

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Pretrial Working Group

Friday, February 27, 2026

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Minutes

Attendance: Daniel Karpowitz, Judge Gold, Mike Gailor, Deborah Del Prete-Sullivan, Sonia Jones (guest), John DelBarba, Michael Hines, Renee Lamark-Muir, Gary Roberge, Kevin Neary, Jessica Waggoner, Joe Greelish, Owen Smyth, intern, Rich Sparaco, Andrew Clark, Matt Hono, Dr. Lydia Wileden, Mike Cronin, Tommy Dowd, Tammi Harris, Christian Isidoro, Evan Martucci, Colleen Gallagher, John Day, Bryan Sperry, Gus-Mark Hamilton, Emilia Otte

- I. MEETING CONVENED AND INTRODUCTIONS
 - a. Meeting was convened at 1:34 PM
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBUARY 13, 2026, MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP (<5 minutes)
 - a. The minutes from the February 13, 2026 meeting of the working group were approved through a voice vote.
 - a. Deb Sullivan abstained.
- II. DRAFT SUMMARY DOCUMENT COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION,
 - a. Daniel – Discuss draft summary document requested by Rep. Lamark-Muir. Judge Gold wished us to focus on the most serious charges (class A, B, and C felonies)
 - b. Matt Hono – Constant 3500 detained pretrial on any given day despite decreasing arrests and decreasing violent arrests.
 - i. While this trend has occurred, case load data shows declines the felony A and felony B cases and increases in the number of felony C cases, from 2011.
 - ii. When summing these three classification together, the total number of these severe felony cases added each year has remained relatively stable.
 - iii. Judge Gold – Asked Joe Greelish for statistics – total arrests down 36%, but for A,B and C felonies it’s only 3% reduction. These most serious charges are the ones most likely to lead to pretrial detentions. Total arrest reduction is misleading, goes long way to explaining the constant

- detention rates. Also, clarify in report that FBI and DESPP define “violent crimes” as murder, some manslaughters, aggravated assaults, and rape.¹
- iv. Daniel Karpowitz – Murder rate at lowest rate since 2000. Violent crime is not down. Data is helpful, what can be done to increase the flow of such data?
 - v. Andrew Clark, Deb Sullivan and Joe Greelish discuss work of Sentencing Commission in 2012 clearing up inconsistencies with low level felonies and misdemeanors and classifying unclassified charges.
- c. Judge Gold presented data on the number of violation of protective orders and similar cases added each year.
 - i. The data shows the number of violation of protective orders and similar cases have increased year over year. Many of those held have violated terms of protective orders, very serious cases.
 - ii. Agreed this chart to be included in summary document.
 - d. Juge Gold – In the summary document’s, page 5. On any given day, 400 held for misdemeanor only. Per Mike Hines data, that has been shown to be flawed – needs to be reflected here.
 - e. Mike Gailor – We should represent the number of people who elect to serve time pretrial should be reflected as well.
 - f. Mike Hines – On page 3, there are no programs for pretrial detainees at DOC. We do not need to say we need more information.
 - g. Andrew Clark – As this is going to the legislature, and they might be going to DOC for data, we should explain that if they go there they will see these numbers, but the real number is might be something else.
 - h. Daniel Karpowitz – Reason the DOC data is included is this narrative reflects our work, and DOC numbers were used. Too much of our data is inaccurate or lacking. We need accurate data and info so we can drive policy on important issues rather than chase false narratives.
 - i. Kevin Neary – Takeaway is gap between what should be measured and what we can access.
 - i. Lydia Wileden – This is a summary of work and findings. Prior to this week, did not have this new data. It’s what we had at the time, and its an ongoing process.

III. PUBLIC DEFENDER’S PERCEPTION AND ANALYSIS ON PRETRIAL DETENTION

¹ After further review, Commission staff learned that the definition DESPP uses when reporting crime statistics to the FBI, classifies violent crime as murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery.

- a. Deb Sullivan and John DelBarba presented overview of Public Defenders Office, the purposes of bail, how bonds are thought to encourage returning to court, the inequity associated with financial conditions, the impact of substance use and indigency on appearance rates, and the outcomes associated with pretrial detention.
 - i. Sonia Jones presented on parole revocation regulation proposals.
- IV. Adjourned at 3:38