

2021-2022 Session

Change Session ▼

Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

Fomerly The Joint Legislative Corrections Oversight Committee
The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee exercises oversight over the Department of Corrections and works with and provides assistance to other legislative committees on matters related to corrections policies.

Previous Meetings - Full Report

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type

Standard

Meeting Record

- 9:00 AM

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
- 9:15 AM

Overview of Committee Charges

Brynn Hare, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
- 9:30 AM

S.107 - An act relating to confidential information concerning the initial arrest and charge of a juvenile

Addressing the Governor's Veto

Implementation of Raise the Age

Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

John Campbell, Executive Director, Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs

Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont Judiciary

Evan Meenan, Deputy Director, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs' Dept.

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender, Defender General's Office

David Scherr, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
- 11:15 AM

Break

11:30 AM	DOC Update on Justice Reinvestment II James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections Dale Crook, Director of Field Services, Department of Corrections Monica Weeber, Director of Administrative Services, Department of Corrections
1:00 PM	Committee Discussion <i>Schedule Future Meetings and Agenda Items</i>
1:20 AM	Adjourn

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

9:30 AM	Contingent Housing vs. Scattered Housing James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections David D'Amora, Senior Policy Advisor, Council of State Governments Justice Center Emily Higgins, Corrections Housing Administrator, Department of Corrections
10:15 AM	Update on Issues in Women's Correctional Facility Jennifer Fitch, Commissioner, Department of Buildings and General Services
10:30 AM	S.7 - An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont Judiciary Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender, Defender General's Office David Scherr, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office Judge Thomas Zonay
12:30 PM	Break
1:00 PM	S.7 - An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records John Campbell, Executive Director, Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs

David D'Amora, Senior Policy Advisor, Council of State Governments Justice Center

Jaye Johnson, General Counsel, Governor's Office

Evan Meenan, Deputy Director, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs' Dept.

Sarah Robinson, Deputy Director, Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

- 1:30 PM

DOC Facility Staffing Shortage Issues

James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association
- 3:15 PM

Adjourn

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type

Standard

Meeting Record

- 10:00 AM

Raise The Age Programming Including Housing

Tyler Allen, Adolescent Services Director, DCF, Family Services Division

Jennifer Myka, General Counsel, Department for Children and Families

Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families
- 10:45 AM

Youthful Offender Status Definitions

Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
- 11:00 AM

Beckett Facility

Status of Youthful Offenders Going to Beckett(Judicial/Non Judicial)

Plan B for Beckett

Joseph Aja, Director Design & Construction, Department of Buildings and General Services

Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

Jenn Herbert, Clinical Director, Department for Children and Families

Tabrena Karish, Building Engineer, Department of Buildings and General Services

Marc O'Grady, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Buildings and General Services

Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender, Defender General's Office

Judy Rex, Director of Policy and Planning, Department for Children and Families

Doug Sonsalla, Principal, Studio Nexus Architects and Planners

12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	<div>Juveniles Sent Out of State</div> <div><i>Efficiency of Sending Juveniles Out of State</i> <i>Number Of Juveniles Currently Out of State</i></div> <div>Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender, Defender General's Office</div>
1:30 PM	<div>S.7 - An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records</div> <div>Sec 5</div> <div>Mairead O'Reilly, Staff Attorney, Vermont Legal Aid Michelle Pelletier, Restitution Unit Manager, Center for Crime Victim Services</div>
2:00 PM	Committee Discussion
2:30 PM	Adjourn

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing TypeStandard

Meeting Record

10:00 AM	<div>S.7 - An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records</div> <div><i>Committee Charge and New Legislation</i></div> <div>Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div>
10:30 AM	<div>Youthful Offender Status vs. Raise the Age</div> <div>Erik FitzPatrick, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div>
10:45 AM	<div>DOC and Overall AHS Staffing Issues</div> <div><i>Overall issues and plans to address them</i></div>

Will Beckett draw staff away from other providers?

- Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families
- Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association
- Jenney Samuelson, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Human Services

- **Department of Corrections Staff**

Qualifications and placement of new staff

- James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- Jennifer Fitch, Commissioner, Department of Buildings and General Services
- Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association
- Rosemary Webber, Director, Office of Professional Standards and Compliance, Department of Corrections

12:30 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Progress on Body Camera Policy

- James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- Jodi Barriere, Safety Manager, Department of Corrections
- Christine Cowart, Senior Policy and Implementation Analyst, Department of Corrections

1:30 PM Visit to Women's Reentry Facility in Maine

- James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- Jennifer Fitch, Commissioner, Department of Buildings and General Services
- Bill Soule, Community Corrections District Manager, Department of Corrections

2:15 PM Review of Misdemeanor Probation Use by the Sentencing Commission

- Karen Gennette, Executive DirectorCrime Research Group, Vermont Sentencing Commission

2:30 PM Committee Discussion

2:45 PM Adjourn

Friday, October 15, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
Meeting Record	
10:00 AM	<div><div><div><div>S.7 - An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records</div><div>Legislative Charge</div><div>Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div><div>Chris D'Elia, President, Vermont Bankers' Association</div><div>T.J. Donovan, Attorney General, Vermont Attorney General's Office</div><div>Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont Judiciary</div><div>Evan Meenan, Deputy Director, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs' Dept.</div><div>Mairead O'Reilly, Staff Attorney, Vermont Legal Aid</div><div>Marshall Pahl, Appellate and Juvenile Defender, Defender General's Office</div><div>Jennifer Poehlmann, Executive Director, Center for Crime Victim Services</div></div></div></div>
12:45 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	<div><div><div><div>Prison Transports</div><div>Current System</div><div>Report on use of state paid deputies for transports</div><div>Alternative contract options for transports</div><div>Mark Anderson, President, Sheriff's Association</div><div>Tim Ashe, Deputy State Auditor, State Auditor's Office</div><div>Brian Grearson, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont Judiciary</div><div>Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association</div><div>Roger Marcoux, Sheriff, Lamoille County</div><div>Annie Noonan, SAS Labor Relations and Operations Manager, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs Association</div></div></div></div>
3:15 AM	Committee Discussion
3:30 PM	Adjourn

Friday, October 29, 2021

Meeting Details	
Hearing Type	Standard

Meeting Record

- 1:20 PM

UVM Presentation on Child Custody Issues in Vermont

Joint Meeting with Child Protection Committee

Hannah Holbrook, Clinical Psychologist, University of Vermont

Sen. Jane Kitchel, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

Jessica Strolin-Goltzman, Professor, College of Education and Social Services, University of Vermont
- 3:00 PM

Adjourn

Friday, November 5, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type

Standard

Meeting Record

- 10:00 AM

Rule 74

James Baker, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Emily Carr, General Counsel, Department of Corrections

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- 10:30 AM

S.7 - An act relating to expanding access to expungement and sealing of criminal history records

Legislative Recommendations

Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
- 12:00 PM

Lunch
- 1:00 PM

Role of State Deputies

Recommendations for updating duties

Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office

Roger Marcoux, Sheriff, Lamoille County

Annie Noonan, SAS Labor Relations and Operations Manager, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs Association
- 1:45 PM

Update on Criminal Justice Fines and Fees

Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office

Dan Dickerson, Fiscal Analyst, Joint Fiscal Office

2:00 PM Adjourn

Friday, November 12, 2021

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 10:00 AM

Rule 74

Emily Carr, General Counsel, Department of Corrections

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Emily Tredeau, Supervising Attorney, Prisoners' Rights Office, Office of the Defender General

Judge Thomas Zonay, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont Judiciary
- 11:00 AM

Criminal Justice Council and Department of Corrections Updates

-minimum training standards of correctional officers

-process for certification/decertification of correctional officers

-proposals on complaint investigations within DOC,

-proposal on addressing the relationship between CJC and DOC's Investigative Unit on the scope of investigative authority

