

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Mental Health Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 1:00-2:30pm

MINUTES

Members Present: Judge Gerald Harmon (Subcommittee Co-chair), Jennifer Zito (Subcommittee Co-chair), Robin Pavia, Gary Roberge, Kevin Lawlor, John Santa, Thomas Canny

Also in Attendance: Alex Tsarkov (Executive Director), Matthew Hono, Tommy Dowd, Chenoa Greenlee, Andrew Clark, Rachel Mirsky, Jessica Waggoner, Kathryn Thomas, Denise Paley, Thomas Burr, Janet Walker, William O'Conner, Katie Farrell, Commissioner Quiros, Jess Thomas, Marisol Orihuela

- **Meeting convened** Judge Harmon convened the meeting at 1:05 PM
- **February 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes Approved**
- **NAMI CT's 2025 Legislative Priorities: S.B. 1543 and Peer Respite Programs** Guest Speaker Thomas Burr, Public Policy & Affiliate Relations Manager of NAMI Connecticut, provided an overview of NAMI CT's 2025 legislative agenda. Mr. Burr spoke on four bills: SB 826, SB 1394, SB 1542, and SB 1062. SB 1542 and SB 1394 were both voted out of committee.
- **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Study Update** Rachel Mirsky, Supervising Attorney at Disability Right CT, shared an update on the IDD study, highlighting what has been found regarding screening tools, diversion programs in other states, the importance of training for court staff and other professionals, and the costs of such programs. Stakeholder interviews are in progress.
- **Yale SEICHE Center Study Update - Evaluation of community mental health and addiction treatment use in individuals following release from incarceration or on community supervision** Dr. Kathryn Thomas shared an update on the progress of the study, which has significantly advanced over the past few months both in terms of data and interviewing. 25 interviews have been completed, and the research team is moving into the analysis stages.
- **Mental Health Diversionary Programs Project Update** Matthew Hono, Sentencing Commission Intern, shared a brief update on the forthcoming behavioral health diversionary resource, which will be housed on the Sentencing Commission's website. The resource provides interactive visualizations and program descriptions of Connecticut's diversionary programs, meant to be utilized by criminal justice professionals, judges, and the public.

- **Supervised Diversionary Program Proposal** Alex Tsarkov, Executive Director, shared an update on the status of the SDP proposal which is included in section 11 of HB 7259. The bill, with the SDP proposal intact, has passed out of committee. The proposal is still a work in progress and is not expected to pass this session.
- **Meeting Adjourned 1:50 pm**