

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Pretrial Working Group

February 13, 2026

1:30pm - 3:00pm

## Meeting Minutes

**MEMBER ATTENDANCE:** Jessica Waggoner, Michael Gailor, John DelBarba, Michael Aiello, Betzalie Colón, Colleen Gallagher, Representative Renee LaMark Muir, Kevin Neary, Birtany LaMarr, Kyle Baudoin, Gary Roberge, Judge David Gold, Judge Robin Pavia, Anna VanCleave, Sachin Pandya, Bryan Sperry,

**STAFF:** Rich Sparaco, Andrew Clark, Matt Hono, Mike Cronin, Christian Isidoro, Lydia Wilden, Thomas Dowd

### I. INTRODUCTIONS & MINUTES APPROVAL

- a. Rich Sparaco – Minutes adopted, as corrected.

### II. LOW LEVEL FELONY DETENTION EXPLORATION

- a. Matt Hono, IMRP, presented pretrial data insights for those charged with low-level felonies.
  - i. Matt Hono – Low-level felony is being defined as felonies Ds or Es. He presented charts shared showing the numbers of defendants detained 2018-2023, the most common charges of those detained and of those released, and average lengths of stay. Median low-level felony stay about 45 days (misdemeanor about 28 days)
- b. John DelBarba
  - i. Looking forward to digging more into the FTA data
  - ii. The high number of VPOs are interesting. If the violation is contact alone, maybe electronic monitoring to keep out of jail.
- c. Mike Gailer, Sachin Pandya, John DelBarba, Matt Hono discuss discrepancies with DV charge numbers and possible factors and problems with data.
- d. Andrew Clark – Prevalence of DV charges – Standing PO, VPO, Protective Orders, all in the same bucket. Huge chunk of these charges.
  - i. Judge Gold – Technical violations are less concerning. Violence is much more concerning to a judge. To put into one bucket is impossible. Need to assess individual cases. Is it violent, is it immediately after an order or down the road.

- e. Andrew Clark, Matt Hono, John DelBarba, Brittany Lamar discuss possible ways to look deeper into DV charges and detainment rates.
- f. Judge Pavia – DVs are the most volatile cases we will find. Not a judge who isn't concerned with what will happen. This isn't a violation of probation like not calling in. This is not following a court order, a potential for a horrific act.
- g. Anna VanCleave – There are limits to what data can show. Charges especially. There might be five charges when two could suffice. Conduct could be across the specter. Parties could both be charged. Hard for a judge to see who truly presents a violent risk. Info to better assist decision making would be better police reports.
- h. Kevin Neary – Building typology to detain or release. Scraping limits of what this data can do. What are the circumstances.

III. WORKING GROUP SUMMARY OUTLINE AND MAJOR TAKEAWAYS  
DISCUSSION, Lydia Wileden, IMRP (~40 Minutes)

- a. Rich Sparaco – At the full Sentencing Commission meeting, the Commission adopted the recommendation for funding additional beds for mental health treatment for men and the creation of beds for women. We spoke in past about a narrative document, outlining what this group has done. A letter from Rep. Lamark-Muir requests this report by March 1, including recommendations. We will circulate prior to next Pretrial meeting.
- b. Lydia Wileden – Matt and I developed narrative reflecting conversations meant as internal document. Have reshaped it as responsive report. Walk through next meeting, recommendations of mental health beds, issues with data limitations, ways to correct inaccurate conclusions.

IV. Adjourn at 2:40