

**Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice
Sentencing Reform Task Force**

**Sentence Structure Working Group
MINUTES**

July 8, 2021 / 2:00PM-5:00PM
Virtual Meeting

ATTENDEES

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Maureen Cain, Office of the State Public Defender
Christie Donner, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
Valarie Finks, Crime Victim Compensation, 1st Judicial District
Jessica Jones, Defense Attorney
Tom Raynes, Colorado District Attorneys' Council
Dan Rubinstein, District Attorney, 21st Judicial District
Lisa Wayne, Defense Attorney

Guests

STAFF

Jack Reed, Division of Criminal Justice
Damien Angel, Division of Criminal Justice
Laurence Lucero, Division of Criminal Justice
Stephane Waisanen, Division of Criminal Justice
Kevin Ford, Division of Criminal Justice

ABSENT

Michael Dougherty, *Working Group Leader*, District Attorney, 20th Judicial District,

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| <p>Issue/Topic Welcome, Agenda <i>Maureen Cain, All</i></p> | <p>Discussion</p> <p>In the absence of Michael Dougherty (Working Group Leader), Maureen Cain led the meeting, welcomed members, and outlined the meeting agenda.</p> |
| <p>Issue/Topic Additional Listening Session & Meeting Schedule <i>Maureen Cain, All</i></p> <p>ACTION ITEM Damien will contact additional stakeholders</p> | <p>Discussion</p> <p>Maureen proposed hosting another Working Group listening session, as she was aware of additional stakeholders who were interested. Members also thought it was important to reach out to stakeholders who were unable to participate in the prior two listening sessions in June and invite them to this new session.</p> <p>The group decided to schedule a listening session on July 27, 2021, tentatively, from 12pm – 6pm. Damien Angel, Staff agreed to coordinate with the Working Group members to acquire contacts and send invitations to stakeholders.</p> <p>Maureen stated that the Working Group should begin to return to its bimonthly meeting schedule to accommodate the additional material to be generated by the Study Group. Members concurred with an increase in meeting frequency and agreed to meet every other Tuesday from 2pm-5pm starting August 10, 2021.</p> |
| <p>Issue/Topic Overview of Parole in Colorado <i>Christie Donner</i></p> | <p>Discussion</p> <p>Christie provided a brief overview of function and structure of parole in Colorado, including how parole sentences, earned and good time computations, and the significant dates in a prison sentence related to parole (Parole Eligibility Date, Mandatory Release Date, etc.). The information in this presentation was distributed as a memo to the Working Group members via email for further review.</p> <p>Following Christie’s overview, the group members agreed that the current parole processes do not align with the wishes stated by stakeholders during listening sessions for more simple and comprehensible sentences. Members agreed that they would most likely draft a recommendation that reflected more “truth in sentencing” that focused on increased clarity regarding the timing of parole eligibility and the length of parole periods. The group also agreed that this approach would eliminate discretionary release and, eventually, the Parole Board (<i>Note: This change would not be retroactive and, therefore, previously sentenced inmates would still qualify for discretionary release</i>).</p> <p>Christie stated that, while she was supportive of a truth-in-sentencing model, a model of this type would be more rigid than the current system. Dan and Tom agreed, but stated that the stakeholder feedback they received indicated that additional sentence rigidity was more than balanced by the added benefits of</p> |

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| <p>Issue/Topic Overview of Parole in Colorado <i>Christie Donner</i> (continued)</p> | <p>additional certainty in sentence lengths. Maureen added that additional flexibility could be added via conditional “off-ramps” out of prison to transition-to-community settings.</p> <p>Maureen informed the group that, in addition to Christie’s memo, she would be distributing relevant data from other states for the group to review as they continue working on this recommendation element.</p> |
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| <p>Issue/Topic Public Comment & Adjournment <i>Maureen Cain</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>No members of the public were present to offer comment.</p> <p>Maureen confirmed the details of the next meeting and asked whether there were any additional comments. Hearing none, she adjourned the meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting of the Sentence Structure Working Group is scheduled for August 10, 2021 from 3pm-5pm.</p> |
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