

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Mental Health Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 1:00-2:30pm

MINUTES

Members Present: Gerald Harmon (Subcommittee Co-chair), Jennifer Zito (Subcommittee Co-chair), Robin Pavia, Gary Roberge, Kevin Lawlor, Robin Pavia, John Santa, Thomas Canny, Angel Quiros, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Maurice Reaves

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

Guest Speakers: Jeri Thuku, MPH, School and Justice Initiatives Program Manager, The American Psychiatric Association Foundation; Judge Karen A. Goodrow, New London Judicial District Superior Court in Connecticut; Dr. Marina Nakic, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Law and Psychiatry Division, Yale School of Medicine and VA Connecticut Healthcare System; Judge Dawne G. Westbrook, Connecticut Appellate Court; Dr. Reena Kapoor, MD, Director of Forensic Services, Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Also in Attendance: Sen. Catherine Osten, Michael Whilby, Kathy Flaherty, Deborah Dorfman, Kathryn Thomas, Kate Berg

- **Meeting convened** – Atty Zito convened the meeting at 1:03 PM
- **July 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes Approved**
- **Guest Speakers: Judges and Psychiatrists Leadership Initiative** – The Judges and Psychiatrists Leadership Initiative is a partnership of the CSG Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Association Foundation. (JPLI) aims to stimulate, support, and enhance efforts by judges and psychiatrists to improve judicial, community, and systemic responses to people with behavioral health needs involved in the justice system.
 - Jeri Thuku, MPH, School and Justice Initiatives Program Manager, The American Psychiatric Association Foundation
 - Judge Karen A. Goodrow, New London Judicial District Superior Court in Connecticut
 - Dr. Marina Nakic MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Law and Psychiatry Division, Yale School of Medicine and VA Connecticut Healthcare System
 - Judge Dawne G. Westbrook, Connecticut Appellate Court

- Dr. Reena Kapoor, MD, Director of Forensic Services, Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- **Other Updates**
 - **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder;** Deborah Dorfman, Executive Director, Disability Rights Connecticut provided an update on the status of this study.
 - **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. Kathryn Thomas, Associate Research Scientist, Yale School of Medicine provided an update on this study.
 - **Memo on SB1 and potential impact for incarcerated individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorder treatment needs** Commission staff are preparing a memo in response to Sen. Osten's request.
 - **Forthcoming 2024 Reports** Commission staff and partners are working on reports to be presented to the Commission this year:
 - i. Competency to Stand Trial in Connecticut
 - ii. Mental Health Diversionary Programs
- **Meeting Adjourned 2:20 pm**