

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## Pretrial Working Group

Friday, November 21, 2025

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

### Minutes

- I. Introduction, Undersecretary Karpowitz
  - Seeking continuity and conversation, not series of snapshots.
  - Seeking best efforts to address data.
- II. Approval of minutes from 11-14-2025 meeting.
  - a. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.
- III. Examining past bail reform efforts: 2017 Reforms / Public Act No. 17-145 (50 minutes)
  - a. Violent Crime & Pretrial Detention
    - Undersecretary Karpowitz – Driven by a pragmatic assessment of 2017 reforms.
    - Matt Hono – Arrests are down, violent crimes and arrests are also steadily down, but pretrial population, quantified by the number of individuals held on July 1, 2025, held has been steady since 2011.
    - Mike Gailor – Gap between violent and pretrial held, can we tell if lower-level domestic violence or violation of probation?
    - Kevin Neary – Violation of probation is included.
    - Lydia Wileden – Population is snapshot of July 1, arrests were calendar year. So, population moves in and out, gap could be much more.
    - Renee Lamark- Muir- 2025 could be counting people admitted in 2023, but the other two lines counting people only in those years?
    - Matt Hono – Main point is to show divergent trends, with violent arrests decreasing the relatively steady
    - Judge Pavia – Is there a way to isolate cases that have been sitting there impacted by Covid- isolate those to understand what is happening to clog system?
      - John DelBarba – Office just resolved case from pre-Covid- number of VOP interesting, underlying offenses interesting, and look at DV and violation of protective orders. So family violence offenders may vary.
      - Undersecretary Karpowitz – If high level of churn, what is DOC being used for? Per healthcare, it's not 10,000 inmates who need

healthcare – but it's 4,000 who could be HUSKY and have health issues we need to track.

b. Sentenced and Unsentenced DOC Admits Over Time, 2011-2025

- Matt Hono – Recent steady unsentenced – interesting that 13,000 admissions is people admitted that spend at least one day incarcerated.
- Unsentenced people are accused, so includes VOP. Challenge in using this data is we will hit walls. Need to get to place where data is better suited for picture – we need CISS interface
  - Renee Lamark-Muir agreed.
  - Michael Hines – Included in the number is people who surrender to state police and are held overnight before arraignment.
- Undersecretary Karpowitz- Theme is need for data. We need data from further back from Judicial and need CISS to function better for Commission.
- Ray Boyd – Use inmate numbers to track new admissions and pretrial holds?
- Matt Hono – Suffer from DOC movement a lack of data.

c. Pretrial Detention for Misdemeanors

- i. Proposed question from last week: Was the intent of the 2017 legislation to decrease the pretrial population and did it have that effect?
  - Lydia Wileden – Intention of 2017 reform was to remove misdemeanants from pretrial custody. Chart shows no dramatic drop in numbers held.
  - Mike Hines – ID'ed as misdemeanor but have felonies also – might have a detainer or a hold. Also, if a DV case. Pull all those out and had 180 people this year. Some recommended PTA, but court wanted bond; some with multi-FTA on case; some with extensive criminal history, some homeless with significant mental health issues screened for diversion but nothing available; some released but did not turn up at community required service so put back in. Since Oct. 1, 101 fewer held.
  - Judge Pavia – Good that none were impacted by lack of forensic beds.
  - Undersecretary Karpowitz- Looking for decision makers to have viable alternatives, and that those alternatives are adequately resourced.

IV. Meeting Adjourned: 2:32PM