

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Steering Committee

September 22, 2025

Minutes

Members Present: Judge Robin Pavia (chair), John Santa, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Daniel Karpowitz, Bill Dyson, Jennifer Zito, Judge David Gold (proxy for Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto)

Staff: Rich Sparaco, Andrew Clark, Tommy Dowd, Matt Hono, Jordan Oquendo, Ken Barone

I. MEETING CONVENED

- Judge Robin Pavia convened the meeting at 1:18 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 8.14.2025 MEETING

- The minutes from the 8.14 meeting were approved. Jennifer Zito abstained, as she was not in attendance at the 8.14 meeting.

III. COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL REPORT UPDATE

- Rich Sparaco provided an update on the report.
 - DMHAS, DDS, and DCF have approved the sections of the report relevant to their work.
 - Commission staff are currently conducting final edits on the report.
 - The report is on track for presentation and approval at the October 23 Commission meeting. The Mental Health Committee will review the report at its October 14 meeting.
 - Jennifer Zito requested that the report reflect the legislative efforts of the Commission on this issue.

IV. 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

- Pretrial Release and Detention
 - Rich Sparaco provided an update on the pretrial working group, established in March.
 - Commission staff are working to complete the quantitative component of the pretrial study in time for the October Commission meeting, where they hope to present preliminary findings. The research team will

continue to seek feedback and suggestions for additional research questions. A legislative proposal in 2026 may result from this work.

- Jennifer Zito discussed her proposal for future areas of study. She recommended that the Commission examine diversion opportunities for emerging adults and revisit the issue of the sex offender registry.

V. SCHEDULING MATTERS

- This agenda item was not discussed.

VI. PROPOSED EDITS TO SENTENCING COMMISSION BYLAWS

- Judge Robin Pavia and Rich Sparaco presented the proposed bylaws edits.
 - Members discussed the edits and provided feedback.
- Commission staff will incorporate this feedback into an updated draft of the bylaws. The updated draft will be sent to members and discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- Members expressed confidence that the bylaws revisions will be finalized and ready for consideration by the full Commission at its December meeting.

VII. PROCEDURE FOR COMMISSIONING, EDITING, AND APPROVING REPORTS

- Members considered the process for commencing and concluding research initiatives.
 - They agreed that, in principle, the Commission should commission reports, receive results, and then make recommendations. Members noted that this process has not always been followed consistently in recent cases, and a more formal procedure for accepting and managing research initiatives may be needed.
 - Andrew Clark emphasized the importance of adhering to predetermined study scopes and involving the Steering Committee and Advisory Committees throughout the research process.
 - Jennifer Zito added that researchers should seek permission from the Steering Committee to expand study scopes.
 - Deb Sullivan raised questions about whether the release of a Commission report implies that OCPD endorses the report and/or its recommendations.
 - Ken Barone suggested distinguishing between formally accepting a report and accepting its recommendations.
 - Judge Robin Pavia underscored the need for Commission reports to be drafted in a neutral, fact-based manner.

- Bill Dyson stressed that procedural requirements should not needlessly slow progress, particularly as the legislative session approaches.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15 at 1 PM. Lunch will be provided.
- Judge Robin Pavia adjourned the meeting at 3:09 PM.