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West Virginia Legislature's
Office of Reference & Information

Interim Highlights

Agriculture & Agri-business

Tour of Arctic Char Processing Plant & Growth Site

The Agriculture and Agri-business Committee, the Joint Commission on Economic Development and the Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on State Water Resources visited the Isis Arctic Char processing plant and growth facility while in Logan for interim meetings.



Today, the West Virginia Aqua farm raises more than 450,000 pounds of arctic char every year. It remains the only arctic char farm east of the Mississippi River and part of the facility has been built on a reclaimed coal mine site, adding value to the area's economic development. All sites use clean, cold water from nearby underground coalmines and the company has located sites in both Mingo and Logan Counties.

Company representatives told lawmakers the Rockhouse Springs "growth site" uses high quality natural spring water, which is closely monitored by a team of biologists and chemists. The facility is a fully operational 95 percent recirculating growth facility with 3,200 cubic feet of rearing space. The committees were told the water released from this facility is as clean as when it first enters the site. Like the hatchery, the growth facility is staffed with highly trained professionals who monitor fish health and water quality around the clock.

Interim Committee Information

For information on all Interim Committees, please visit West Virginia Legislature's Web site: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us> and select the "Interim" link.

Forest Management Review Commission

Forest Fire & Arson Dog Demonstration/ Tour of Wood Products Plant

During the first of two scheduled interim meetings in Logan County, Forest Management Review Commission members met at Chief Logan State Park to watch a demonstration by the Division of Forestry regarding forest fires and arson.

A mock forest fire, actually a blanket in an open field, set by an "arsonist," was put out by the Division's Vietnam-Era Huey Helicopter, capable of dropping 200 gallons of water on its target. The helicopter quickly refilled its load in the nearby Guyandotte River and came back to drop a second 200-gallon load.



The Division then used its arson dog, a bloodhound named Sadie Mae, to quickly track down the arsonist and make an "arrest."

The committee members were told arson-caused fires resulted in 31 percent of all wildfires in West Virginia during Fiscal Year 2005. Also in 2005, 757 wildfires burned approximately 12,436 acres of forests in West Virginia. The majority of wildfires, 41 percent, were caused by carelessness, when debris fires were allowed to escape and ignite the surrounding woods. Other causes of wildfires included: equipment use - 15 percent; campfires - 2 percent; smokers - 2 percent; children - 2 percent; and, railroads - 1 percent. Another 6 percent were attributed to miscellaneous causes.

During the second meeting of this committee, members took a tour of a Columbia Flooring Wood products plant, a subsidiary of Columbia Forest Products, in nearby Holden, WV. The

plant manager led committee members through the plant, beginning with the raw stage and following the wood through the process of becoming laminate wood flooring.



Founded in 1957, Columbia Forest Products is North America's largest manufacturer of hardwood plywood and hardwood veneer products. The company also produces laminate, engineered and solid wood flooring products. The company's Columbia Flooring division, headquartered in Danville, VA, manufactures and/or markets engineered and solid hardwood flooring and laminate flooring in a variety of grains and wood species.

This plant was placed in Holden, WV due to the abundance of raw materials and timber in the surrounding forests and utilizes a reclaimed mountaintop used previously for mining.

Government Organization Subcommittee A & Joint Commission on Economic Development

Tour of Hatfield-McCoy Trail & ATV Safety

Several members of the West Virginia Legislature participated in a tour of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail, that included a hands-on experience operating all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Prior to the ATV riding adventure, those participating were provided with a general safety course, including an orientation on how to properly navigate the vehicles and how to avoid potential dangerous situations.

The hour-long safety orientation covered much of the necessities to properly riding an ATV, including how to start and stop the vehicle, the correct way to turn and navigate around sharp curves, how to properly climb and descend a hill, and how to use the vehicle's braking system. In addition, members were provided with helmets, goggles and other equipment required when riding the trail system.



Hatfield-McCoy Trail representatives, including deputy officers employed solely to patrol patron use of the trails, told members the trail system established in Southern West Virginia is the safest place in the state to ride an ATV. One representative said over the six-year existence of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail system, 90,000 permits have been granted. Two fatalities have occurred during that time, and the representatives noted the deaths were a result of riders not following trail regulations.

