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# Overview of Presentation

- Brief Overview of Project-Public Act 23-137
- The Current Study Design
- Overview of Work Completed Since June 2024
- Next Steps

# Brief Background- Public Act 23-137

[Public Act 23-137](#), *An Act Concerning Resources and Support Services for Persons with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability*, the Sentencing Commission has been charged with studying the experiences of persons with intellectual or other developmental disabilities (I/DD), including but not limited to autism spectrum disorder (ASD), involved in the criminal justice system.

According to statute, the study shall include, but need not be limited to:

- (1) rates of incarceration of such persons compared to the overall population of such persons in the state,
- (2) the advisability of behavioral assessments of such persons before sentencing and costs of such assessments, and
- (3) best practices of other states concerning such persons.

The report shall also include the Commission's recommendations for sentencing considerations for such persons.

# The Study Design: Goals & Objectives

- Study Design Completed & Revised on August 29, 2024
- Goals and Objectives of the Study
  - Identify systemic problems that lead people with IDD and/or ASD to enter the criminal justice system-looking at it from the front to the back
  - Make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding:
    - Prevalence
    - Assessment & Related Costs
    - Sentencing Alternatives
    - Diversion
    - Proactive Measures so that individuals with IDD and/or ASD can avoid contact with the criminal justice system

# The Study Design: Research Questions

- What are the rates of incarceration of adults with IDD and/or ASD compared to the overall population?
- Should there be behavioral assessments completed before adults with IDD and/or ASD are sentenced?
- What types of behavioral assessments should be completed?
- What are the costs associated with the completion such assessments?

# The Study Design: Research Questions (2)

- What proactive measures and policies can be adopted to prevent people with IDD and/or ASD from having contact with the criminal justice system?
- Can individuals with IDD and/or ASD be successfully diverted away from the criminal justice systems following arrest? How? And at what cost?
- What steps should be taken to reduce recidivism?

# The Study Design: Components

- Literature & Legal Review
  - Social Science & Clinical Literature Review
  - Legal Review
  - Policy and Practices Review
- Data Review and Analysis
- Identification and Interviews of Stakeholders
- Identification and Interviews of Subject Matter Experts
- Review of National Frameworks and Best Practices

# Implementation and Status of Study: Current Status

## **Activities Under the Study Currently Underway**

- Literature Review (Social Science, Clinical and Legal)-currently underway
- Identification of Stakeholders, Policy Makers, Subject Matter Experts, and Clinical Expert for Interviews
- Drafting of Interview Probes
- Identification of Clinical Experts for Interviews
- Drafting Interview Questions/Probes



# Implementation of Study Design: Immediate Next Steps

## **Next Steps-Immediate Future-October & November 2024:**

- Completion of Literature & Legal Review
- Analyze and Synthesize Literature and Best Practices
- Begin Policy Maker Interviews
- Begin Subject Matter Interviews

# Partners Working on Carrying out the Study

## **Current Partners:**

- University of Connecticut Professor
- University of Connecticut School of Law Professor
- University of Connecticut Graduate Students
- University of Connecticut Law Students
- Yale Law School Students
- Others

# Contact Disability Rights Connecticut

Call Disability Rights Connecticut to learn more about disability rights and to request information and/or assistance:

- (800) 842-7303 (toll free in CT)
- (860) 297-4300, ext. 120 (local)
- [www.disrightsct.org](http://www.disrightsct.org)
- [info@disrightsct.org](mailto:info@disrightsct.org)