

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Pretrial Working Group

Friday, December 19, 2025

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Minutes

I. Introduction

- a. Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz – With Misdemeanors, we have largely determined that the system is working as intended. Time to move on? But is the current status quo optimal? Could it work better? What are alternatives to the status quo? Examine that question and then move to other areas.

II. Approval of Minutes from the December 12th, 2025 Meeting

- a. The minutes from the December 12th, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously.

III. Work Group Navigation: Continuance of Misdemeanor Focus and Ongoing Questions?, Andrew Clark, Director, IMRP (~10 mins)

- a. Andrew Clark – From Mike Hines’s presentation, we looked at the buckets in which many misdemeanor-only pretrial clients fall into. Mike Hines provided clarity on who these misdemeanor-only clients are and illustrated data questions. Can the system provide answers at a moment’s notice? What is the cost of pretrial system and what are the benefits? Can we do that ourselves or wait for OFA to analyze? Are we comfortable spending \$10 million per year (estimated cost) housing unsentenced misdemeanants. Is there a more cost-effective alternative?
- b. Rep. Renee Lamark-Muir – If that \$10 million could be used, how quickly can beds be put online? Is cost to incarcerate pretrial less than to treat in the community?
 - i. Mike Aiello – Depends on what looking for – if existing network, such as drug treatment beds, we can work with DMHAS. If other type of housing, need zoning and would need to go to bid, would take longer. Cannot add more beds to the Sierra Center. This would need to be bid on. If existing program could expand simply with staff increase – easier and quicker. Hard to get people to bid. There’s not a lot of spaces that aren’t already occupied.
 - ii. Rep. Renee LaMark-Muir – So community resources not as reliable as DOC for beds.
 - iii. Andrew Clark – Comparing # of beds now, with # of beds at time of max prison population, we had more beds then? So, is the zoning grandfathered for use?

- iv. Mike Aiello – If beds go unused, might be rezoned. In New Haven, it is hard to get people to bid if new operator.
- c. Mike Hines – Restated the buckets many misdemeanor clients fall into and the presentence breakdown numbers.
 - i. Out of the 133 misdemeanor-only clients analyzed:
 - 1. ~50 clients had a number of prior failures to appear on their record
 - 2. ~47 clients refused to cooperate with the bail interview
 - 3. ~24 a multitude of cases pending (5, 6, 7 cases)
 - 4. ~19 had a significant criminal history
 - 5. ~20 defendants had mental health scores of 4 or 5
- d. Bryan Sperry –2024 Misdemeanor System Flow
 - i. 63,530 arrests
 - 1. 35,382 custodial arrests
 - a. 21,136 police PTAs
 - b. 13,061 Police Financial
 - i. 2,7864 posted
 - ii. 10,297 held
 - 1. 8,704 arraigned
 - a. 325 disposed court
 - b. 4,267 No financial conditions of release required
 - c. 550 posted their financial conditions
 - d. 3,267 held at DOC
 - 2. Undersecretary Daniel Karpowitz – How many of the 3200 are frequent flyers? Courts are exasperated. We are among the best in the nation. But can we do better? If the question is not being asked here, then where can it be asked?
 - ii. Rep. Renee Lamark-Muir – Add to our list inefficiencies in court process. Why stay in pretrial, try to shorten the “game” of the system for low level misdemeanors.

IV. Adjourn at 2:24.