

## COMMITTEE MINUTES for GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

**Date:** February 17, 2010

**Place:** Legislative Dining Room

**Convened:** 2/17/2010  
10:15 AM

**Recessed:**

**Reconvened:**

**Adjourned:** 2/17/2010  
11:10 AM

**Present:** Senators Olive-CH, Courtney-VC, Wieck  
Representatives Lensing-CH, Ford-VC, Watts-RM, Baudler, Berry, Olson, S., Sorenson,  
Whitehead

**Absent:** None

**Excused:** Senators Ward-RM, Soddors  
Representative Swaim

Representative Lensing called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. Roll call was taken. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Representative Lensing introduced Mr. William Angrick, Ombudsman from the Office of Citizen's Aide/Ombudsman. Mr. Angrick presented an Annual Update.

In Mr. Angrick's report he stated that his staff has seen an increase in contacts in 2009, most notably in the areas of Iowa Workforce Development, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Iowa Department of Revenue, and the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Angrick provided the committee with a sampling of observations and casework. In the case of Public Records and Open Meetings violations, he noted that many times it is a matter of educating local officials on laws through casework and workshops, but in many other cases seem intentional. The Ombudsman's office is committed to referring those cases for prosecution.

Another area of investigation addresses official misconduct. Mr. Angrick sited one case in which a city official misused city equipment. The matter was referred to the local county attorney for his consideration of prosecution.

Mr. Angrick spoke about court-ordered restitution, work-release waiting lists, and gradual release codes as part of the section of his report regarding inmate issues. The last item in the report addressed the lack of funding for community based mental health services. He recommended and encouraged consideration of how Iowa can improve these services and support development in this area.

The report addressed the unintended impact of reducing supervisors and emphasized that especially in the case of the safety of children, more and better supervision is absolutely vital. Mr. Angrick urged allowances in variation and flexibility in any legislation on a "span of control" policy.

Finally, Mr. Angrick gave several proposals for 2010 legislation. They include: policing of retailer fraud by the Iowa Lottery (SSB 3091 and HSB 578) housing grants to military service members (SF 2019 and HF 2055), time frames for contested-case hearings and decisions in child and dependent adult abuse appeals (HF 2223) and prisoners' visits with minors (HF 696).

Representative Lensing opened the floor for questions and discussion followed.

Representative Baudler moved to arise and the committee was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

---

Representative Vicki S. Lensing

---

Patricia Van Cleave, Committee Secretary