

Correction Advisory Committee
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
4:30 PM Zoom Remote Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM by Chair Tadhg Dooley.

The following committee members were present:

Andrew Giering
Tadhg Dooley
Marisol Garcia
Benjamin Howell
Daryl McGraw
John Cipolli
Scott Semple
John Bowen
Reena Kapoor

The following committee members were absent:

Kyisha Velazquez
Melvin Medina

Introductory remarks were made by Chair Dooley.

Chair Dooley recapped that this was their first meeting since the public hearing on Thursday, January 11, 2024. He remarked that Governor Lamont selected Hilary Carpenter as the nomination and that there might be a holdup in Carpenter's hearing that is scheduled to be in the next couple of weeks. Chair Dooley remarked that Chair Garcia and himself have made statements to the press in their surprise in Governor Lamont's decision to skip over the committee's recommended top two choices for the Office of the Correction Ombudsman but reiterated their support for Hilary in the role.

Dr. Ben Howell asked if there was anything in the statute on how long the legislature has to act on the nomination. Chair Dooley stated that he was unclear on if there was a timeline but to his recollection, he does not believe there is.

Chair Dooley stated that was the only update on the appointment of the ombudsman. He said they could express their thoughts in the executive session but stated that he is happy with their response of questioning the Governor's selection process while still affirming that Hilary is a strong qualified choice.

Chair Dooley wanted to flag the appropriations issue. Chair Garcia then joined the meeting and wanted to state the full ramifications of the Governor's actions. She indicated she was in Hawaii for a restorative justice conference and fielded some questions regarding the Governor not going with the committee's recommendation and their next steps. She stated that other communities are watching the situation closely and having mixed conversations.

Chair Dooley went back to the appropriations item and noted it as an issue to keep an eye on. He looked to designate someone from the committee to keep tabs on it and advise if there are any things for the committee to act on.

Chair Dooley looked to move the meeting into Executive Session. Reena Kapoor motioned to move into Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Ben Howell. The committee moved into Executive Session at 4:42 PM.

Chair Dooley welcomed the committee back out of Executive Session and stated that they had a couple of motions to act on.

Chair Garcia motioned to create an appropriations subcommittee, seconded by Daryl McGraw. The vote passed unopposed. Chair Dooley stated they will figure out membership at a later date.

Chair Dooley motioned to create a next steps subcommittee, seconded by Benjamin Howell. The vote passed unopposed.

Benjamin Howell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 PM, seconded by Tadhg Dooley. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.