

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Committee

Monday, May 11, 2026

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Zoom

Members Present: Michael Gailor (co-chair of Committee), Deborah Del Prete Sullivan (co-chair of Committee), John Santa (vice chair of Commission), Judge Joseph Schwartz, Anna VanCleave, Lisa D'Angelo, Colin Milne, Rob Cristiano, Gary Roberge, Allison Near

Staff: Rich Sparaco, Tommy Dowd, Matthew Hono

Guests: Michael Jones, Tom Canny, John DelBarba, Diane Sierpina

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

- Mike Gailor convened the meeting at 1:03 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 1.20.2026 MEETING

- The minutes from the 1.20.2026 meeting were approved.
 - Allison Near abstained because she did not attend the 1.20.2026 meeting.

III. NEW STUDIES

a. Court Processing Efficiencies

- Rich Sparaco provided an update.
 - In a February 4 letter, Judiciary Committee Co-Chairs Gary Winfield and Steve Stafstrom asked the Commission to study court processing efficiencies using data from the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS).
 - The Commission currently does not have access to CISS data but is working with Rep. Renee LaMark Muir and Ken Barone to obtain access.
 - The Commission will receive a data dictionary from CISS this week.

- Co-Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom are requesting results from the study by the end of 2026.
- Mike Gailor asked how the letter defined court processing efficiencies.
 - Sparaco quoted from the letter but highlighted that researchers are still discussing how to measure efficiency.

b. Hate Crime Penalties

- Rich Sparaco provided an update.
 - Section 45 of Senate Bill 90, which passed both chambers of the General Assembly, directs the Commission to examine the statutory penalties for hate crimes.
 - A report with findings is due at the end of 2026.
 - The Commission may create a working group within the Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Committee to discuss penalty changes.
 - Deborah Sullivan stressed the importance of creating a diverse group that encompasses many viewpoints.

IV. PRETRIAL RELEASE AND DETENTION

a. Update on pretrial working group

- Rich Sparaco provided an update.
 - The pretrial working group, which began meeting in October 2025, has assessed current pretrial practices and procedures, explored data trends, examined the impacts of prior policy changes, identified limitations in existing data, and raised areas of future research.
 - The working group submitted a legislative proposal seeking funding to expand residential mental health beds for male pretrial defendants and to create residential mental health beds for female pretrial defendants.
 - Gary Roberge reported that the legislature appropriated \$750,000 for mental health beds serving girls and women leaving correctional facilities, which may be used for either pretrial or post-release individuals.
 - The working group documented its findings in a summary report, which was submitted to the Judiciary Committee.
 - The group will take a summer hiatus and reconvene in the fall.
- Mike Jones updated the Committee about a recent California Supreme Court ruling, which essentially held that only violent felonies and sex offenses are eligible for pretrial detention.

b. Update on pretrial studies

i. Quantitative Report on Pretrial Release and Detention in Connecticut

- Matt Hono provided an update.
 - Led by Matthew Hono and Sachin Pandya, the Commission is conducting a quantitative analysis of pretrial trends in Connecticut using data from CSSD.
 - Recently, the research team received data from Judicial Branch Court Operations on bail commissioner letters, failure to appear warrants issued, and failure to appear charges.
 - The researchers are expecting to present their findings at the full Commission meeting in September.

ii. Comparative Report on Intention Pretrial Release and Detention Systems in Other Jurisdictions

- Tommy Dowd provided an update.
 - Led by Christian Isidoro and Tommy Dowd, the Commission is conducting a comparative analysis of pretrial release and detention practices in jurisdictions that have transitioned from a cash-based system to an intentional system.
 - Researchers are expecting to circulate a draft in the coming weeks.
- Rich Sparaco notified Committee members that they should receive a draft of both pretrial reports by July 1.

V. OTHER UPDATES

a. Human Trafficking Statutes Report

- Mike Gailor provided an update.
 - Led by Gailor, the Commission is studying human trafficking statutes in Connecticut.
 - Gailor is currently onboarding an intern who will help him complete the report.
 - Gailor expressed confidence that a draft would be completed by the beginning of July.

b. Domestic Violence Murder Report

- Rich provided an update.

- Led by Dr. Lydia Wileden, the Commission is examining outcomes in domestic violence murder cases.
- The report is slated for completion at the end of 2026.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- The next Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, at 1 PM.
- The next full Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, at 1 PM, in Room 1B of the Legislative Office Building.
- Mike Gailor adjourned the meeting at 1:38 PM.