

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 23rd, 2023

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Via Zoom

### MINUTES

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

**Staff:** Alex Tsarkov, Andrew Clark, Patricia O'Rourke, Van Augur, Olivia Jones

**Guests:** Richard Wilson, Amy Lin Meyerson, Dr. Reena Kapoor, Dr. Viviana Alvarez-Toro, Sen. Cathy Osten

#### I. MEETING CONVENED

Meeting convened at 2:02 pm.

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 1.3.2023 MEETING

Carleton Giles moved to approve the minutes. John Santa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### III. REQUEST FROM THE CONNECTICUT HATE CRIMES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Amy Lin Meyerson, co-chair of the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council and Richard Wilson of the University of Connecticut School of Law presented on the Council's request to the Sentencing Commission on hate crimes statutes.

#### IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alex Tsarkov provided updates on pending legislation including: SB 1060, *An Act Concerning the Appointment of an Advocate in Proceedings Concerning the Welfare or Custody of Animals*; HB 6714, *An Act Concerning Cruelty to Animals*; SB 952, *An Act Concerning Parole Eligibility for an Individual Serving a Lengthy Sentence for a Crime Committed Before the Individual Reached the Age of Twenty-Five*; SB 6917, *An Act Concerning Various Revisions to the Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Statutes*; HB 5702, *An Act Allowing Incarcerated Individuals to Vote*; HB 5001, *An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability*; and HJ 261 *Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Revise Requirements Relating to the Offering of Bail or Pretrial Release to Persons Accused of a Crime*.

V. TEN PERCENT CASH BAIL PROPOSAL

Judge Pavia and Alex Tsarkov reviewed the ten percent cash bail proposal from the Sentencing Commission to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court.

VI. MENTAL HEALTH STUDY

Dr. Reena Kapoor, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Yale School of Medicine, gave a presentation on the 2022 Report on Mental Health Disorders in Connecticut's Incarcerated Population. The presentation focused on the prevalence of mental health and substance abuse needs and treatment in the Department of Correction incarcerated population. Senator Osten discussed the importance of the study.

VII. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Jennifer Zito moved to approve the annual report. Seconded by Judge Oliver. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Criminal Procedure and Sentencing

Anna VanCleave gave an update on the next meeting of the subcommittee. Members plan to take on items related to minimum mandatory sentences, felony murder, human trafficking and the persistent felony offender statute.

Mental Health Subcommittee

Jennifer Zito discussed the Subcommittee's upcoming trip to Miami in May to learn more about the nationally renowned Miami Model of jail diversion. The subcommittee recommended that all Commission members read the report by the National Judicial Taskforce to Examine State Courts Response to Mental Illness.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming Sentencing Commission full meetings are set for May 25, September 28, and November 21, 2023. There is a public hearing of the Rules Committee of the Superior Court on May 8, 2023 where the Ten Percent Cash Bail proposal will be discussed.

X. CONCLUDED

Judge Pavia concluded the meeting at 3:29 p.m.