Al Cormier, Chief of Operations, Department of Corrections

Heather Simons, Executive Director, Criminal Justice Council

Rose Webber, Director, Office of Professional Standards and Compliance, Department of Corrections
- 11:30 AM

Covid -19 Updates

Department of Corrections

Al Cormier, Chief of Operations, Department of Corrections

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Rachel Feldman, Principal Assistant and Public Information Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- 12:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM	<div>State Paid Deputies</div> <div>Current system and suggested changes</div> <div>Amerin Aborjaily, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div> <div>Mark Anderson, President, Sheriff's Association</div> <div>Annie Noonan, Labor Relations and Operations Manager, State's Attorneys and Sheriffs Association</div>
3:00 PM	Adjourn

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
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Meeting Record

9:30 AM	<div>Overview of Committee Charge</div> <div>Future Agenda Items and Witnesses</div> <div>Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office</div> <div>Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div>
10:30 AM	<div>Study on deceptive and coercive methods of law enforcement interrogation.</div> <div>Michael E. Schirling, Commissioner, Department of Public Safety</div> <div>William Sorrell, Chair, Vermont Criminal Justice Council</div> <div>Julio Thompson, Director, Civil Rights Unit, Office of the Attorney General</div> <div>Dan Trottier, Sergeant, Public Safety Department</div>
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	<div>Study of Restorative Justice Programming in Vermont</div> <div>Robert Sand, Founding Director, Center for Justice Reform, Vermont Law School</div> <div>Ping Showalter, Former Student, Vermont Law School</div>
2:30 PM	<div>Update of DOC's Population Data</div> <div>Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections</div>

3:00 PM Adjourn

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

- 10:00 AM

S.45 - An act relating to earned discharge from probation

Update on Mid Point Review

Dale Crook, Director of Field Services, Department of Corrections
Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
- 11:00 AM

S.3 - An act relating to competency to stand trial and insanity as a defense

Section 6 (Forensic Working Group)

Karen Barber, General Counsel, Department of Mental Health
Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
Nicole DiStasio, Interim Policy Director, Department of Mental Health
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health
Stuart Schurr, General Counsel, Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living
Samantha Sweet, Director of Mental Health Services, Department of Mental Health
- 12:00 PM

Lunch
- 1:00 PM

S.224 - An act relating to juvenile proceedings

Update on plan for secure placements for 18 year old offenders
Update on secure treatments and aftercare for 12-17 year old offenders
Update on current 15 year old in Chittenden facility

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
Jennifer Myka, General Counsel, Department for Children and Families
Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families
Joshua Rutherford, Director of Classification and Facility Designation, Department of Corrections
- 2:00 PM

Restorative Justice Funding

Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office

Lindy Boudreau, Juvenile Justice Director, Department for Children and Families
Willa Farrell, Director, Court Diversion and Pre-Trial Services
Derek Miodownik, Restorative and Community Justice Executive, Department of Corrections

3:00 PM Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Committee Discussion

Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday, September 15, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type Standard

Meeting Record

10:00 AM JRII Investments

How to collect data and outcomes
Effectiveness of investments
Explanation of FY22 Carry forward for funding

Maria Belliveau, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office
Kristin Calver, Finance Director, Department of Corrections
Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections
Derek Miodownik, Restorative and Community Justice Executive, Department of Corrections
Sarah Robinson, Deputy Director, Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Cheryl Wilcox, Interagency Planning Director, Department of Mental Health

11:15 AM Geographic Consistency and Equity of Restorative Justice Initiatives in Vermont

Which counties are using sequential intercept model/how often
Statutory requirements for Restorative Justice initiatives in Vermont
Overview of Services

Lindy Boudreau, Juvenile Justice Director, Department for Children and Families
John Campbell, Executive Director, Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs
Willa Farrell, Director, Court Diversion and Pre-Trial Services
Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
Judge Thomas Zonay, Chief Superior Judge, Vermont Judiciary

