CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Ad Hoc Juvenile Sentence Modification Working Group

Wednesday, March 7, 2012
9:00-10:30 a.m.
Board of Pardons and Paroles, Suite 520
55 West Main Street
Waterbury, CT

Members In Attendance: *John DeFeo, Michelle Cruz*, Bob Farr*, Kevin Kane*, Merit Lajoie*, David Rentler, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Richard Sparaco, Erika Tindill, Thomas Ullmann*

Also Participating: Jason DePatie

*via conference call

MINUTES

The Ad Hoc Juvenile Sentence Modification Working Group met for the purpose of determining the best approach:

> "To create a procedure whereby a person sentenced to a lengthy term of imprisonment for a crime committed when he/she was under the age of 18 will have a meaningful opportunity, after service of a portion of the sentence, to obtain release before the end of that term by demonstrating increased maturity and rehabilitation."[1]

Questions considered by the working group included:

1. Who is the decision maker? The sentencing court or parole?
2. Should counsel be appointed for the petitioner?
3. Are all juvenile offenders eligible, or are some crimes excluded?
4. Can mandatory minimum sentences and parole eligibility rules be changed when the sentence is modified?
5. What is the standard for granting a sentence modification? Should it be a mandatory standard or a discretionary standard?
6. How long should someone have to wait before review?
7. What is the scope of the hearing? Should the parties have a reasonable opportunity to present testimony, or should this be left to the discretion of the decision maker?
8. Should the petitioner have one shot at a hearing or more than one shot?

[1] 2011 Sentencing Commission Annual Report, http://www.ct.gov/opm/csc