

Research, Measurement, and Evaluation Committee

Thursday, July 30, 2015

2:30 p.m.

IMRP Conference Room, Downtown Campus

Central Connecticut State University

New Britain, CT 06051

Members Present: Atty. Thomas Ullmann (Co-Chair), Brian Hill (for Stephen Grant), Atty. Robert Farr, Linda Frisman, Vilmaris Diaz-Doran, Thomas Kulhawik, and Michael Norko.

Also Participating: Andrew Clark (Acting Executive Director) and Madonna Burns.

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:33 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF June 25th, 2015

The minutes from the 6.25.15 meeting were reviewed and approved as amended by all members voting.

III. UPDATE: Assessment of Correctional Education in Connecticut

Atty. Thomas Ullmann welcomed Thomas Kulhawik to the Research Committee. Atty. Ullmann updated the committee on his recent communications with the Department of Correction (DOC) regarding correctional education. A meeting will be scheduled before the end of August to discuss this assessment in further detail.

IV. Update: Evidence Based Sentencing RFP

Linda Frisman updated the committee on the proposed study regarding evidence-based sentencing. The study would involve collecting and merging DOC and the judicial branch data.

Andrew Clark suggested that the Commission issue a call for researchers in lieu of pursuing the formal RFP process. Mr. Clark explained that the invitation could be distributed on a national level and applications could be thoroughly vetted without having to pursue the formal, and often burdensome, RFP process.

Attorney Ullmann moved that “the research committee work with commission staff to create and distribute a proposal regarding the study of evidence-based sentencing in Connecticut for

consideration by the Sentencing Commission at its September meeting". The motion was adopted unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION: Study of Mandatory Minimums

Attorney Ullmann provided the committee with background information on the study.

Vilmaris Diaz-Doran provided a summary of her findings regarding the use of mandatory minimums in Connecticut. Ms. Diaz-Doran presented the charging data that she had obtained from the Judicial Branch. The dataset encompasses all charges filed during the year 2014 under a statute that carried a mandatory minimum sentence. The committee decided to work with this dataset to produce a detailed report on the imposition of mandatory minimum sentencing in Connecticut.

VI. UPDATE: Diversionary Programs and First Time Offenders

Brian Hill reported that the Court Support Services Division has the information necessary to determine the total number of first time offenders disqualified from entering into diversionary programs. Mr. Hill noted that the term "first time offender" would need to be defined before any data could be collected.

Attorney Ullmann suggested that the committee define "First Time Offender" as an individual with no prior convictions for initial review purposes. Mr. Hill agreed to report back to the committee with data that utilizes this definition.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting of the Research Committee will be held on September 2nd at 2:30 p.m. in New Britain. No other business was addressed.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNED

Attorney Ullmann adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:59 p.m.