1:00 PM	Lunch
1:45 PM	Geographic Consistency and Equity of Restorative Justice Initiatives in Vermont Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections Derek Miodownik, Restorative and Community Justice Executive, Department of Corrections
2:00 AM	Overview of Interrogation Study for Sept 28th Meeting Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
2:15 PM	DOC Staffing Methods Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association
3:40 PM	Adjourn

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type	Standard
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Meeting Record

10:00 AM	Police Interrogation Techniques for Juveniles <i>Use of False Information</i> Nathaniel Erb, Policy Advocate, The Innocence Project
11:00 AM	Law Enforcement Training Audit <i>Report from the State Auditor's Office</i> Tim Ashe, Deputy State Auditor, State Auditor's Office
12:00 AM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Update on our Criminal Justice Centers Heather Hobart, Director, Lamoille Restorative Center Rachel Jolly, Executive Director, Burlington Community Justice Center

Mel Motel, Director, Brattleboro Community Justice Center

- 2:00 PM

Update on Placements for Violent Juveniles with mental Health Issues

Sean Brown, Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Erica Marthage, State's Attorney, Bennington County

Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families

Joshua Rutherford, Director of Classification and Facility Designation, Department of Corrections
- 3:30 PM

Update on Utilization of Funding

Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office
- 4:00 PM

Adjourn

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing Type

Standard

Meeting Record

- 10:20 AM

Committee Discussion and Planning

Committee Discussion and Planning

Other Legislative Recommendations

Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
- 10:45 AM

Out of State Bed Savings FY22

Recommendations for Justice Reinvestment II in FY23

Committee Discussion

Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel
- 11:45 AM

Process for Certification and Decertification of Correctional Officers

Al Cormier, Chief of Operations, Department of Corrections

Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association

Heather Simons, Executive Director, Vermont Criminal Justice Council

12:30 PM	Lunch
1:15 PM	<div>Committee Discussion</div> <div>Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div>
1:30 PM	<div>Community Justice Centers Recommendations</div> <div>Committee Discussion and Planning</div> <div>Other Legislative Recommendations</div> <div>Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office</div> <div>Derek Miodownik, Restorative and Community Justice Executive, Department of Corrections</div> <div>Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div>
2:15 PM	<div>Update on Placement of Violent Juveniles</div> <div>Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association</div> <div>Jenney Samuelson, Secretary, Agency of Human Services</div>
2:50 PM	<div>Community Justice Centers Recommendations</div> <div>continued</div> <div>Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office</div> <div>Jill Evans, Executive Director, Essex Community Justice Center</div> <div>Willa Farrell, Director, Court Diversion and Pre-Trial Services</div> <div>Derek Miodownik, Restorative and Community Justice Executive, Department of Corrections</div> <div>Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel</div>
4:00 PM	Adjourn

Monday, December 12, 2022

Meeting Details

Hearing TypeStandard

Meeting Record

10:10 AM Vermont Monitoring Trends after 2020

Justice Reinvestment II

David D'Amora, Senior Policy Advisor, Council of State Governments Justice Center

11:24 AM Minimum Training of Correctional Officers Compliant Investigations

Christopher Brickell, Deputy Director, Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Steve Howard, Executive Director, Vermont State Employees Association

Jim Rice, Director of the Office of Professional Standards and Compliance, Department of Corrections

12:23 PM Lunch

1:05 PM Temporary Placement of Violent Criminals

Harry Chen, Interim Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

Jennifer Fitch, Commissioner, Department of Buildings and General Services

Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services Division, Department for Children and Families

2:00 PM Allocation of Out of State Bed Funds

Committee Discussion and vote

Stephanie Barrett, Associate Fiscal Officer, Joint Fiscal Office

Nicholas Deml, Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Sarah Robinson, Deputy Director, Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Juvenile Interrogation Techniques

Committee Discussion on bill proposal and vote

Michele Childs, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

- Restorative Justice Approach to Criminal Justice

Committee Discussion

Benjamin Novogroski, Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Counsel

3:00 PM Adjourn

