm, ACCA; Mr. Ted Hosp, Alabama Bar Association; Mr. Franklin Johnson, Governor's Office; Judge Tim Jolley, 27th Circuit in Marshall County; Mr. Othni Lathram, Alabama Law Institute; Ms. Cynthia Dillard for Mr. Robert Longshore, Alabama Board of Pardons & Paroles; Sheriff Hoss Mack; Mr. Walt Merrell, District Attorney for Covington County ; Mr. Richard Minor, District Attorney for St. Clair County; Chief Justice Roy Moore, Alabama Supreme Court; Mr. Mike O'Dell, District Attorney for Cherokee County; Senator Arthur Orr, Judge Teresa Pulliam, 10th Circuit in Jefferson County; Commissioner Jim Reddoch, Department of Mental Health; Ms. Katherine Robertson, Alabama Policy Institute; Commissioner Kim Thomas, Department of Corrections; Mr. Bennet Wright, Sentencing Commission; Senator Cam Ward.

After members introduced themselves, Senator Ward addressed the committee regarding the importance of the task force. He stated that there is no easy solution to prison overcrowding but it is an Alabama issue and he prefers to keep it in Alabama and not let the Federal Government fix the problem.

Senator Ward recognized Andy Barbee, Research Manager at The Council of State Governments Justice Center, who began his presentation to the Task Force of Justice Reinvestment in Alabama (see attached).

After the presentation, Senator Ward thanked Mr. Barbee and his associates for all of their hard work. He stated that the task force and CSG will work together on ideas for sample legislation to present in the 2015 Regular Legislative Session. Mr. Barbee stated that CSG is not interested in seeing fewer violent offenders in prison. They want to see probation much more effective and focus on improving public safety. He thanked the members for allowing CSG to present their information to the task force and looks forward to working with everyone.

Senator Ward told the members that the next meeting would be scheduled for some time in August, public comments will be taken and he thanked the members for being at the meeting. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Carol H. Bullard, Clerk
June 16, 2014