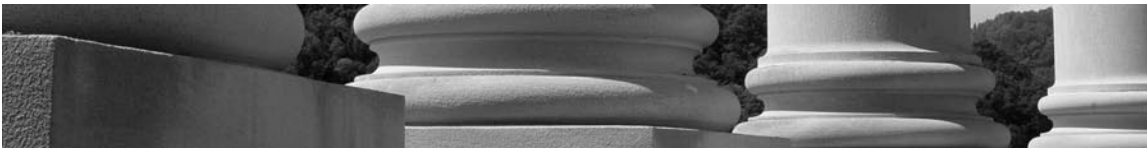
Government Organization Subcommittee B

Meeting

A representative from the West Virginia Legislature's Performance Evaluation and Research Division (PERD) spoke with members of the committee detailing the sunrise and sunset legislation processes, as requested with the adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution 72 during the 2006 Regular Session.

The representative briefly outlined the structure and organization of PERD, which includes direct oversight from the Legislative Auditor. It has a director, three research managers, two senior research analysts and 11 research analysts, as well as an administrative assistant and a receptionist.

The performance audit process, which is in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, begins with an entrance conference, which entails an introduction and explanation of the audit process to the agency or entity being audited. Next, PERD determines the scope and develops a survey summary report that compiles important information about the agency, discusses the issues and identifies areas to examine. An Audit Plan then is developed, that



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describes the objective of the audit and how it will be carried out. Once a plan has been developed, a research analyst then conducts the fieldwork, which includes interviewing agency staff, site visitations and any other information gathering that may be necessary.

After the fieldwork is complete, PERD tests the evidence for accuracy, confirms the interviews in writing and requests legal opinions when necessary. An individual who did not participate in the original audit then confirms every statement of fact. Each statement is examined for accuracy against the documents and data collected. Finally, an exit conference is scheduled to provide each agency that is audited a chance to review and discuss any concerns with the final audit report.

The representative recommended the Legislative Auditor be more involved in what is placed on the Sunset schedule. Also, the representative recommended that some agencies and programs be audited less, moving from the requirement that certain agencies be audited every six years and extending to every 10 or 12 years. According to the representative, this would allow for additional time for PERD to look at other agencies yet to be audited.

Government Organization Subcommittee C

Meeting

During a brief discussion regarding the Educational and State Employee Grievance System, members were informed that the working group formed to prepare recommendations on grievance system reform for the committee to consider has met twice and will continue discussing options to better centralize and streamline the current grievance process.

The working group will report to the committee its findings and recommendations in the coming months.

Joint Commission on Economic Development

Arch Coal Inc. Tour

An impressive explanation of the operations of Arch Coal Incorporated's coal mine and processing facility, Mountain Laurel in Logan County, provided a new perspective of safe coal production for lawmakers touring the site.

The facility consists of a raw coal storage area, a clean coal storage area, a preparation plant and a loading tower where a 150-car train can be loaded in less than four hours. At least

eight storage silos are on the property to store the raw and clean coal while the preparation plant has three separate modules to store the processed coal while it awaits transport from the facility.



Presently employing 140 people, the existing state-of-the-art \$300 million facility sees its impending growth to add 260 new jobs by the year 2008. Overall, the processing plant is expected to produce 10 million tons of coal from its underground longwall mine and from a proposed surface mine.

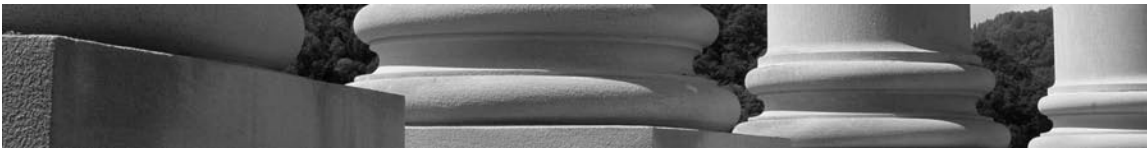
The project manager told lawmakers its employees are well paid and safety precautions are a priority to the company. He also noted an underground culvert was built by the company to re-route stream water protecting it from contamination. The company also has extended existing public water lines, upgraded a mile of Rt. 17 and built five miles of railroad track. These enhancements also will benefit people who live within the area, according to the project manager.

