

Meeting of the Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Subcommittee

August 13, 2024, at 2:00pm

Members Present: Michael Gailor (co-chair of subcommittee), Michael Chase (co-chair of subcommittee), John Santa (vice chair of Commission), Anna VanCleave, Gary Roberge, Deborah Sullivan, Judge Gerald Harmon, Jennifer Zito, Patrick Griffin, Judge Joseph Schwartz

Staff: Alex Tsarkov, Patricia O'Rourke, Christian Isidoro, Josephine Burke, Matt Hono, Vaughn Crichlow, Tommy Dowd, Erin Romano

Guests: Judge Robert Devlin, Amanda Pyron, Matt Alsdorf, Judge Martin Cronin, Sarah Karwan, Michael Jones, Marc Pelka, Diane Sierpina, David Bothwell, Lisa D'Angelo, Robert Cristiano, Michael Hines

AGENDA

I. MEETING CONVENED

- Michael Chase convened the meeting at 2:01 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 5.29.2024 MEETING

- The meeting minutes from the 1.16.2024 meeting were approved.

III. CONN. GEN. STAT § 53a-22

- Robert Devlin, Jr., Connecticut Inspector General, proposed two statutory changes to members of the subcommittee.
 - One change would amend CGS § 53a-22 to allow police officers to use choke holds to defend a third-party, rather than just as a means of self-defense.
 - The second change would allow bail commissioners to revisit the conditions of release set by a judge for low-level, non-violent defendants.
- Members responded to the first proposal with widespread agreement. The second proposal also garnered broad agreement, but some members expressed certain reservations and critiques.
- Judge Devlin, Alex Tsarkov, Michael Hines, Gary Roberge, Jennifer Zito, Michael Gailor, Marc Pelka, and Deborah Sullivan shared specific comments.

IV. VICTIM-CENTERED PRETRIAL JUSTICE REFORM

- Amanda Pyron, Executive Director of the Network Advocating Against Domestic Violence in Illinois, presented on building a survivor-centered pretrial system.

- Pyron introduced herself and her organization, compared the pre-reform money-based system with the post-reform risk-based system, highlighted the importance of including victim advocates and victim groups in the reform process, described the coalition that was built to pass the reforms, analyzed communication strategies to pass the reforms, and described the importance of the implementation phase in ensuring the success of the reforms.
- Partick Griffin, Alex Tsarkov, and Marc Pelka asked clarifying questions about the pretrial system in Illinois.

V. UPDATE ON THE PRETRIAL JUSTICE REPORT

- Alex Tsarkov updated members on the status of the pretrial justice report.
- Tsarkov is expecting a draft of the report (excluding the data analysis section) within a month. The Commission is also finalizing an MOU with the Judicial Branch to obtain data for the report.

VI. DELEGATION SITE VISIT TO D.C.

- Alex Tsarkov outlined the itinerary for the Commission trip to Washington D.C.
- The Commission will be sending a delegation from September 11-13 to learn about the pretrial justice system in D.C.

VII. CONNECTICUT HATE CRIME STATUTES

- Alex Tsarkov provided an update on the Commission's work regarding hate crime statutes.
- The hate crimes report is nearly complete.
- A working group is currently discussing potential statutory reforms based on the report's findings.
 - The next step is to finalize recommendations for submission to the legislature.
 - The working group will meet again on September 6th.

VIII. SENTENCING COMMISSION SYMPOSIUM

- Michael Chase reminded members about the upcoming symposium, which will be held on November 21 at the UConn School of Law. The symposium will focus on pretrial justice in Connecticut.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

- Michael Chase adjourned the meeting at 3:27 PM.