

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## Pretrial Working Group

Friday, November 14, 2025 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

### Minutes

#### I. Introduction

##### A. Undersecretary Karpowitz

1. First half of meeting will focus on Working Group Analytical Process Chart, using it as a driving tool for discussion.
2. Chart does not belong to those keeping it, but to all of us.
3. Chart will be used to focus questions on the 2017 reform.
4. Larger question – quoting Renee – Haven't we done a fair amount of bail reform?

#### II. Minutes from Last Meeting

##### A. The minutes from the November 7, 2025 meeting were approved.

#### III. Examining past bail reform efforts: 2017 Reforms / Public Act No. 17-145

##### A. Matt Hono and Lydia Wileden presenting on the Working Group Analytical Process Chart:

1. Lydia Wileden What did we get from past reforms?
2. 2017 reforms aimed at misdemeanor presentenced and shortening the lengths of stays.
  - a) Matt Hono – Incentivized nonfinancial release of misdemeanants.

##### B. Graph on Pretrial Detained Population, 2011-2025.

1. Lydia Wileden – Pretrial population number is flat over that 15 year period, despite the reforms, but overall prison population declined.
2. Resulting percentage of prison population held pretrial has risen.

##### C. Discussion

1. Judge Pavia – Is there way to isolate Covid backlog in numbers? If system still catching up, it could be a resource problem. It's a never-ending cycle.
2. Rep. Renee LaMark Muir– Is the system sufficiently resourced? If system still catching up from Covid, there could be resource problem.

3. Gary Roberge – Explains cuts in 15, 16, and 17 to pretrial beds (358 to 188) and transitional beds might have contributed, but beds are back up and online now.
4. Ana VanCleave– Looking at 2017 statute, it allows incarceration for “any crime...if person is.. a danger to self.” Could that be a substance abuser? If so, maybe not a change at all to law?
5. Rep. Renee LaMark Muir - possibly add to chart what policies and procedures did the agencies adopt after the statutory changes in 2017? What were the impact on agency level practice and protocols?

IV. Prompt: Do we have the appropriate and adequately resourced alternatives to pretrial detention?

- A. Do We Have The Appropriate Resources?
- B. Gary Roberge – Start with transitional bed reduction and what it did. Transitional housing is now 100% utilized. If more capacity, could we have more people in the community?
- C. Mike Hines – Transitional housing beds were renovated, and flooding in women’s facility was repaired and is now back on line. Expansion of transitional housing would be of benefit to misdemeanants.
- D. Matt Hono – Can the transitional housing waitlist be quantified? Can pretrial detainees be placed?
  1. Mike Hines – It starts day one – we are full, but it moves quickly. At the 90 day mark, we won’t discharge if person not ready.
  2. Rep. Renee LaMark Muir – In that case, length of stay may be a positive, not a negative.
- E. Mike Gailor – Look at how long people go through the system. Can we use resources to move them through system faster?
- F. Rep. Renee LaMark Muir – Needs assessment. Interested in outcomes as well. Do people cycle back in or are we solving problem? Expansion of the question.
- G. Mike Gailor – Keep in mind who is being detained – misdemeanors versus serious felonies.
- H. Undersecretary Karpowitz That is driving force of question. Assumption that D.O.C. time is lowest return on investment time but could be wrong. If time is being served then where it is being served is driving safety. So where to invest. Feedback appreciated.

V. Adjourn at 2:16