

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Steering Committee

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

Members: Judge David Gold (Commission Chair), John Santa (Commission Vice Chair), Bill Dyson, Jennifer Zito, Bevin Salmon (on behalf of John Day), Lisa D'Angelo (on behalf of Patrick Griffin), Daniel Karpowitz

Staff: Rich Sparaco, Tommy Dowd, Andrew Clark, Mike Cronin, Patrick Riley, Lydia Wileden, Ken Barone, Kaya Tray

Guests: Deborah Del Prete Sullivan

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

- Judge David Gold convened the meeting at 1:05 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 5.20.2026 MEETING

- The minutes from the 5.20.2026 meeting were approved.

III. UPDATE ON SENTENCING COMMISSION ACCESS TO THE CONNECTICUT INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM (CISS) – Ken Barone, Associate Director, IMRP

- Ken Barone provided background on the Criminal Information Sharing System (CISS).
 - CISS, which has been in operation for approximately 20 years, is a records search tool used primarily by law enforcement that links records across multiple state agency data systems.
 - CISS is governed by a board composed of representatives from agencies that contribute data.
 - Creating a de-identified analytical database for research purposes has become a priority for the governing board, in part because responding to ad hoc data requests has become increasingly burdensome.

- To support this effort, CISS established an analytics subcommittee to consider issues related to data inclusion, data protection, and user access.
 - CISS has hired consultants from UPenn to create a governance structure for the database.
 - CISS recently held a full-day retreat on this topic.
 - As a criminal justice agency, the Commission will have access to the database.
 - Access to this database will empower the Commission to respond more efficiently to research inquiries and reduce the need for one-off data requests, such as those associated with the court processing efficiencies study.
- Notwithstanding this context, Judge Gold maintained that an advisory committee focusing on CISS and data access remains necessary.
 - He emphasized that the Commission should remain neutral with respect to the research request at issue and avoid putting its “thumb on the scale.”

IV. DATA ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

a. Discussion

- Judge Gold proposed the creation of a new advisory committee to oversee the court processing efficiencies study and explore broader data access questions.
 - At its last meeting, the Commission consented to the creation of this advisory committee.
 - Judge Gold highlighted concerns raised at the meeting by Bill Dyson and Len Fasano regarding the legislative intent behind the creation of CISS, specifically whether the legislature intended for the Commission to have access to the system, and why the study request was made by letter rather than statute.
 - Judge Gold also explained that the advisory committee would need to address concerns from agencies regarding the use of their data by entities not traditionally viewed as CISS users and the use of that data to evaluate agency practices.
- Jennifer Zito asked Dyson to clarify his concerns from the previous meeting.
 - Dyson responded that legislators’ stated and unstated goals often diverge.

- Daniel Karpowitz posited that there may be no “hidden agenda;” rather, the letter may simply reflect a good faith request from the Judiciary co-chairs, who are aware of the purpose and current activities of CISS.
- Judge Gold asserted that the concerns raised during the discussion further underscored the need for an advisory committee, as significant questions regarding data access remain unresolved.
 - Karpowitz reported his ambivalence on the creation of an advisory committee. While noting that CISS has been transparent with contributing agencies and emphasizing the importance of data access for research entities such as the Commission, he also agreed that elevating these issues within the Commission would be beneficial.
- Zito suggested seeking clarification from the Judiciary co-chairs regarding the research request.
 - Judge Gold questioned whether such outreach is necessary and expressed a preference for establishing an advisory committee.
- Barone explained that the letter was originally motivated by frustration with the pace of CISS's analytics initiatives and was intended to encourage progress in that area. He noted, however, that CISS has made significant progress on analytics since the letter was sent.
 - He added that an advisory committee could help the Commission better understand CISS, its capabilities, and its potential value to the Commission.
 - He also offered to update the Judiciary co-chairs on developments that have occurred since the letter was sent.
- Judge Gold moved to create a Data Analytics Advisory Committee. The committee would be co-chaired by Justice Joan Alexander and the head of CISS, with the co-chairs selecting the other members. Its charge would be to address the current research request and explore how the Commission can use CISS.
 - Rich Sparaco reported that the Commission’s bylaws require advisory committee co-chairs to be Commission members, preventing the head of CISS from serving in that role.
 - The Steering Committee agreed that Daniel Karpowitz would serve as the second co-chair.
 - Dyson also suggested Ken Barone as a possible co-chair.

b. Vote to establish

- The Steering Committee voted unanimously to establish the Data Analytics Advisory Committee.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

- Judge Gold adjourned the meeting at 1:58 PM.