

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Mental Health Subcommittee

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Gerald Harmon (Subcommittee Co-chair), Jennifer Zito (Subcommittee Co-chair), John Santa, Gary Roberge, Jan Walker, Tom Canny, Kevin Lawlor, William O’Connor, Michael Norko, Reena Kapoor

Staff: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Patricia O’Rourke, Colin Rosadino

Also in Attendance: Kirk Lowry, Kathy Flaherty, Benjamin Howell, Diane Sierpina, Vaughn Crichlow, Marc Pelka, Chris Burke

I. Meeting Convened - Judge Harmon convened the meeting at 1:05 PM

II. June 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes Approved

III. Guest speakers from the Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc.: Kathy Flaherty, Executive Director, and Kirk Lowry, Legal Director, shared about their work and issues of concern related to the Competency to Stand Trial process in Connecticut.

IV. Mental Health Study Scope and Projects

- Judge Harmon provided a general update on current projects related to diversion and competency to stand trial.
- Dr. Benjamin Howell, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Yale School of Medicine, representing a team of researchers, provided an update on the Yale SEICHE Center Study - Evaluation of community mental health and addiction treatment use in individuals following release from incarceration or on community supervision, Connecticut, 2018-2022.

V. Planning for November 16, 2023 Sentencing Commission Symposium – Alex Tsarkov provided an update and invited input from Commission members.

VI. Upcoming Meetings – the scheduling of the next Subcommittee meeting in September was discussed, and the next full Commission meeting, September 28th, 2:00-3:30, was announced.

VII. ADJOURNED - Judge Harmon adjourned the meeting at 2:05 P.M.