

*Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice*

**Sentencing Reform Task Force  
Minutes**

June 09, 2021 / 1:30PM-4:00PM  
Virtual Meeting

**ATTENDEES**

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

Michael Dougherty, *TF Co-chair*/District Attorney, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Rick Kornfeld, *TF Co-chair*/Defense Attorney  
Taj Ashaheed, Second Chance Center  
Christie Donner, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition  
Julie Gonzales, State Senator  
Kristen Hilkey, Adult Parole Board  
Kazi Houston, Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center  
Sarah Keck, Court Services  
Matt Lewis, Mesa County Sheriff  
Andrew Matson, Colorado CURE  
Heather McClure, Adams County Division of Community Safety & Well-Being  
Tom Raynes, Colorado District Attorneys' Council  
Michael Rourke, District Attorney, Weld County  
Dan Rubinstein, District Attorney, 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District  
Glenn Tapia, Division of Probation Services

**STAFF**

Richard Stroker, CCJJ Consultant  
Jack Reed, Division of Criminal Justice  
Damien Angel, Division of Criminal Justice  
Kevin Ford, Division of Criminal Justice  
Laurence Lucero, Division of Criminal Justice

**Guests**

N/A

**ABSENT**

Terri Carver, State Representative  
Maureen Cain, Office of the State Public Defender  
Jeff Chostner, District Attorney, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Valerie Finks, Victim Compensation Program, 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District DA Office  
Bob Gardner, State Senator  
Serena Gonzales-Gutierrez, State Representative  
Henry Jackson, Metro State College  
Jessica Jones, Defense Attorney  
Greg Mauro, Division of Community Corrections  
Meredith McGrath, Deputy Director, Adult Parole  
Lisa Wayne, Defense Attorney  
Dean Williams, Department of Corrections

<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p>Welcome, Approval of Minutes, and Agenda <i>Rick Kornfeld &amp; Michael Dougherty, TF Co-chairs</i></p>	<p>Rick welcomed attendees to the Sentencing Reform Task Force meeting and reviewed the agenda. A motion was offered and seconded to approve the minutes from April 7, 2021 (<i>There was no meeting in May 2021</i>). Task Force members unanimously approved the minutes.</p> <p>Rick, Michael, and Tom Raynes provided a legislative update regarding the Sentence Structure Working Group’s FY21-SR #01 recommendation on misdemeanor sentencing (the source for Senate Bill 2021-271). The bill passed both chambers of the General Assembly.</p>

<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p>Update: Sentencing Alternatives/Decisions &amp; Probation Working Group <i>Glenn Tapia, WG Leader</i></p>	<p>Glenn provided an update on behalf of the Probation Working Group that included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group will present their recommendations as complete packages, rather than piecemeal, beginning in September.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Their current recommendations focus on the statutory purpose of probation and the intersection of probation with petty offenders under the new misdemeanor grid.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p>Update: Sentence Structure Working Group <i>Michael Dougherty</i></p>	<p>Michael provided an update on behalf of the Sentence Structure Working Group that included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group will begin work on a recommendation that revises felony grids and offenses.</li> <li>• Prior to revising felony statutes, the Working Group will hold stakeholder listening sessions to gather input to guide their work. These sessions are scheduled June 21 and 22 (See the CCJJ Calendar for details: <a href="http://ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-calendar">ccjj.colorado.gov/ccjj-calendar</a>).</li> </ul>

<b>Issue/Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p>Update: Parole Working Group <i>Kristen Hilkey, WG Leader</i></p>	<p>Kristen, provided an update on behalf of the Parole Working Group that included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group has concluded its work and will go on hiatus until additional work related to parole is generated and assigned by the Task Force.</li> </ul>

Issue/Topic	Discussion
<p>Proposal: Sentence Progression Working Group proposal of a new Community Transition Task Force <i>Richard Stroker, Kristen Hilkey, All</i></p>	<p>Richard informed Task Force members that the scope of the Sentencing Progression Working Group’s work had grown to the point that CCJJ staff and leadership believe that creating an additional task force may be necessary to effectively generate recommendations. The following topics and concerns were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns regarding the creation of an additional task force whose work might overlap with topics related to sentencing reform.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Members of the Sentencing Reform Task Force (SRTF) who were interested in the proposed transition-to-community topics were concerned they’d need to participate on two task forces or at least expend greater effort to track the work being done in this additional task force.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Potential for splitting the Sentence Progression Working Group into multiple working groups within the SRTF.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Members discussed the concerns with and benefits of creating a new task force or creating new working groups within the SRTF. Might creating an additional task force better facilitate communication and information sharing among working groups focused on transition issues? Alternatively, might additional working group within the SRTF be more efficient?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concerns regarding participants were expressed. There is a lack of subject matter experts on the SRTF regarding transition topics. Also, if new working groups are created within the SRTF, there may be too few members to provide leadership of these new working groups (given the prior commitments to the two existing working groups...on Sentence Structure and on Probation).</li> <li>• There are concerns that the perspectives available on the SRTF would not be represented on a new task force.</li> <li>• Would a new task force receive the same level of stakeholder support as the Sentencing Reform Task Force?</li> </ul> <p>The Sentence Progression Working Group agreed to develop an outline of the proposed topics and the solutions for efficiently accomplishing the work. This outline will be presented for discussion at the July 7, 2021 Sentencing Reform Task Force meeting.</p>

Issue/Topic	Public Comment
<p>Public Comment <i>Rick Kornfeld</i></p>	<p>There were no members of the public present during this portion of the meeting.</p>

Issue/Topic	Conclusion
<p>Adjournment <i>Rick Kornfeld &amp; Michael Dougherty</i></p>	<p>Hearing no further comments from the group, Rick thanked the group for their efforts and adjourned the meeting. <b>The next meeting of the Sentencing Reform Task Force is July 7, 2021 at 1:30pm.</b></p>