

MINUTES
JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
1:00 PM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Joshua Bryant, Vice-Chair; Jonathan Dismang, and Terry Rice; Representatives Mark H. Berry, Co-Chair; David Ray, Vice-Chair; Brandon Achor, Les D. Eaves, Brian S. Evans, Tony Furman, Jimmy Gazaway, Ashley Hudson, Kendra Moore, Marcus E. Richmond, Jamie Scott, Tara Shephard, Joy Springer, and Jim Wooten

Other members present: Senators Linda Chesterfield, Steve Crowell, Tyler Dees, Jim Dotson, Ben Gilmore, Bryan King, and Fredrick Love; Representatives Sonia Barker, Stan Berry, Keith Brooks, Cameron Cooper, Carol Dalby, Denise Ennett, Kenneth Ferguson, Vivian Flowers, Jack Fortner, Steve Hollowell, Jack Ladyman, Tippi McCullough, Aaron Pilkington, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, DeAnn Vaught, Jeff Wardlaw, Danny Watson, and Richard Womack

Representative Berry called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the April 22, 2024, and April 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibits B1-B2]

Representative Ray made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Evans, and the motion carried.

Discussion of Pulaski County Detention Center and Netflix Docuseries *Unlocked: A Jail Experiment*

Eric S. Higgins, Sheriff, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), gave a discussion regarding the re-entry program within the Pulaski County Detention Center (PCDC). Sheriff Higgins emphasized that he personally did not reach out to any production company to film the docuseries, and he stated that the purpose of the re-entry program was to reduce recidivism for detainees in Pulaski County.

Barry Hyde, County Judge, Pulaski County, expressed his lack of awareness regarding the Netflix docuseries until the trailer was released. He stated that the contract between Lucky 8 Productions and the PCSO was illegal on the grounds that it had not been signed by a county judge.

Sterling Penix, Coordinator, Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training, Criminal Detention Facilities Review Committees, Arkansas Department of Public Safety (DPS), gave testimony regarding Sheriff Higgins's policies on the housing and monitoring of PCDC inmates. Upon his review of the docuseries, he expressed that there were some concerns regarding the PCDC's compliance with the jail standards set forth by DPS.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.