See Also: *Government Organization Subcommittee A & Joint Commission on Economic Development on Page 2.*

Joint Committee on Technology

Tour of Southern West Virginia Community College in Logan, WV

The Joint Standing Committee on Technology toured Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College's Logan Campus, which emphasized the school's utilization of the Internet and related technologies to broaden the reach and effectiveness of their resources and curriculum. Distant Learning programs are bringing both remote instruction to the college and from the college to outlying resource centers. A mobile education, evaluation, and training unit (MEET-U) was showcased, which is a fully networked twelve station



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computer laboratory that can be deployed to businesses, communities and schools for training and education in computer science and software.

Joint Standing Committee on Education

Chapmanville High School Tour

The principal of the new, under-construction Chapmanville High School welcomed lawmakers for a visit of the first regional high school in West Virginia. The merging of Chapmanville High School (CHS) with Lincoln County's Harts High School (HHS) will increase the population of CHS to approximately 700 pupils, of which 170 hail from Lincoln County. While the new high school continues to be under construction, students from HHS will attend CHS until the new facility opens in late 2007.



The new facility was provided \$17.3 million by the State Legislature and the School Building Authority (SBA). Logan County also contributed approximately \$5 million to the state-of-the-art facility. According to the Logan County Superintendent of Schools, the old high school had seen its share of wear and tear; and, with the county's population growing as a result of increased coal production and the expansion of Route 119, a new high school must stand ready to meet the demands of the 21st Century.

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Joint Standing Committee on Education/ LOCEA

Tour of Southern West Virginia Community College in Logan, WV
During the August Interims, members of both the Joint Standing Committee on Education and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability toured the campus of Southern West Virginia Community College in Logan.



The tour, which included presentations from the school's President and several administrators and faculty, detailed the progress and innovations of Southern CC. As noted by the President, the changing economy has placed a higher demand on the need for a technically trained workforce, usually in fields requiring a two-year technical degree. In turn, the jobs requiring these technical skills are paying higher salaries than most fields requiring a four-year degree, according to the school's President.

Understanding the importance of preparing West Virginia students for these high paying technical jobs, Southern CC has been diligent in expanding programs offered, including programs in the allied health field. This Fall, the school will be starting a dental hygiene program, and for the Fall of 2007, the institution hopes to have available other technical programs, including medical assisting and respiratory care.

Following the President's presentation, members of the committee toured the campus, which included a brief demonstration of the school's interactive distance learning classroom. This demonstration included the use of a new technology for nursing students known as SimMan, a patient simulator that offers students the ability to receive simulation education, challenging and testing their clinical and decision-making skills during realistic patient-care scenarios. The simulator, which cost around \$40,000, according to the presenter, is critical to the institution's nursing program because there are

not enough clinical rotations available in hospitals in the area to meet the need of student demand. The presenter informed members the school hopes to receive a birthing simulator to add to their clinical education program.

In addition, members visited the school's Mobile Education, Evaluation, Training Unit (MEET-U), which is a renovated bus that offers a variety of services including basic literacy training, transitional education, career exploration, work skills, assessment testing, and computer training to the public with on-site visits. The unit offers basic General Education Degree (GED) training, as well as significant workforce training options, which include basic and advanced computer skills, computer assisted design, job skills, career interest and career aptitude assistance. The bus offers 12 computer stations and much of the amenities found in most higher education classrooms.

Also included in the tour of Southern CC were the renovated library, a nursing classroom and a demonstration on how the institution is utilizing new audio technology to offer Podcasts of lectures to meet the changing dynamic of student interaction.

Joint Standing Committee on Finance/ LOCEA

Logan Middle School/Public Library Visitation



photo courtesy of Logan Middle School

Lawmakers serving on the two committees visited Logan Middle School and its library, which also serves as the local community's public library, where the school's Vice Principal led them on a tour. After viewing some of the school's highlights, including a technology classroom where students work on broadcasting projects, lawmakers toured the library and spoke with one library representative who explained how it

functions as both an educational and community resource center. She said the transition has worked very well for students and Logan residents.

