

Members

Sen. Luke Kenley, Chairperson
Sen. David Ford
Sen. David Long
Sen. Glenn Howard
Sen. Timothy Lanane
Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr.
Rep. Jeb Bardon
Rep. William Crawford
Rep. Brian Hasler
Rep. Ralph Foley
Rep. Mary Kay Budak
Rep. Jeff Thompson



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE LAW AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: October 13, 2000
Meeting Time: 8:30 A.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 431
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 3

Members Present: Sen. Luke Kenley, Chairperson; Sen. David Ford; Sen. Glenn Howard; Sen. Timothy Lanane; Rep. Jeb Bardon; Rep. William Crawford; Rep. Brian Hasler; Rep. Ralph Foley; Rep. Mary Kay Budak; Rep. Jeff Thompson; .

Members Absent: Sen. David Long; Sen. Samuel Smith, Jr..

Sen. Kenley introduced Sen. Neal Bryant, Chairman of the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee. Sen. Kenley indicated that Sen. Bryant had agreed to stop over in Indiana on his way from a meeting in Washington, D.C. to his home. Sen. Bryant was staying overnight as a guest of Sen. Kenley. He thanked the members of the Committee for coming early in the morning to accommodate Sen. Bryant's tight travel schedule.

Sen. Bryant told the committee about the enactment of a restorative justice program in

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.

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Oregon. At present only one county is enrolled: Deshute County. He stated that Oregon prefers to call it a community justice program because the term has less of a negative connotation than restorative justice. Restorative justice seems to imply to many people that a person is soft on crime. Community justice includes many of the same goals as restorative justice:

- (1) victim participation;
- (2) government surrender of a monopoly on the criminal system; and
- (3) disposition based on community and victim needs.

Using state funds, federal funds, and private donations, Deshute County developed a plan that contains a strong restorative justice component. The program also included more local jail beds, a health care center, and program components requiring able bodied offenders to work and to attend necessary job and educational training. Among its features is a merchant's court. Shoplifters are given an option to appear before a volunteer board of merchants in return for diversion from the criminal system. Early results indicate that recidivism is lower and the victims show higher levels of satisfaction with the resolution of the cases.

In return for state money, Deshute County agreed to reduce the number of beds in state facilities that it uses to house offenders. In addition, the County is required to provide the state with a number of reports to document the uses of state money and the benefits obtained from the program. Several other counties are seriously considering enrollment in the program. He indicated that the consequences of community justice are also being studied in a seven year program conducted by the RAND Corporation.

The Committee received a copy of the document: Leena Kurki, "Incorporating Restorative and Community Justice Into American Sentencing and Corrections", Sentencing & Corrections Issues for the 21st Century, Papers from the Executive Sessions on Sentencing and Corrections, No. 3, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs (September 1999). (Available from the Legislative Information Center as "Exhibit 1").

The Committee received a letter from Judge Bonaventura concerning the need for comprehensive reform of the Juvenile Code (Available from the Legislative Information Center as "Exhibit 2"). Rep. Foley reported for the Subcommittee established to review proposals to revise the juvenile code, suggesting that focusing reforms efforts on a limited number of topics would have more benefit than a comprehensive rewriting of the juvenile code.

Senator Kenley distributed a proposed draft of a final report for the Committee (Available from the Legislative Information Center as "Exhibit 3"). After reviewing the proposed draft, the Committee adopted the proposed draft as the final report of the Committee by consent.

Senator Kenley thanked the members for serving as members of the Committee and adjourned the meeting.