

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## **Full Commission Meeting**

Thursday, March 20, 2014

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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

## **Minutes**

### **I. MEETING CONVENED**

Justice Borden called the meeting to order at approximately 2:15 p.m.

### **II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2013**

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

### **III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

Andrew Clark briefly updated the Commission on the status of the 2014 legislative proposals. To date, HB-5221 and HB-153 have had public hearings and have been reported out of the Judiciary Committee. SB-259 has had a public hearing and is expected to be reported out of the Judiciary Committee in within the next few weeks. Additionally, Representative Fox and Senator Coleman are aware of the Classification Working Group's recommendations regarding the "fraudulent use if an automated teller machine" and the "penalty for issuing a bad check." Web links to the Connecticut General Assembly's Bill Tracking System are posted on the Sentencing Commission's website for members of the public.

- **HB-5221**, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR CRIMES COMMITTED BY A CHILD OR YOUTH AND THE SENTENCING OF A CHILD OR YOUTH CONVICTED OF CERTAIN FELONY OFFENSES.
- **SB-153**, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO CERTIFICATES OF REHABILITATION.
- **SB-259**, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING THE ENHANCED PENALTY FOR THE SALE OR POSSESSION OF DRUGS NEAR SCHOOLS, DAY CARE CENTERS AND PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS.
- **CLASSIFICATION/TECHNICAL CHANGES**

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

- 1) **Sec. 53a-127b. FRAUDULENT USE OF AN AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE: CLASS C MISDEMEANOR.**
- 2) **Sec. 53a-128. ISSUING A BAD CHECK. PENALTIES.**

## **IV. PRESENTATION: “WHAT’S POSSIBLE?” (LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP)**

John Santa presented on “The Art of the Possible” in relation to criminal justice initiatives operating in Connecticut and across the United States. Highlighted reports published by The PEW Charitable Trusts, the MacArthur Foundation, the VERA Institute of Justice, and the Urban Institute included: (1) 2012 Georgia Public Safety Reform; (2) Leading on Public Safety; (3) States’ Use Of Cost-Benefit Analysis; (4) Arkansas: Improving Public Safety and Containing Corrections Costs; (5) Achieving Success With the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative; and (6) Sentencing and Prison Practices in Germany and the Netherlands: Implications for the United States. The critical question John Santa posed to the Full Commission was “Does the Sentencing Commission have a part to play in Criminal Justice Initiatives such as these? If so, what might it be?”

In response to the presentation, the Commission decided to form a small working group to research and discuss opportunities for collaboration between the Sentencing Commission and other criminal justice initiatives.

## **V. COMMITTEE UPDATES (RECIDIVISM REDUCTION; RESEARCH)**

### **A.) Recidivism Reduction Committee**

Vivien Blackford and Maureen Price-Boreland updated the Full Commission on the Recidivism Reduction Committee’s project on “Child Support Indebtedness and Incarceration.” The issue is that many inmates are incurring child support debt, and upon release, are unable to pay their debt while trying to support themselves. Inmates are not always aware of their child support modification rights and there is no way to retroactively address this issue. The Committee has benefited from the support of Yale Law students, but a significant challenge has been a lack of data.

Two other ongoing projects include (1) working with DOC on the implementation of the Commission’s recommendations regarding pro-social behavior and (2) the issue of substance abuse treatment.

### **B.) Research Committee**

Susan Pease and Tom Ullmann reported that the Research Committee recently established four working groups to more effectively coordinate its efforts. While the organizational structure of the working groups is still being considered, the following individuals have volunteered to serve as chairs:

- Risk and Needs Assessment Research Project – Linda Frisman
- Mandatory Minimum Study- Susan Pease
- Cognitive Behavior Treatment Program – Bob Farr
- Substance Abuse Study – John Santa

# CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

## **VI. JUNE RETREAT**

The Commission decided to wait until after the National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference in August to consider having a retreat.

## **VII. 2014 SCHEDULE CHANGE\***

Commission members were reminded that the date of the next Full Commission meeting has been changed to Thursday, June 26, 2014.

Full Commission Meetings: **March 20, June 26\*, September 18, December 18**  
(2-4pm; Legislative Office Building)

Public Hearing: **October 23**  
(10am; Legislative Office Building)

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was addressed.

## **IX. UPDATE: 2014 NASC CONFERENCE (YALE LAW SCHOOL, AUGUST 3-5, 2014)**

Jason DePatie updated the Commission on the planning process for the NASC Conference on August 3-5, 2014. The primary conference location will be Yale Law School and conference hotel will be the Omni. Justice Borden encouraged all of the members of the Sentencing Commission to attend the conference and asked members to email Jason DePatie who will be coordinating registration.

## **X. MEETING ADJOURNED**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.