Joint Standing Committee on Government Organization

Meeting

The Joint Standing Committee on Government Organization heard a report detailing the work of West Virginia school nurses.

A speaker representing school nurses noted among their everyday duties, school nurses must have a broad knowledge base encompassing child health, public health, growth and development, school law and policies, ethical issues and leadership. The speaker provided statistics compiled during the 2004-2005 school year that show some of the health problems school nurses handle.

Through screening programs and assessments school nurses identified and referred more than 70,000 students for health problems. More than 75,000 students reported to school with diagnosed health conditions requiring school nursing services. A majority of those cases, 12,950, were related to asthma. Another 10,389 dealt with medication administration during school hours. Other problems dealt with by school nurses include: Attention Deficit/ Hyperactive Disorder; seizure disorders; heart problems; Diabetes; daily tube feedings; severe allergies; and, breathing treatments.

School nurses also helped develop more than 14,000 individual health care plans and trained more than 12,000 school personnel for specialized health procedures. The speaker said children must be healthy to learn and learn to be healthy, and school nurses are necessary for both.

The speaker asked for the committee's help to better meet the needs of West Virginia's students and to impact the present and future health of West Virginians.

Joint Standing Committee on Pensions & Retirement

Meeting

Oral arguments on the constitutional and legal issues of the merger of the State Teachers' Defined Contribution Plan (TDC) and the State Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) were heard in the Kanawha County Circuit Court on Wednesday, July 26th, according to the Acting Executive Director of the WV Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB) who

addressed the Joint Committee on Pensions and Retirement. The Director told lawmakers the Circuit Court has 30 days, until August 25th, to submit orders and address the non-severability clause. While plaintiffs' counsel expects any decision to be appealed, the CPRB Director is requesting that whenever the case be resolved, the beginning date for the merger be on July 1st for administrative purposes.

With each postponement of the merger, the CPRB Director noted the costs on TDC are beginning to show since investors are pulling their money out of the contribution plan. Lawmakers indicated they would like to see the exact losses, but were told tracking the impact of the withdrawals was not possible since the investments overall were doing well.

In other matters before the committee, lawmakers agreed to review portions of pension tax law in preparation for a proposed Special Session dealing with tax reform, in general, which is predicted to occur in the Fall of 2006.

Described as a "patchwork" of law, tax exemptions vary for some retirees. For instance, state law provides that \$2,000 from the Public Employees Retirement System, TRS, military and federal annuities, retirement allowances, etc. is excluded from income for taxing purposes. However, this is limited to \$2,000 per person, so if a person has benefits from more than one retirement system, he or she may exclude only \$2,000 total.

Another section allows exclusion of \$8,000 income from any source for those over 65-years-old or disabled, but total deductions are limited and some subtractions are taken under earlier exemptions leaving the result as a remainder for the recipients.

Another section provides that retirement income from any West Virginia Police or West Virginia Firemen's retirement system, and from Trooper A, Trooper B and Deputy Sheriff's pensions, is excluded from federal gross income. This would include municipal police and firefighters.

According to committee counsel, the more liberal treatment of municipal police and firefighter pensions survived a challenge by military retirees because the municipal employees did not have social security, and the military retirees did. However, the older federal retirement system, which did not include social security coverage, was closed to new hires in the early 1980s. The new federal system is defined contribution and includes social security.

Pension's and Retirement Committee members concluded the existing nature of pension tax law is exceedingly confusing and subsequently are reviewing a variety of ideas that have been put before them by State Tax Department counsel.

Judiciary Subcommittee A

Meeting

Continuing their review of retail liquor sales on Sundays, lawmakers heard a presentation from a representative of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, which supports lifting the ban on Sunday sales. She said states, including some surrounding West Virginia, that have made the change to allow Sunday sales have seen increases in tax revenues.

She also remarked that West Virginia is losing business to border states, namely Pennsylvania, which has begun targeting advertisements toward West Virginia consumers. By reversing the ban on Sunday sales, according to the Council, the state could see an additional \$1.1 million generated in tax revenue. She recommended the Legislature consider legislation that would give retailers the option of selling liquor on this extra day.

