

House Committee on Judiciary

Minutes of Meeting
2017 First Extraordinary Session
Interim Meeting on the Review of Law Enforcement Training
February 20, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Katrina R. Jackson, chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Katrina R. Jackson, chairman
Representative John H. Bagneris
Representative Chad Brown
Representative Gary M. Carter, Jr.
Representative Randal L. Gaines
Representative Christopher J. Leopold
Representative Tanner D. Magee
Representative Joseph A. Marino, III
Representative Robert E. Shadoin
Representative Jerome "Zee" Zeringue

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Robby Carter
Representative Jean-Paul P. Coussan
Representative Jimmy Harris
Representative Lowell C. "Chris" Hazel
Representative Valarie Hodges
Representative Robert A. Johnson
Representative John C. "Jay" Morris, III

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisha Landry, attorney
Diane Merritt, secretary

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Michelle Fontenot, legal division director
Beverly Vincent, sergeant at arms
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms
Annie Beckstrom, clerk

III. OPENING REMARKS

Representative Jackson stated that this would be the committee's last meeting before the 2017 Regular Session to develop any legislation regarding police and community relations.

IV. DISCUSSION

Rep. Magee asked the Louisiana Public Defender Board to explain the recent changes in law regarding the delivery of public defender services in Louisiana.

James T. Dixon, Jr., state public defender, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main St., Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, (225) 219-9305, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Public Defender Board.

W. Ross Foote, (retired district judge) representing the Louisiana Public Defender Board, 3420 Calumet Dr., Shreveport, LA 71107, testified for informational purposes.

Donald W. North, professor and board member, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 301 Main St., Suite 700, Baton Rouge, LA 70825, testified for informational purposes.

Michael Ginart, Jr., board member, Louisiana Public Defender Board, 2114 Paris Rd., Chalmette, LA 70043, testified for informational purposes.

Robert Noel, legislative chair, Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, 2901 Evangline St., Monroe, LA 71201, testified for informational purposes.

Derwyn Bunton, chief public defender, Orleans Parish Public Defenders, 2601 Tulane Ave., Suite 700, New Orleans, LA 70119, testified for informational purposes.

Kerry Cuccia, Orleans Parish Public Defenders, 3801 Canal St., Suite 400, New Orleans, LA 70119, testified for informational purposes.

Chris Murell, executive director, Capital Appeals Project, 636 Baronne St., New Orleans, LA 70113, testified on behalf of the Capital Appeals Project and discussed Act 307 of 2007 Session.

Chris L. Bowman, board member, Louisiana Public Defender Board, P.O. Box 190, Jonesboro, LA 71251, testified for informational purposes.

Jim Craft, executive director, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice.

Fabian Blache, executive director, Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, 700 N. 10th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police.

Bob Wertz, section manager, P.O.S.T., 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice regarding P.O.S.T. certification.

Rebekah Taylor, P.O.S.T. programs manager, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, 602 N. 5th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice regarding P.O.S.T. certification.

Raman Singh, M.D., Medical Mental Health Director, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower St., Baton Rouge, LA 70804, testified on behalf of the Department of Corrections. He discussed mental health in the state's jails and prisons. He explained CMI training.

Seth Smith, chief of operations, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, 504 Mayflower St., Baton Rouge, LA 70804, testified on behalf of the Department of Corrections.

Jen Katzman, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 N. 4th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health.

Dr. James Hussey, acting assistant secretary, office of behavioral health, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 N. 4th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health.

Michelle Aletto, deputy secretary, Louisiana Department of Health, 628 N. 4th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Health.

Jan Kasofsky, executive director, Capital Area Human Services, 4615 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, testified for informational purposes.

Tanya McGee, representing Imperial Calcasieu Human Services Authority, Louisiana Department of Health, 3505 5th Ave., Lake Charles, LA 70607, testified for informational purposes.

Brad Farmer, representing Acadiana Area Human Services Authority, Louisiana Department of Health, 302 Dulles Dr., Lafayette, LA 70506, testified for informational purposes.

Richard Kramer, executive director, Florida Parishes Human Services Authority, Louisiana Department of Health, 83 Pride Dr., Suite B, Hammond, LA 70401, testified for informational purposes.

Dr. Rosanna Dichiro, representing Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority, Louisiana Department of Health, 5001 Westbank Expy., Marrero, LA 70072, testified for informational purposes.

Beverly Haydel and Patricia Calfee, representing Baton Rouge Area Foundation, 525 Lafayette St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, testified for informational purposes.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: Five for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee record.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Katrina R. Jackson
House Committee on Judiciary