

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## Mental Health Subcommittee

Thursday, February 9, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Via Zoom

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Vernon Oliver (Subcommittee Co-chair), Jennifer Zito (Subcommittee Co-chair), Robin Pavia (Commission Chair), John Santa, Angel Quiros, Gary Roberge, Michael Norko, Michael Chase, Jan Walker, Maurice Reaves, Tom Canny, Kevin Lawlor, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

**Staff:** Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Van Augur, Andrew Clark, Patricia O'Rourke, Louise Nadeau

**Also in Attendance:** Richard A. Robinson, Benjamin Howell, Reena Kapoor, Beth Hines, Hsiu-Ju Lin, Marc Pelka, Rich Sparaco, Viviana Alvarez-Toro, Melissa Farley, Elizabeth A. Bozzuto

#### I. MEETING CONVENED

Judge Pavia convened the meeting at 1:05 PM.

#### II. CHIEF JUSTICE RICHARD A. ROBINSON – OPENING REMARKS

Judge Oliver introduced Chief Justice Robinson, Executive Committee member and Co-chair of the Criminal Justice Work Group for the National Judicial Task Force to Examine State Courts Response to Mental Illness (National Task Force).

Chief Justice Robinson discussed the critical nature of addressing the complexities of mental health and the court system, referencing work already being done in the state and challenges that remain. Robinson recommended that committee members read the October 2022 report of the National Task Force.

#### III. MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS IN CONNECTICUT'S INCARCERATED POPULATION REPORT

Dr. Reena Kapoor, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine presented highlights from the report which will be presented to the full Commission at the upcoming March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting for adoption.

#### IV. 2023 PROPOSED STUDY SCOPE EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION TREATMENT USE IN INDIVIDUALS FOLLOWING RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION OR ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Dr. Benjamin Howell, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, representing a team of researchers, provided an overview of the draft study scope for the subcommittee's consideration and questions.

#### V. OTHER ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The subcommittee continued discussion of potential areas for consider study scope, including experience of re-entry service providers, diversion, pretrial programs, and probation.

#### VI. ADJOURNED

Judge Oliver adjourned the meeting at 2:20 P.M.

The next meeting will take place virtually on April 4, 2023.