

Office of the Commissioner
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR



TAYLOR F. BARRAS
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRIORITY FUNDING COMMISSION

Monday, August 19, 2024
2:00 PM
House of Representatives Committee Room 6
Louisiana State Capitol

Minutes

I. Commissioner Barras called the meeting to order at 2:11 PM

II. The following members were present:

Commissioner Barras
Representative Bacala
Mr. Thomas Bickham
Representative Bryant
Senator Cloud
Senator Harris
Representative Horton
Representative Muscarello
Representative Villio
Mr. Chris Walters

Nine members were present, a quorum was met.

III. Overview of the Criminal Justice Priority Funding Commission:

Senator Cloud provided an overview of the Commission's purpose, duties, and process. Senator Cloud described the outcry for increased bed space in pre-adjudication facilities due to the increased costs of sending juveniles to facilities across state lines. The Commission will remove the political, capital outlay, process to ensure the facilities are

placed in regions with adequate population and workforce to address the juvenile justice crisis.

IV. Discussion and review of the Rules:

Mr. Walters summarizes the rules and approval system to the members of the commission and public. Mr. Walters called Mr. Patrick Goldsmith, Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Administration, and Mr. Roger Husser, Director of Facility Planning and Control to explain the application process to the members and public.

Representative Bacala inquired about the feasibility of the one month application period and the scoring procedure, the questions answered by Mr. Kenneth Lofton and Mr. Walters.

Representative Horton asked if the Florida Parishes juvenile facility only filled beds with Florida parish residents; Representative Muscarello affirmed that was the case.

Representative Muscarello asked the number of facilities the Commission is planning to build; Mr. Goldsmith explains that it is based upon capital not a number of facilities.

Representative Bacala motioned to adopt the rules, seconded by Representative Horton and Mr. Walters, without objection, the rules were adopted.

V. Public Questions and Comments:

Mr. Chero Yancy with VOTE asked about the locations of the facilities, and the proximity of those facilities to the juvenile's home, if there would be medical facilities, and the extent of public influence on the commission. Senator Cloud explained the Commission's intent to build regional facilities.

Laura Gremillion and Michael Songy with the Ascension Parish Sherriff's office share their gratitude with the Commission for the upcoming work.

VI. Adjournment

Senator Cloud gave brief closing remarks about the goals of the Commission as did Commissioner Barras.

Motion to adjourn by Representative Villio, seconded by Mr. Walters, was approved at 2:57 PM.