

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024

2:00 – 3:30 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Robin Pavia (Chair), John Santa (Vice Chair), Michael Chase, Jennifer Medina Zaccagnini, Gary Roberge, Steve Tavares, Gerald Harmon, Reena Kapoor (on behalf of Nancy Navarretta), Patrick Griffin, William Dyson, Angel Quiros, Maurice Reaves, Michael Gailor, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan (on behalf of the Chief Public Defender), Subira Gordon, Elizabeth Bozzuto, Daniel Karpowitz, and Anna VanCleave.

Staff: Alex Tsarkov, Andrew Clark, Rich Sparaco, Tommy Dowd, Patricia O'Rourke, Irvine Peck's-Agaya, and Vaughn Crichlow

Guests: Deborah Dorfman and Martin Cronin

I. MEETING CONVENED

- Judge Robin Pavia convened the meeting at 2:03 p.m.
- Daniel Karpowitz, the new Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Undersecretary at the Office of Policy and Management, introduced himself to Commission members.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 1.25.2024 MEETING

- The meeting minutes from the 1.25.2024 meeting were approved.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Alex Tsarkov provided an update on Commission's proposals to the General Assembly. The proposal on medical parole was not raised by the Judiciary Committee. The Commission's proposals on competency to stand trial (Sec. 8 and Sec. 9) and the supervised diversionary program for people with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder (Sec. 3) were raised as part of HB 5500, AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO VARIOUS LAWS CONCERNING IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SALARIES AND CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.
- Members discussed the constitutional amendment on bail before the Judiciary Committee.

IV. JUDGE MARTIN CRONIN'S VISIT TO CONNECTICUT

- New Jersey retired Judge Martin Cronin reflected on his recent visit to Connecticut. Judge Cronin will work with Commission members and staff to assist with the report on pretrial justice.

V. GUEST SPEAKER: DEBORAH DORFMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DISABILITY RIGHTS CONNECTICUT

- Deborah Dorfman, Executive Director of Disability Rights Connecticut, presented on intellectual disabilities (ID), developmental disabilities (DD), and autism spectrum disorders (ASD) in the criminal justice system. The presentation topics included prevalence of ID, DD, and ASD in the justice system, systemic issues that lead to an overrepresentation of individuals with ID, DD, and ASD in the justice system, harms of incarceration for individuals with ID, DD, and ASD, and potential systemic remedies.
- The presentation represents an early stage of research for Commission's study of the experience of people with IDD and in the criminal justice system per [Public Act 23-137](#). Under the Act, the study must include (1) incarceration rates of people with IDD and ASD compared to their overall population in the state, (2) the advisability and cost of pre-sentencing behavioral assessments, and (3) other states' best practices. The Sentencing Commission must produce its report to the General Assembly committees of cognizance by December 31, 2025.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- Judge Harmon updated the activities of the Mental Health Subcommittee. The subcommittee has developed two legislative proposals currently pending before the Judiciary Committee. Commission staff and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services staff are continuing to work collaboratively on the competency to stand trial report that will be presented to the full Commission.
- Michael Chase updated the activities of the Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has been focused on the foundation for the pretrial justice report. The Subcommittee hosted a number of presentations from practitioners and policy leaders from other jurisdictions that moved towards an intentional pretrial release and detention system.

VII. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SENTENCING COMMISSIONS CONFERENCE

- The National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference will be held on August 6-8 in North Carolina.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- Judge Robin Pavia concluded the meeting at 3:20 p.m.
- 2024 Sentencing Commission meetings:
 - May 16, 2024
 - September 12, 2024
 - November 14, 2024
 - December 12, 2024