The representative also said the states that now allow Sunday liquor sales have not shown increases in underage drinking or drunk driving, according to the Council.

The Deputy Commissioner of the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration (ABCA) told the committee the ABCA has not taken a position on or talked to the administration about this issue. It was requested that the ABCA appear before the committee during a future meeting to discuss the impact Sunday liquor sales would have, particularly on inspectors. Lawmakers requested representatives of law enforcement to address this topic during a future meeting as well.

Judiciary Subcommittee B

Tour of Equitable Resources natural gas site

Members of Judiciary Subcommittee B visited an oil drilling operation at a site located just outside Logan, West Virginia. The site, operated by Equitable Resources, is a natural gas pipeline that will sit about one mile deep into the ground. The rig used to drill the well utilizes hydraulic technology that allows for a more expeditious drilling process, cutting the time of completion in half.

According to a representative from Equitable Resources, the company prides itself in being environmentally proficient in its work, as well as professional and safe during the drilling process. The representative also stated the employees participating in this specific drilling followed all Department

of Environmental Protection requirements, as well as other state and federal regulations imposed on natural gas drilling projects.



According to its Web site, Equitable Resources is an integrated energy company with emphasis on Appalachian area natural-gas supply, transmission and distribution. The company has two business paths, Equitable Supply and Equitable Utilities. Equitable Supply is the largest natural gas supplier in the Appalachian basin with reserves in excess of two trillion cubic feet. Equitable Utilities includes three integrated divisions: a regulated natural gas distribution operation, an interstate pipeline business, and a non-regulated marketing business for natural gas and natural gas products. The segment's service territory primarily comprises Southwestern Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Equitable Utilities provides gas and gas-related services to more than 270,000 customers.

Judiciary Subcommittee C

Meeting

Lawmakers convened for a brief meeting and, as part of their charge to review advertising for the legal profession, were told information they requested on Kentucky's lawyer advertising program will be mailed to all committee members. In September, the committee hopes to make a recommendation to the Supreme Court regarding what the West Virginia Bar Association presented to the Court pertaining to restrictions on lawyer advertising.

Interim Committee Information

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Judiciary Subcommittee D

Meeting

Convening to review the meetings of the Judiciary subcommittees during this interim period, lawmakers were told Judiciary Subcommittee A heard from a representative of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States regarding Sunday liquor sales; Judiciary Subcommittee B toured an oil and gas operation; and, members of Judiciary Subcommittee C will be reviewing information requested on Kentucky's lawyer advertising program as they continue studying this issue.

Legislative Intern Committee

Meeting

Lawmakers are reviewing Spring semester internship programs offered through the West Virginia Legislature. Five programs offer graduate and undergraduates an opportunity to participate in the legislative process and range from a 12-week stint to a one-week study.

Eligibility requirements and applications are available to interested students via the Legislative Web site: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Educational/Internship/Internship.htm>

To apply to any of the programs, students must submit materials listed by each program to the Legislature's Intern Committee on or before October 31st of 2006. Interviews will be conducted at the State Capitol during November.

LOCEA

See: Joint Standing Committee on Education/LOCEA on Page 4 and Joint Standing Committee on Finance/LOCEA on Page 5.

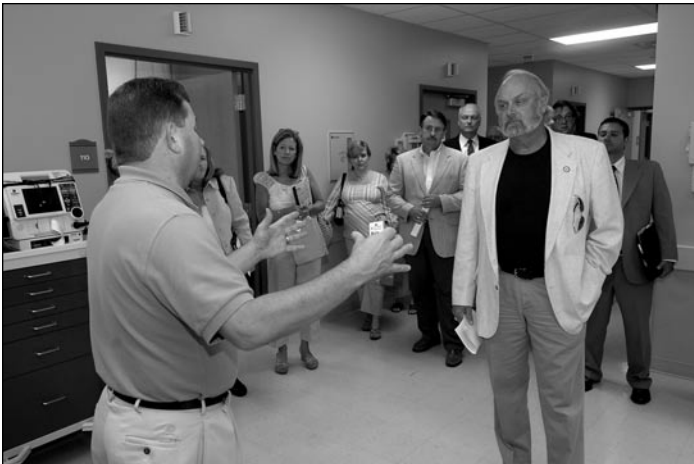
LOCHHRA

Logan General Hospital Tour

Winding through corridors and passages, members of the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability (LOCHHRA) went on a walking tour of the newest renovations of Logan General Hospital.

