

Connecticut Sentencing Commission
Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Subcommittee Meeting

Monday, June 27th

3:00– 4:15 PM

Via Zoom

Minutes

Members Present: Anna Van Cleave (chair), Judge Robin Pavia, Michael Norko, Jennifer Zito, Deborah Sullivan, Bryan Sperry, Angel Quiros, Melanie Dykas

Staff: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Chloe Dysart, Sandy Sawwan, Cade Lewis, Gwen Ross

Guests:

I. MEETING CONVENED

Anna VanCleave convened the meeting at 3:04 P.M.

II. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alex Tsarkov provided an update on the Commission’s proposal to the General Assembly:

- *An Act Concerning Sex Offender Registry*
- *An Act Restoring the Right to Vote*
- *SB 425, An Act Concerning Sentence Modification*
- *Cost of Incarceration provisions (§§ 461-462) in HB 5506, An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023, Concerning Provisions Related to Revenue, School Construction and Other Items to Implement the State Budget and Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds for the State.*

III. TEN PERCENT CASH BONDS

Alex Tsarkov presented data on utilization of the ten percent cash bonds at police departments and arraignment.

Bryan Sperry offered to present updated data to the subcommittee.

Members discussed options to build on the recent success of the implementation of the ten percent cash bonds. These options include but are not limited to raising the \$20,000 bond

threshold that allows defendants an automatic option to post ten percent with the court and reducing the percentage of the bond required to post through ten percent cash bonds.

Deborah Sullivan suggested an education component that would make literature available to the public, either at the courthouse or the clerk's office on the availability of the ten percent cash option.

IV. TRAFFICKING STATUTE

Members discussed Representative Gilchrest's request to examine the trafficking statute in Connecticut as it compares to the federal trafficking statute. A memo will be presented at the next meeting with more research.

V. FELONY MURDER

Members discussed comparing Connecticut's felony murder statute to felony murder statutes in other jurisdictions.

VI. MANDATORY MINIMUMS

The subcommittee discussed drafting a memo that outlines mandatory minimums sentences in Connecticut and whether judges can depart on those minimums. The committee will also look at developments in other states.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Jennifer Zito drew attention to young people and juveniles who are charged in adult court.

Deborah Sullivan raised the issue of police interviews of people under 18 for the purposes of admissibility in court.

Judge Pavia raised the idea of looking into issues of special parole. Judge Pavia also brought up the idea of looking into the Connecticut narcotic statutes.

Judge Pavia recommended that the Commission look further into mental health issues among defendants in the criminal justice system.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNED

Anna Van Cleave adjourned the meeting at 4:15 P.M. The next meeting of the subcommittee will take place on July 25th at 1:30 P.M.

