

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Pretrial Working Group

March 13, 2026

Minutes

Attendance: Daniel Karpowitz, Mike Gailor, Mike Hine, Mike Aiello, Judge David Gold, Judge Robin Pavia, Kevin Neary, Joe Greelish, Tammi Harris, John DelBarba, Chris Moran, Deb DelPrete-Sullivan, Evan Martucci, Gary Roberge, Ana VanCleave, Jess Waggoner, Colleen Gallagher, Andrew Clark, Kyle Beaudoin, Kathryn Bare, Bryan Sperry, Brittany LaMarr, Sachin Pandya,

Staff: Matt Hono, Tommy Dowd, Christian Isidoro, Rich Sparaco

- I. MEETING CONVENED AND INTRODUCTIONS
 - a. Undersecretary Karpowitz convened the meeting at 1:32pm.
 - b. Rich Sparaco – Summary report of the working group was sent to Rep. Lamark-Muir, no word back.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBUARY 27, 2026, MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP (<5 minutes)
 - a. Minutes were approved by voice vote.
- III. FOLLOW UP TO FELONY A, B, AND C CASE TRENDS, Matt Hono, IMRP (~45 minutes)
 - a. Matt Hono – Pretrial detention on A, B, and C felonies. 2012-2025, class A and B felonies decreased, class C felony rates were flat- a 4% increase. Class B decreased by 21 %, class A decreased by 30%. (Reflecting highest charge at arrest)
 - b. John DelBarba and Daniel Karpowitz discussed significance of decrease.
 - c. Mike Gailor – Re: felony A – Need to be careful, numbers have gone up an down, but at it’s extremes, it has been a decrease.
 - d. Daniel Karpowitz – Where are we at with regard to homicide? Aren’t we at lowest rate since 1900?
 - e. Matt Hono – Quarterly DOC pretrial admissions. Q3 2016 to Q3 2025 – 3500 to 3800 pre-pandemic, now 3000 to 3200 unsentenced DOC admissions, suggest staying in longer?
 - i. Among currently pending cases on 3-10-26, how many defendants released in community?

1. Class C felony cases, 70% released, class B felonies 59% released, class A felonies, 30% released.
 2. Majority released on 7% cash surety or cash surety bonds.
 3. 49% posted using professional surety bondsmen, 20% posted using 7% cash, 26% issued a PTA or non-surety bond.
- ii. The most common C felony charges currently pending for detained versus non-detained are similar.
 - iii. There are a number of severe felony A and B cases that involve defendants in the community.
- f. Daniel – Lot of information on some very important topics. Need to curate some discussion on this. Unsentenced admissions have decreased since pandemic, suggestion being length of stay is longer. Need to unpack that. Looking at DV cases, where there is an increase, we should look at that.
 - g. Rich Sparaco – This is a lot of info. We hope to take the time to digest it and develop questions.
 - h. John DelBarba – Deceptive regarding VPOs. Many D felonies for VPO may be C, D or E felonies.

IV. DISCUSSION: POTENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO POSTING BOND WHILE IN DOC

- a. Person emailed Commission and said she had money to pay bond while held at York, but was unable to access phone, accounts, or belongings, leading to her being detained for five days.
- b. Mike Hines – We stay away from identifying a bail bondsman, but do reach out to family members within 5 days for those with bonds under \$150k to explain process.
- c. John DelBarba – We don't recommend specific bondsmen as well. People who post at court are very familiar with system. Cell phones not allowed in prisons and if there is no one on outside, it can take months.
- d. Colleen Gallagher – Will raise questions and get as many answers as I can.
- e. Mike Hines – Once bond is set, can look at other options. Property is held by marshals, bond is handled by clerks. We can have conversations.
- f. Rich Sparaco – From discussion, seems like potential for solutions.
- g. John Delbarba – Another roadblock- Court moves quickly, marshals moving fast, people moving quick, could be out of there in short order.

V. Adjourn at 2:45