

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Legislative Office Building, Room 1B

Members: Judge David Gold (Chair), Rachel Cicurel (on behalf of Commissioner Fiona Doherty), Jessica Waggoner (on behalf of the Commissioner of DHMAS), Joe Garbaldi (on behalf of the Chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole), Judge Joseph Schwartz, Alex Knopp, Lisa D'Angelo (on behalf of the Chief State's Attorney), Gary Roberge, Judge Courtney Chaplin, Allison Near (on behalf of Commissioner Jennifer Zito), Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Bevin Salmon (on behalf of the Chief Public Defender), Stephen Tavares, Natasha Pierre, Anna VanCleave, Brittany Lamarr (on behalf of the Undersecretary of OPM-CJPPD), Bill Dyson, Sharonda Carlos, Len Fasano

Guests: Sachin Pandya

Staff: Mike Cronin, Tommy Dowd, Rich Sparaco, Jordan Oquendo, Patrick Riley, Kaya Tray, Kate Mazzotta

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

- Judge David Gold convened the meeting at 1:07 PM.
- Members took turns introducing themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 4.8.2026 MEETING

- The minutes from the 4.8.2026 meeting were approved.

III. PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM SENTENCING DATABASE REPORT – Sachin Pandya, Roger Sherman Professor of Law, University of Connecticut

- Sachin Pandya presented preliminary findings from the sentencing database study, which features interviews from internal and external stakeholders to explore the potential challenges associated with creating a statewide sentencing database in Connecticut.
 - Pandya reviewed the study's origins, methodology, and key themes that emerged during the interviews.

- Such key themes included:
 - Data uses
 - Judicial trust
 - Advice for Connecticut
- Anna VanCleave and Judge Joseph Schwartz asked follow-up questions.
- Judge Gold inquired about the project's next steps.
 - Pandya responded that he would prepare a draft report and circulate it to Commission members for review.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Mental Health Committee

i. Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Report Recommendations

1. Presentation of Recommendations

- At its recent meetings, the Mental Health Committee discussed the recommendations concerning a diversionary program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).
- Judge Courtney Chaplin highlighted five key areas of discussion from the meetings:
 - Whether to establish a presumption of outpatient competency restoration for individuals with I/DD
 - Data collection requirements
 - Whether certain offenses should be excluded from eligibility for a potential diversionary program
 - Whether participants should be permitted multiple uses of a potential diversionary program
 - The fiscal impacts of a potential diversionary program

a. Discussion

- Lisa D'Angelo and Natasha Pierre asked whether the memorandum summarizing discussions from the Mental Health Committee meetings would be attached to the resolution.
 - Both emphasized the importance of conveying those concerns to legislators.
 - Rich Sparaco and Judge Chaplin responded that the memorandum would be attached to

the resolution before it is forwarded to legislators.

b. Resolution to accept recommendations

- Allison Near asked whether the motion was to accept or adopt the recommendations.
 - Judge Gold clarified that the motion was to accept the recommendations.
- The motion to accept the recommendations and forward them to the Connecticut General Assembly with the accompanying memorandum passed by a vote of 17–1.
 - Pierre voted in opposition.
 - Bill Dyson was absent for the vote.

ii. Other updates

- Sparaco provided an update.
 - The Committee is continuing to oversee two additional research initiatives: (1) a study on the experiences of individuals seeking mental health and substance abuse treatment after release from prison or while on community supervision, conducted in collaboration with the Yale SEICHE Center; and (2) a study cataloguing and presenting data on behavioral health diversionary programs in Connecticut.

b. Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Committee

i. Pretrial Working Group

- Sparaco provided an update.
 - The working group met on April 24, where it continued its examination of trends in failure-to-appear warrants and violations of protective orders. Additionally, Colleen Gallagher of the Department of Correction presented on bond posting procedures for individuals in DOC custody.
 - The working group is taking a hiatus for the summer and will reconvene in the fall.
 - Upon reconvening, it plans to explore differences between the pretrial systems in Connecticut and Massachusetts and the implications of a recent

California Supreme Court ruling on pretrial detention.

ii. Other updates

- Deborah Del Prete Sullivan provided an update.
 - The Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Committee met on May 11, where it discussed new and ongoing research initiatives.
 - The Committee will oversee a new study on hate crime penalties, as directed by Public Act 26-77. The study is due by the end of 2026.
 - Commission staff is also continuing to work on three studies that fall under the purview of this committee: (1) a two-part pretrial study; (2) a study on Connecticut's human trafficking statutes; and (3) a study on sentencing outcomes in cases of domestic violence homicide.

c. Other updates

- Sparaco provided an update on the Commission's statutorily mandated study of racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic disparities in pretrial and sentencing outcomes.
 - Data analysis for the project has been completed, and a final report is expected by the end of 2026.
- Judge Gold proposed creating an advisory committee to examine the relationship between the Commission and the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS), including the nature of the data contained in CISS, the Commission's access to that data, and the extent to which such data may be necessary to achieve the Commission's research goals.
 - The committee would also oversee the court processing efficiencies study and related data requests.
 - Judge Gold emphasized that the Commission must first understand CISS and the rules governing data access before requesting data for the study.
 - Under the Commission's new bylaws, the Steering Committee may create an advisory committee with the consent of the Commission.
 - If consent is granted, Judge Gold will convene a Steering Committee meeting to establish the advisory committee, define its duties, and appoint its members.

- Len Fasano asked about the legislative intent behind the creation of CISS, how legislators envisioned its data being used, and why this study was requested by a letter from the Judiciary Committee rather than by statute.
 - Dyson echoed these concerns.
 - Judge Gold responded that the Commission is not currently an approved CISS user and must therefore enter into ad hoc MOUs to obtain data.
 - He asked Fasano whether the proposed advisory committee could address his concerns or whether he believed its creation was premature.
 - Fasano responded that the committee should examine the legislative intent underlying the creation of CISS.
 - Sparaco added that, although the Commission's enabling statute designates it as a criminal justice agency, it currently lacks direct access to CISS.
- The Commission unanimously consented to the creation of the advisory committee.
 - Judge Chaplin was absent for the vote.
- Judge Gold announced that the Steering Committee will meet virtually on June 23 at 1 PM to formally establish the committee.

V. AMENDMENTS TO COMMISSION BYLAWS

- a. Discussion
 - Alex Knopp thanked the Steering Committee for making adjustments to the bylaws in response to concerns raised at the previous meeting.
- b. Vote to adopt
 - The bylaw amendments were adopted unanimously.
 - Judge Chaplin was absent for the vote.

VI. 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

- a. Discussion
 - There was no discussion on this agenda item.
- b. Vote to adopt
 - The 2025 annual report was adopted unanimously.
 - Judge Chaplin was absent for the vote.

VII. UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH PROCESS

- Sparaco provided an update.
 - The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy is currently working with administration at UConn to reclassify the executive director position. It is also working with the Steering Committee to define the structure and responsibilities of the position.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. National Association of Sentencing Commissions (NASC) 2026 Annual Conference – August 12-14 in Albuquerque, New Mexico
 - Sparaco provided an update.
 - NASC will hold its annual conference from August 12–14 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference will include panel discussions and presentations from academic researchers, practitioners, and staff and members of sentencing commissions nationwide.
 - Members interested in attending should contact Sparaco or Judge Gold.
- b. Other Business
 - Judge Gold adjourned the meeting at 2:26 PM.