

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## Mental Health Subcommittee

Thursday, December 14, 1:00-2:30pm

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Gerald Harmon (Subcommittee Co-chair), Jennifer Zito (Subcommittee Co-chair), Gary Roberge, Kevin Lawlor, William O'Connor, Reena Kapoor, Robin Pavia, Maurice Reaves

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

**Also in Attendance:** Thomas Burr, Sen. Catherine Osten, Vaughn Crichlow, Marc Pelka, Chris Burke

- **Meeting convened** - Atty. Jennifer Zito convened the meeting at 1:05 PM
- **September 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes Approved**
- **2024 Legislative Proposals**
  - **An Act Concerning Competency to Stand Trial**
  - **An Act Concerning Pretrial Supervised Diversionary Program**

Alex Tsarkov presented the draft legislative proposals for discussion.

- **Diversionary Programs** - Guest speaker, Chris Burke, LCSW, LACD, Assistant Director of Forensic Services at Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) provided an overview of DMHAS diversionary programs.
- **NAMI CT Legislative Proposal: Peer-run Respite** – Guest speaker, Thomas Burr, Public Policy and Affiliate Relations Manager, Connecticut Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Connecticut, Inc.)
- **Other Business**
  - **Yale SEICHE Center Study Update**

Dr. Benjamin Howell provided an update on the study to evaluate community mental health and addiction treatment use in individuals following release from incarceration or on community supervision, Connecticut, 2018-2022

- **November 16<sup>th</sup> Symposium**

Atty. Zito thanked everyone who contributed to the event and provided feedback through the survey. Attendees were reminded that any additional comments would still be welcome and could be directed to Alex Tsarkov or Patricia O'Rourke.

- **Upcoming Meetings**

- i. **Full Sentencing Commission meeting, Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:00-3:30**

It was mentioned that the timing and location (in-person or virtual) of this meeting were still uncertain.

- ii. **Mental Health Subcommittee meeting, Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00-2:30**

- **Meeting Adjourned**