A new addition has been added to the facility to expand the emergency room and the Women's Center. These renova-

tions include the expansion of a total of 15 new rooms to be used for individual emergency treatment rooms with support areas. Also, the addition of an eight-bed inpatient rehabilitation service will provide in-hospital treatment where none existed before.



The hospital also obtained a fixed MRI, as opposed to its mobile model, allowing services to be expanded from its use from three days a week to seven. An MRI (or magnetic resonance imaging) scan is a radiology technique that uses magnetism, radio waves, and a computer to produce images of body structures. The image and resolution produced by MRI is quite detailed and can detect tiny changes of structures within the body.

Clinical equipment upgrades included advances in the means of patient monitoring, the nurse call and the replacement of some radiology equipment.

Other than patient-related services, the Logan Hospital also has renovated a variety of infrastructure and plant issues, such as air handlers, roof repairs, etc.

Upon concluding the Logan General tour, lawmakers met on the hospital's grounds to hear from the Director of the West Virginia Healthy Kids and Families Coalition and from the State Epidemiologist.

The Director of the WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition provided the legislative committee with a report summarizing the health care experiences of families who receive benefits through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid. Entitled "Experiences in Receiving Health Care by WV CHIP and MEDICAID Families," funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the findings of the study paint an overall positive picture of health care experiences of families receiving CHIP and Medicaid.

Interviews covered 101 families in the Counties of Kanawha, Clay, Boone and Putnam. Some of the questions solicited during the interviews included availability of services, transportation, stigma of public programs, language and literacy barriers, health education and managed care.

However, according to the report, "The findings of this study suggest that West Virginia Medicaid and CHIP are missing opportunities to save dollars and improve quality of care by helping families stay out of the emergency room for non-emergency services."

Some samples offered in the study note that instead of emergency room treatment, many health care problems can be provided by parents, but parents also noted instructions by health care providers can be confusing; and, according to the Director of the Coalition, few families know about or are comfortable with using a nurse hot line through the newly established statewide 211 information and referral system. The Director of the Coalition noted further education efforts were being acted upon to assist West Virginia families using CHIP and Medicaid.

The full report can be located at:

http://www.wvhealthykids.org/downloads/WVHAO_Report.pdf

In its final discussions of the day, LOCHHRA heard from the State Epidemiologist who informed the legislative committee of a health care crisis mounting because of a growing resistance to antibiotics, in line with House Concurrent Resolution 79 (HCR 79).

The resolution called for a comprehensive review of the various issues related to overuse of antibiotics and recommendations for correcting this problem in West Virginia, including, but not limited to:

1. Use of antibiotics for colds, upper respiratory tract infections, bronchitis even though national clinical practice guidelines do not recommend their use for viral infections;
2. Contribution to the problem by patients by asking for antibiotics when they are not needed, or by not completing the entire course of antibiotics prescribed;
3. The effect on West Virginia hospital stays caused by antibiotic overuse; and,
4. Recommendations for the Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), hospitals, health care providers, managed care plans and pharmaceutical companies to work together to develop an educational campaign to prevent the spread of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms in West Virginia.

The State Epidemiologist distributed a variety of educational materials developed by the DHHR, Bureau for Public Health,

Division of Surveillance and Disease Control, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program and the Center For Disease Control and Prevention.

Lawmakers were provided information regarding measures that could be taken for preventing staphylococcal skin infections among sports participants; guidelines for management of cough illness and bronchitis; and, commonly asked questions by patients to doctors. All of the material warned patients to resist antibiotics if they have a viral infection as opposed to a bacterial infection. Antibiotics cannot help to cure a virus, such as a cough or cold. Nor do they make a person feel better sooner, according to the antibiotic experts.

