

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Mental Health Committee

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Gina Teixeira, Jennifer Zito, Katie Farrell, John Santa, Sen. Cathy Osten, Chris Burke, Gary Roberge, Jan Walker, Jessica Waggoner, John DelBarba, Kelly Sinko, Len Fasano, William O'Connor

Staff: Rich Sparaco, Andrew Clark, Matthew Hono, Tommy Dowd, Mike Cronin, Jordan Oquendo

- I. MEETING CONVENED
 - a. Attorney Jen Zito convened the meeting at 3:04pm.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 9.15.2025 MEETING
 - a. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes from September 15, 2025 meeting of the Mental Health Committee.
- III. INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES STUDY UPDATE – Gina Teixeira, Staff Attorney, Disability Rights CT
 - a. Gina Teixeira provided an update to the Committee on the status of the study on the intellectual and developmental disabilities study. She mentioned efforts to track recidivism rates, putting together a set of best practices by contacting a number of organizations across 25 states, and examining how other states measure outcomes.
 - b. The group also discussed the project timeline. Gina reported that the team was aiming to get a draft complete by November or December 2025.
- IV. COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL
 - a. Update on Report – Jessica Waggoneer, DMHAS Director of Forensic Services
 - i. Jessica Waggoneer provided an overview of the Commission's Competency to Stand Trial report. She highlighted competency evaluation procedures, the structure of evaluations, factors considered when assessing restorability, considerations made when

determining the setting of restoration, and restoration treatment procedures, along with data on trends and the percentage of charges where the most serious charge was a misdemeanor.

b. Presentation of Report Recommendations – Rich Sparaco, CTSC Interim Executive Director

i. Rich Sparaco, Interim Executive Director presented an overview of the report's recommendations, which included:

1. Convening Diverse Stakeholders
2. Enhancing Data Collection and Sharing
3. Increasing Diversion from the Competency Evaluation/Restoration Pathway
4. Enhancing Outpatient and Community Residential CST Restoration Services
5. Improving Oversight of Individuals Found Non-Restorable of Serious Charges
6. Investigating Best Practices for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Including Autism Spectrum Disorder
7. Enhancing Knowledge of Individuals with Dementia and Acquired Brain Injuries in the CST System

c. Discussion & Comments

- i. Jessica Waggoneer highlighted that some of the tables of the report were still under review and efforts were being undertaken to improve the quality of data presented before sharing the report with the broader Commission.
- ii. Len Fasano inquired about the age breakdowns of those in the Competency system. Jen Zito reported that those breakdowns were not available in the report but the average age of those undergoing competency was 39 in CT. Fasano also raised the idea that reaching out to Judge Marino to gather firsthand accounts of Competency cases could help improve the report.
- iii. Senator Osten raised the idea of additional fiscal analysis of the report's recommendations, offering to send the report to OFA for review. Rich Sparaco suggested follow-up to examine the timeline of the fiscal analysis.

d. Next Steps

- i. Report and Recommendations

1. The Committee unanimously voted to send the report and its recommendations to the Full Commission for final approval.
- ii. Possible Legislative Proposals
 1. Rich Sparaco directed Committee members to direct any legislative proposals that stem from the report to him.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Rich Sparaco highlighted the full Commission meeting on October 23rd, 2025.