

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Full Commission Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2015

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

*Legislative Office Building, Room 1C
300 Capital Avenue, Hartford, CT*

Minutes

Members Present: *Vivien Blackford, Hon. David Borden (Chair), Carlton Giles, Stephen Grant, Michael Lawlor (Vice Chair), Mark Palmer, Susan Pease, Natasha Pierre, John Santa, David Shepack, Susan Storey, Thomas Ullmann*

Members Absent: *Maureen Price-Boreland, Hon. Patrick Carroll, Hon. Robert Devlin, William Dyson, Peter Gioia, Kevin Kane, Tracey Meares, Patricia Rehmer, Dora Schriro, Scott Semple, Hon. Gary White*

Staff: *Andrew Clark (Acting Executive Director), Leland J. Moore, Renee Muir, Madonna Burns*

Also Participating: *William Carbone, Prof. Sarah Russell, Michael Wagner, Rep. Toni Walker, Judge Gary White, Prof. Miguel de Figueiredo*

I. MEETING CONVENED

Justice Borden called the meeting to order at approximately 2:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Upon a duly made and seconded motion, the minutes were **approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

III. WELCOME: REPRESENTATIVE TONI WALKER (INVITED)

Justice Borden welcomed State Representative Toni Walker to the meeting. Representative Walker addressed the Commission on the need for changes to Connecticut's juvenile justice policies. Representative Walker requested that the Commission work with the Appropriations Committee to develop a proposal that allows for the automatic removal of certain convictions from the criminal records of qualified individuals.

A small working group was formed for the purpose of researching and developing a proposal--for consideration during the 2016 legislative session-- that allows for the automatic removal of certain convictions from the criminal records of qualified individuals. Justice Borden thanked Representative Walker for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend the meeting.

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IV. REPORT ON NOVEMBER JUSTICE REINVESTMENT NATIONAL SUMMIT

Andrew Clark, Michael Lawlor, and Justice Borden presented on the 2014 Justice Reinvestment National Summit that they attended this past November. Mr. Clark provided an overview of the summit and emphasized the strong bi-partisan support that justice reinvestment received in 2014. Justice Borden noted that the summit demonstrated the effectiveness of justice reinvestment initiatives at reducing recidivism, reducing corrections costs, and maintaining public safety.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Developments in Juvenile Sentencing Law: Professor Sarah Russell presented on the developments in juvenile sentencing law that have occurred since the creation of the original juvenile justice proposal.

b. Certificates of Employability Study Scope: Renee Muir and Professor Miguel de Figueiredo presented their proposed methodology for the longitudinal study they are conducting on the certificates of employability program.

c. Commission Website: Leland Moore updated the Commission on the status of the new Commission website.

VI. COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. Recidivism Reduction Committee:

Ms. Blackford reported that the Committee continues to explore the issues surrounding inmate education and substance abuse treatment for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

b. Research Committee:

Attorney Ullman reported that the Research Committee continues to work on its analysis of Connecticut statutes that carry a mandatory minimum sentence. The Committee plans to present on the issue later in the year.

c. Steering Committee:

Justice Borden reported that Steering continues to work on the hiring process for a full-time executive director and has received the requisite approval necessary to post the position announcement.

VII. UPDATE: 2015 APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Andrew Clark updated the Commission on the status of the Commission's 2015 appropriation request.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL: 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

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Upon a duly made and seconded motion, the 2013 Annual Report was **approved by a unanimous vote.**

IX. OTHER BUSINESS: No other business was addressed.

X. MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:53 p.m.