The Epidemiologist told lawmakers the Board of Public Health was considering a survey of physicians regarding their approach to prescribing antibiotics but a hospital study was logistically unsound, according to the DHHR.

The spokeswoman did suggest convening a panel of special awareness “stakeholders” from the health departments, Public Employees Insurance Agency, West Virginia’s infectious disease center, school nurses and others who are directly involved with patients or people who are prescribed antibiotics.

Legislative Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority

Meeting

As part of their continuing commitment to review West Virginia’s correctional system, lawmakers met and first heard from the Executive Director of the Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, who provided an update on the state’s correctional centers.

Among the highlights made, she said the Lakin Correctional Center for Women’s dormitory project is approximately 98 percent complete; the Huttonsville Correctional Center project is approximately 86 percent complete; and, the Johnston School at the Salem Juvenile Detention Center is 49 percent complete. The Executive Director also mentioned the inmate death that occurred at the Eastern Regional Jail in Martinsburg on July 17, 2006. She said the incident is currently under investigation by the West Virginia State Police and an investigator from the Authority.

The Commissioner of the West Virginia Division of Corrections (DOC) then spoke to lawmakers, first about the state’s inmate population. The DOC and Criminal Justice Services have updated the population forecast, with the current population standing at more than 5,400 inmates.

The Commissioner also requested the legislative body to consider providing an across-the-board salary increase for all DOC employees and allowing them to retire within 25 years of service. It was noted in information provided to the committee that the state is losing Corrections employees to federal facilities, which offer starting salaries at approximately \$6,000 higher than those who work for the DOC.

He closed by highlighting the need for a new training academy, since the current one located in Montgomery has deteriorated. Lawmakers were told the DOC, in collaboration with the Regional Jail Authority and Division of Juvenile Services, is exploring training initiatives and discussing building or constructing a new academy.

The final speaker was the Southern District Parole Supervisor, who gave a presentation on probation and parole in West Virginia. Explaining the difference between the two, he said probation is “a court-order placing an offender under the control, supervision, and care of a probation officer in lieu of imprisonment, as long as the probationer meets certain standards of conduct,” while parole is defined as a “term of conditional supervised release following a prison term.” This can be authorized by a parole board decision or by mandatory conditional release.

Noting the cost-effectiveness of community supervision, he told lawmakers that at the end of 2004, more than 2.2 million offenders were incarcerated in the United States at an approximate daily cost of \$62, or more than \$137 million. In that same year, nearly five million adults were being supervised in the community at an average daily cost of less than \$5, or more than \$24 million.

Select Committee B - Minority Issues

Tour of Aracoma High School

During the years in which segregation was a common practice within the American educational system, Aracoma High School, located in the Village of Aracoma in Logan County, was one of more than 30 all-black high schools in West Virginia. Members of Select Committee B toured the old Aracoma School, which has been recognized by the Logan County Commission as an historical landmark.

The President of the Aracoma High School Historical Society detailed the history of the school, which was established in 1923 as a two-year high school for black citizens. In 1929, the school became a six-year institution and remained as such until its closing in 1962. The mission of the Society, which was established in 1998, is to preserve the historical value

of the school and of its successes in educating young black residents of Logan County. It is the representative's hope that the building can be used for additional community purposes, including a Boys and Girls Club or other community center.



In addition, the representative noted that each year former graduates and their families gather for a high school reunion. Every three years the reunion is held in Logan County, but the representative said he would like to renovate the building so the reunion could be held in West Virginia each year. Currently, different cities across the country, including Los Angeles and Detroit, host the Aracoma High School reunion.

Members also took a brief tour of the facility, including the Aracoma High School Sports Hall of Fame. The representative stated that Aracoma High School is the only school in Logan County to win a state football championship, doing so twice in back-to-back years (1948 and 1949).

Bill Status

For bill history information and full bill text of all Legislation from the 2006 Regular Session, please go to the West Virginia Legislature's Web site: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us> and select the "Bill Status" link.

2006 - 2007

Interim Committee Meeting Dates

August 6 - 8 (Chief Logan State Park)

September 11 - 13

October 15 - 17

November 13 - 15

December 10 - 12

January 7 - 9, 2007

Note: All dates are subject to change.

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