

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, September 14th, 2022

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Robin Pavia (Chair), Angel Quiros, Anna VanCleave, Carleton Giles, Gary Roberge, Jennifer Zito, Marc Pelka, Margaret Kelly, Michael Norko (of behalf of Commissioner Navarretta), Patrick Carroll, Patrick Griffin, Sarah Russell, Scott Sansom, TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Vernon Oliver

Staff: Alex Tsarkov, Van Augur, Chloe Dysart, Andrew Clark

Guests: Richard Schwermer, CT-N, Kyle Baudoin, Lisa Stevens, Patricia O'Rourke, Richard Sparaco, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, WTNH

I. MEETING CONVENED

Judge Pavia called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 5.25.2022 MEETING

Commissioner Zito moved to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Kelly seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

III. NATIONAL JUDICIAL TASK FORCE TO EXAMINE STATE COURTS' RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS

Richard Schwermer from the National Center for State Courts presented on the work of the National Judicial Task Force to examine state courts' response to mental illness. Judge Pavia, Commissioner Zito, and Michael Norko asked questions about implementation strategies, examples of diversion, the implications of violating civil confinement arrangements, and competency to stand trial referrals in Connecticut .

IV. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND SENTENCING SUBCOMMITTEE

Commissioner VanCleave provided an update on the work of the subcommittee. She highlighted the subcommittee's work on 10% cash bonds, felony murder doctrine, human trafficking statutes, and minimum mandatory sentences.

V. INCARCERATION AND COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Alex Tsarkov provided an update on the subcommittee's work with respect to Compassionate Parole, Medical Parole, and Public Act 15-84 parole hearings.

VI. ANIMAL CRUELTY STATUTES WORKING GROUP

Judge Oliver provided an update on the working group's efforts to study the state's animal cruelty statutes. Commissioner Pelka inquired about the availability of mental health evaluations and diversionary opportunities for those charged with animal cruelty offenses. Members discussed the possibility of diversion for animal cruelty under Accelerated Rehabilitation or the Supervised Diversionary Program.

VII. OTHER UPDATES

Mental Health Study

Alex Tsarkov provided an update on the Commission's upcoming mental health report. Alex Tsarkov and Judge Pavia asked the Commission to explore ways to expend additional resources in mental health related areas. Commissioner Pelka inquired if the extra mental health study funding could be used in exploring certain diversionary areas that Richard Schwermer discussed earlier in the meeting.

Sentencing Commission Symposium

Alex Tsarkov and Judge Pavia discussed the Commission's upcoming symposium at UConn Law on November 17.

VIII. ADJOURNED

Judge Pavia adjourned the meeting at 3:23 P.M.