

MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

May 27, 2010
Room 307, State Capitol
Santa Fe

The first meeting of the interim Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee was called to order by Representative Al Park, co-chair, on May 27, 2010 at 10:05 a.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol.

Present

Rep. Al Park, Co-Chair
Rep. Peter Wirth, Co-Chair
Sen. Rod Adair
Rep. Thomas A. Anderson
Rep. Joseph Cervantes
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Zachary J. Cook
Sen. Mary Jane M. Garcia
Sen. Clinton D. Harden, Jr.
Rep. Antonio "Moe" Maestas
Sen. Richard C. Martinez
Rep. William "Bill" R. Rehm
Rep. Mimi Stewart

Absent

Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Sen. John C. Ryan

Advisory Members

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Rep. Elias Barela
Rep. Brian F. Egolf, Jr.
Rep. Dennis J. Kintigh
Sen. Carroll H. Leavell
Rep. W. Ken Martinez
Sen. Cisco McSorley
Rep. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Sheryl Williams Stapleton
Rep. Jack E. Thomas
Rep. Gloria C. Vaughn

Sen. Gay G. Kernan
Sen. William H. Payne
Sen. Michael S. Sanchez
Sen. David Ulibarri

Staff

Maha Khoury, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)

Kim Bannerman, Staff Attorney, LCS

Leslie Porter, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file

Briefing on the Government Restructuring Task Force

Raúl E. Burciaga, director-designate, LCS, informed the committee that the Government Restructuring Task Force, created by HB 237 (2010), is charged with developing recommendations for restructuring state government. He stated that given the state's financial situation, the New Mexico Legislative Council (LC) has directed that each interim committee look at efficiency and effectiveness of those government agencies within its oversight, examine each agency's core functions, prioritize where appropriate and ensure that the agencies are effectively performing those functions.

Mr. Burciaga and Paula Tackett, director, LCS, discussed the request from the LC that, in response to budget cuts, all meetings of interim committees be held in Santa Fe. Ms. Tackett discussed the rationale of the LC in imposing this requirement and added that if the committee feels it must meet outside of Santa Fe, the work plan must provide justification to the LC. Ms. Tackett briefly spoke about restructuring issues and the possibility of making magistrate courts the courts of record for DWI cases. Mr. Burciaga closed by mentioning Ms. Tackett's retirement and how honored he is to be appointed the new director.

Committee members asked questions and discussed options with Ms. Tackett and Mr. Burciaga. Members indicated the value of visiting prisons and obtaining input from prisoners and how the failure of the provision of health care by Wexford in the Hobbs facility and other facilities would not have been discovered had the committee not visited the prisons and held meetings outside of Santa Fe. Senator Wirth concurred with committee members and suggested a trip to the Santa Fe level six prison facility and a visit to the new office of the State Medical Investigator in Albuquerque.

Work Plan and Meeting Schedule for the 2010 Interim

Committee members discussed possible topics for the committee and voiced their preferences on topics to be addressed this interim. The co-chairs invited members of the audience to comment and indicate other topics for consideration.

Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12:00 noon.