

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 28th, 2023

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Legislative Office Building, Room 2B

MINUTES

Members Present: Robin Pavia (Chair), John Santa (Vice Chair), Michael Chase, Michael Gailor, Jennifer Zito, Natasha Pierre, Joe Garabaldi (on behalf of Jennifer Zaccagnini), Gary Roberge, Steve Tavares, Marc Pelka, Gerald Harmon, Chris Burke (on behalf of Nancy Navarretta), William Dyson, TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Gerald Harmon, and Anna VanCleave.

Staff: Alex Tsarkov, Andrew Clark, Patricia O'Rourke, Ava Caudle, Colin Rosadino, and Olivia Jones.

Guests: Rep. Steve Stafstrom, Sukhmani Singh, Josh Adler, Vaughn Crichlow, Sachin Pandya, Fernando Valenzuela and Benjamin Howell.

I. MEETING CONVENED

Meeting convened at 2:07 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Rep. Steve Stafstrom welcomed members at the Legislative Office Building and thanked members for their work. Rep. Stafstrom asked members of the Commission to work in areas of pretrial justice and compassionate parole for the upcoming legislative session.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 5.25.2023 MEETING

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Alex Tsarkov provided legislative update on the Commission's proposals during the 2023 legislative session in areas of minimum mandatory sentencing, juvenile parole, and animal cruelty. HB 5001, An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability, contains language that would have the Commission study the experience of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system. The Commission is to produce a report to the committees of cognizance by Dec. 31, 2025.

V. TEN (SEVEN) PERCENT CASH BAIL PROPOSAL

Judge Pavia and Alex Tsarkov shared developments on the ten (seven) percent cash bail proposal from the Sentencing Commission to the Rules Committee of the Superior Court.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- Public Act 15-84
 - Dr. Sukhmani Singh, UConn School of Social Work, and Josh Adler presented on the partnership to study Public Act 15-84 outcomes.
- Sentencing Commission database
 - Dr. Vaughn Crichlow, IMRP, UConn School of Public Policy, and Sachin Pandya, University of Connecticut School of Law, presented on the development of the statewide sentencing database.

VII. GERMANY JUSTICE EXCHANGE

Postponed until the next meeting.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Incarceration and Collateral Consequences of Incarceration

Vice-Chair John Santa discussed compassionate and medical parole, and housing barriers for formerly incarcerated people.

- Criminal Procedure and Sentencing

Judge Pavia reviewed the Subcommittee's top priorities of hate crimes statutes, pretrial justice, human trafficking, and felony murder.

- Mental Health

Judge Harmon provided updates on the mental health study.

Meeting concluded at 3:52 p.m.

Additional Updates:

- November 16, 8:30-4:30pm - Symposium at the University of Connecticut School of Law
- November 21st, 2-3:30pm – Full Commission meeting