

Members

Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson
Rep. Ed Mahern
Rep. Robert Behning
Rep. Michael Young
Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson
Sen. Lawrence Borst
Sen. Billie Breaux
Sen. Glenn Howard



CENTRAL STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

LSA Staff:

Sarah Burkman, Attorney for the Committee
John Parkey, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: P.L. 102-1998

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 232-9588 Fax: (317) 232-2554

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 23, 2000
Meeting Time: 11:00 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Vanessa Summers, Chairperson; Rep. Ed Mahern; Rep. Robert Behning; Rep. Michael Young; Sen. Patricia Miller, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. Lawrence Borst; Sen. Billie Breaux; Sen. Glenn Howard.

Members Absent: None.

Call to Order and Comments by the Committee

Representative Vanessa Summers, Chairperson of the Central State Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. Representative Summers began by stating that she would like this to be the last interim that the Committee meets. She expressed her frustration that much of the Central State property remains unused and indicated that she wants the Committee to reach a definite conclusion this year as to the property's future. Representative Summers then reported that she was going to try to reschedule a meeting with Carolyn Coleman, the director of the city's Department of Metropolitan Development. Representative Summers said she would ask Ms. Coleman whether the city's new administration would be willing to take part in planning for the property's future.

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

Representative Summers then invited comments from the Committee.

Senator Miller reported that she has talked to several groups that are interested in using the property. Representative Behning stated that he had also been contacted by several groups. One such group expressed a willingness to correct some of the electrical and asbestos problems in the buildings and then use the buildings to benefit area children.

Senator Howard stated that he agreed with Representative Summers that the Committee should work to reach a final conclusion as to the future of the property.

Representative Young expressed his amazement that no solution has been reached during the six years that the Committee has been meeting. He suggested that with its fenced-in yard, the property would be an ideal location to house the many abused women and children in need of safe housing.

Senator Breaux urged the Committee to formulate a definitive plan for the property this year. Senator Borst, on the other hand, suggested that having no plan is not necessarily bad. He expressed his belief that the perfect use for the property would present itself in time, and that the Committee does not need to actively seek potential uses. He stated that he does not share the concern that something needs to be done immediately.

Representative Behning expressed his support for the city's current use of part of the property for soccer fields. He suggested that until a final plan is reached, the land should continue to be made available for public use.

After the Committee members had concluded their remarks, Representative Summers called on Jay McQueen, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Administration (DOA), to discuss the State's current uses of the property.

Update from the Department of Administration

Mr. McQueen reported that the property is still being used to house the State Motor Pool. Parts of the property are also being used by the Red Cross and by the Department of Natural Resources. The City of Indianapolis continues to use the property for soccer fields and for Max Bahr Park. Most recently, the U.S. Diving Team has begun using the old gymnasium for its "dry land training."

Several groups have approached the DOA about using the property. The Indianapolis Fire Department, along with several EMS and police departments, have expressed interest in using the property for training facilities. A homeless veterans group has also expressed interest in the property.

Mr. McQueen told the Committee that the DOA is still considering the demolition of several buildings on the property. Mr. McQueen promised that as soon as the DOA resolves an issue with one its consultants, he would provide the Committee with a final report as to which buildings are recommended for demolition. Mr. McQueen indicated that the list of buildings proposed for demolition would probably be expanding from last year's list. In response to a question by Representative Behning, Mr. McQueen indicated that the property's three largest buildings would not be proposed for demolition.

Statistics from the Division of Mental Health

Mr. John Viernes, Deputy Director, Office of Public Policy, presented statistics from the Division of Mental Health (DMH) on adults with mental illness, as required by P.L. 102-

1998.² The DMH's data indicate a prevalence of 248,901 adults with mental illness in Indiana. In the Central State catchment area, there is a total prevalence of 66,233 adults with mental illness.

Mr. Viernes pointed out that the numbers presented were based on the 1998 Census adjustment. He explained that the DMH would not be able to update the numbers until the results of the 2000 Census are published. He also noted that while the projections for 2001 to 2005 show a higher rate of overall population growth, the *net* population growth in Marion and other urban counties is minimal. The population growth is actually higher in the surrounding counties.

Statistics from the Department of Correction

The Committee then reviewed the written data provided by the Department of Correction (DOC).³ As required by P.L. 102-1998, the data included statistics on the number of adult male and female offenders with mental health medical classifications in various state penal institutions. After reviewing the data, members of the Committee agreed that a representative of the DOC should attend the Committee's next meeting in order to explain the data and answer questions.

Statistics from the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services

Next, the Committee reviewed the written data provided by the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS).⁴ According to the data, the estimated number of individuals with mental retardation in Indiana is 105,288. In the Central State catchment area, the estimated number of individuals with mental retardation is 15,441. After considering these figures, members of the Committee agreed that a representative of DDARS should attend the Committee's next meeting in order to explain the data and answer questions.

Comments and Scheduling of Next Meeting

Representative Summers invited comments from members of the audience. Mr. Costa Miller informed the Committee that the State Operated Facilities Council has issued a preliminary report that includes information on developmentally disabled adults with emotional problems. Mr. Miller offered to provide copies of the report to the Committee.

Senator Miller informed the Committee that Don Moreau had contacted her about the possibility of a veterans' group using the property. Senator Miller suggested that the Committee invite Mr. Moreau to speak at the next meeting.

The Committee members then scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, September 20, at 2:00 p.m. Representative Summers stated that she would try to meet with Carolyn Coleman from the Department of Metropolitan Development before the next meeting. She then adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

²See Exhibit 1.

³See Exhibit 2.

⁴See Exhibit 3.