

## Steering Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 2:00 PM

**Members Present:** Judge Pavia (chair), John Santa (vice-chair), Michael Gailor, Deborah Sullivan, Judge Harmon, Daniel Karpowitz, Lisa D'Angelo, Judge Bozzuto.

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

### I. MEETING CONVENED

- Judge Pavia convened the meeting at 2:03pm.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 1.17.2024 MEETING

- Minutes from the 1.17.2024 meeting were approved.
- Deborah Sullivan and Elizabeth Bozzuto abstained because they were not present at the last meeting.

### III. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- Members of the Steering Committee introduced themselves.
- Judge Pavia highlighted efforts to re-examine membership of the Steering Committee, and formally invited subcommittee chairs to join the Steering Committee.

### IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Alex Tsarkov provided the legislative update.
- The Commission initially proposed three bills in the 2024 legislative session, regarding (1) medical parole, (2) diversionary programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and (3) the competency to stand trial process.
  - The proposal on medical parole was not raised for a public hearing by the Judiciary Committee.
  - The diversionary program and competency to stand trial proposals were raised by the Judiciary Committee, and were ultimately included 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*. HB 5500 was passed by the State House and the State Senate and was signed by the Governor.
- The Commission also provided testimony on the state constitutional amendment regarding pretrial detention. House Joint Resolution 171 was approved by the

Judiciary Committee and Government Administration and Elections Committee but was not taken up by the State House of Representatives.

#### V. DELEGATION SITE VISIT TO D.C.

- The Commission is planning a two-day site visit to Washington DC to learn from their pretrial justice system.
- The site visit was initially planned for June but will now take place in September.

#### VI. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mental Health Subcommittee - Judge Harmon provided an update on the work of the Subcommittee. Progress is being made on several research initiatives:

- Study on individuals with mental illness reentering community
- Competency to Stand Trial – report expected this year
- Mental health diversionary programs – report expected this year
- Study on the experience of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the criminal justice system per Public Act 23-137, *An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability*. Commission Staff are partnering with Debbie Dorfman of Disability Rights Connecticut on the study. Commission report is due to the General Assembly by December 31, 2025.
- Patricia O'Rourke attended a conference in April 2024 on decriminalizing mental illness.

Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Subcommittee – Mike Gailor provided the update on the work of the subcommittee.

- Pretrial justice remains the focus for the Subcommittee
  - Progress is being made on the background sections of the pretrial justice report. Commission staff continue to work with Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division to obtain data for the report to the General Assembly.
  - The subcommittee recently hosted presentations from stakeholders in New Mexico and Illinois to learn more about pretrial reforms in their jurisdictions.
- The Subcommittee continues to work on reports on hate crime statutes and human trafficking. The Subcommittee is forming a small group to start discussing potential statutory recommendations on hate crime statutes.

#### VII. NEW REQUEST FROM REP. STAFSTROM AND REP. ALLIE-BRENNAN

- Judge Pavia discussed the new request to the Commission from Rep. Stafstrom and Rep. Allie-Brennan to analyze sentencing outcomes for domestic violence related murder.
- Rep. Allie-Brennan will speak at the Commission meeting next week to provide more information.

#### VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- Alex Tsarkov solicited ideas from members on topics for the fall symposium on pretrial justice.
- The Sentencing Commission is meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> in-person at the Legislative Office Building.
- Judge Pavia adjourned the meeting at 2:33pm.

#### **2024 Steering Committee Meetings:**

September 5, 2024

November 7, 2024

December 5, 2024

#### **2024 Sentencing Commission Meetings:**

May 16, 2024

September 26, 2024

November 14, 2024

December 12, 2024