

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Mental Health Subcommittee

Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 1:00-2:30pm

MINUTES

Members Present: Gerald Harmon (Subcommittee Co-chair), Gary Roberge, Kevin Lawlor, William O'Connor, Robin Pavia, John Santa, Janet Walker, Thomas Canny

Staff: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Patricia O'Rourke, Josephine Burke, Matthew Hono, Christian Isodoro, Marisol Garcia

Also in Attendance: Thomas Burr, Ben Howell, Denise Paley, Sen. Catherine Osten, Michael Whilby, Kathy Flaherty, Deborah Dorfman, William Halsey

- **Meeting convened** – Judge Harmon convened the meeting at 1:04 PM
- **March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes Approved**
- **Intellectual Disability in the Criminal Justice System: Initial Research Findings.** Guest speakers Professor Marisol Orihuela, Alexandra Melishkevich, and Ruth Tomlin.
 - Introduction to the work of the clinic and update on collaboration with students and staff to support the Commission's evolving work on the experience of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system.
- **Legislative Agenda**
 - **2024 Commission Proposals** – Alex Tsarkov provided an update on the final results of the 2024 session.
 - i. **An Act Concerning Competency to Stand Trial**
 - ii. **An Act Concerning Pretrial Supervised Diversionary Program**
 - **Other Bills of Interest**
 - i. **NAMI CT Legislative Agenda Update** -Thomas Burr, Public Policy and Affiliate Relations Manager, provide an update.
 - ii. **Other**, Sen. Catherine Osten addressed the committee about concerns related to SB1.
- **Mental Health Study Research Updates**
 - **Research Interns and Part-time Staff Introductions** Patricia O'Rourke introduced Matthew Hono, Christian Isodoro, Josephine Burke, Marisol Garcia, and Olivia Corley (not in attendance)

- **National Research Framework for Decriminalizing Mental Illness, Sozosei Summit Update.** Patricia O'Rourke provided members with an overview of the Sozosei Foundation's work on decriminalizing mental illness and the April 2024 Summit.
- **Forthcoming 2024 Reports.** Patricia O'Rourke provided an update on the status of these reports.
 - i. **Competency to Stand Trial in Connecticut**
 - ii. **Mental Health Diversionary Programs**
 - iii. **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder – Study Scope.** Deborah Dorfman, Executive Director, Disability Rights Connecticut, provided an update on the development of the study scope.
- **Yale SEICHE Center Study Update - Evaluation of community mental health and addiction treatment use in individuals following release from incarceration or on community supervision, Connecticut, 2018-2022.** Dr. Ben Howell provided an update on the status of the study.

- **New Requests and Ideas for Consideration** – Sen. Osten provided additional information about the sections of SB1 of concern regarding potential impacts on pathways to reentry for incarcerated individuals with mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs.

- **Meeting Adjourned 2:25 pm**