

SGC Small Group Meeting

June 4, 2018

Notes and Agenda

Following are notes and a suggested agenda for our small group meeting this coming Monday. Although the meeting has been referred to as an “executive committee” meeting, I don’t consider it anything quite so formal. We have a solid, professional Commission. With our mix of veteran members and new-comers, we can provide the Governor and Legislature what they need: the considered opinion of experts leavened with the perspective of the community we serve. However, like any large group, we spend a lot of time ensuring all voices are heard and that we are all speaking the same language. It’s hard to capture new ideas.

In this and future small group meetings, the goal is to identify and refine the substance of our conversations. Proposals, agreements, and disagreements—the same points that occupy the Commission as a whole—will, I hope, get a little clearer, and that clarity will be shared with the Commission.

Going forward, all members will be invited to future small group meetings. We will self-select the membership. Likewise, any SGC member or other interested party is invited to all small group meetings.

Below I’ve started with a review of our brief from the legislature. We have to keep our orders in mind. The agenda is preliminary, subject to change, reorganization, deletion, clarification, and general complaints.

1. Direction from the Legislature

- a. Sec. (20)(a) of the relevant 2018 Budget Proviso: “...make recommendations to accomplish the following goals:”
 - i. Assess the SRA, as applied, for efficacy in reaching stated purposes
 - ii. Ensure sentencing in WA is
 1. Evidence based
 2. Aligned with best practices
 3. Consistent with federal and state law
 - iii. Public Safety =
 1. Holding offenders accountable
 2. Facilitating Reentry
 - iv. Simplify
 - v. Eliminate Inconsistencies
 1. How do we define “inconsistencies?”

- b. (20)(b): "...the Sentencing Guidelines Commission shall:"
 - i. Review the Grid and Recommend Changes to:
 - 1. Simplify
 - 2. Increase Judicial Discretion
 - 3. Reduce Cells and Create Broader Ranges
 - 4. Review Seriousness Levels
 - 5. Drug Grid Review
 - a. Incorporate into new grid?
 - 6. Review minimum terms
 - ii. Review mitigating factors, aggravating factors, mandatory consecutive sentencing for consistency with "current policies."
 - iii. Review LFOs, including restitution
 - iv. Review community custody and supervision
 - 1. Open Ended
 - 2. Includes "earned time" and violation procedures
 - v. Review alternatives to full confinement
- 2. Agenda for June 4 Meeting
 - a. Small Group Goal
 - i. My Preference: Report to the Commission outlining specific proposals, agreements, etc.
 - 1. Give the Commission something specific to chew on
 - b. Set Agreements on Targets
 - i. Those Set by Leg. Direction
 - 1. We have no choice
 - ii. What we see beyond the Legislature's orders
 - 1. Information for judges?
 - 2. Supervise/service more (the right) released prisoners?
 - c. Identify Sore Points
 - d. Share Ideas