



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

*Jefferson Building, PO Box 43124 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3124 • (360) 688-8511*

### **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 31, 2025 12:00pm – 1:00pm**

1500 Jefferson Building

Olympia, WA 98516

And Zoom

#### Members Present:

Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair  
Greg Link  
Secretary Tim Lang (proxy: Kristi Knudsen)  
Ramona Brandes  
Hon. Jeffery Swan  
Councilmember Carmen Rivera  
Jeremiah Bourgeois (proxy: Greg Link)  
Norrie Gregoire  
Chief Brian Smith/Chief Fuller  
Amy Anselmi  
Rochelle Cleland  
Dr. Esther Matthews  
Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry  
Kecia Rongen

#### Guests:

Brad Meryhew, Chair, SOPB  
Dr. Michael O'Connell, SOPB  
Katherine Hurley, KC DPD

#### Members Absent:

Rep. Tarra Simmons  
Jennifer Redman  
Senator Claire Wilson  
Hon. Karen Donohue  
Jon Tunheim  
Commissioner Tye Menser  
Hon. Sharonda Amamilo  
Hon. Veronica Galván  
Hon. Josephine Wiggs

#### Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer  
Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson, PSPRC  
Whitney Hunt, SOPB

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

## **II. DRAFT LEGISLATIVE BILLS**

### SB 5227 - Concerning offenses involving child sex dolls.

Keri-Anne reminded members of the testimony they wanted presented on this bill. She reported that after testifying, the chair of the policy committee requested the SGC provide some recommendations on where to rank these new offenses. Keri-Anne introduced Brad Meryhew, Chair of the SOPB, and Dr. Michael O'Connell, treatment

provider and member of the SOPB, who have made themselves available for any questions.

Amy Anselmi inquired if there was any research on whether use of a child sex doll lead to or mitigated against future actions against a child. Dr. O'Connell prefaced that this topic is not an area that he's had deep research into and doesn't see with the clients he works with. He recently looked into the research and reported that there isn't a lot available on the topic and most studies that exist are preliminary studies. Brad Meryhew offered that in his career he has only seen sex dolls in discovery about three or four times. Typically, he stated, they were things found during a search warrant. He concurred with Dr. O'Connell that there is very little research on this topic.

Speaking to the offense rankings, Brad Meryhew suggested that he liked the structure of Communicating with a Minor for Immoral Purposes, where a first offense or an offense that does not occur online is a gross misdemeanor. It is a sex offense and one that DOC will supervise, thereby engaging individuals at the early stage in appropriate treatment to break the cycle before it leads to more serious victimization. He went on to say that a repeat offense or a crime done in an electronic context is a class C felony ranked at seriousness level 3. Members discussed where to rank the offenses.

**MOTION #25-20: RANKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHILD SEX DOLL OFFENSES:**

- **MANUFACTURE A CHILD SEX DOLL – CLASS B, SL 3**
- **SENDING/BRINGING A CHILD SEX DOLL – CLASS B, SL 3**
- **TRAFFICKING A CHILD SEX DOLL – CLASS B, SL 3**
- **POSSESSION OF CHILD SEX DOLL – FIRST OFFENSE = GM, SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES = CLASS C, SL 3**

**MOVED:** Ramona Brandes

**SECONDED:** Greg Link

**PASSED:** Y – 9; N - 0

**ABSTAIN:** Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kristi Knudsen, Kecia Rongen, Chief Fuller

**HB 1180 – Implementing certain recommendations from the sex offender policy board concerning the criminal offense of failure to register.**

Keri-Anne reminded members of the SGC's past positions on failure to register. She then asked Brad Meryhew to speak to the items within the bill. Brad informed members on the work and recommendations the SOPB has made on sex offender registration and the offense of failure to register, specifically.

Judge Swan spoke about his experience with failure to register offenses and felt that since the implementation of the offense back in the 1990's, the objective has not been as successful as hoped.

Brad Meryhew talked about a proposal from WASPC related to gross misdemeanors restarting registration periods that was in the SOPB's recommendations but for unknown reasons was not included in HB 1180.

**MOTION #25-21: SUPPORT HB 1180**

**MOVED:** Judge Swan  
**SECONDED:** Ramona Brandes  
**PASSED:** Y – 7; N - 1  
**ABSTAIN:** Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kristi Knudsen, Kecia Rongen, Rochelle Clelland, Amy Anselmi

Chair Judge Saint Clair thanked Brad Meryhew, Dr. O'Connell, and Whitney Hunt for offering their assistance as the SGC discussed these bills.

SB 5260 – Concerning emergency measures for managing juvenile populations at state juvenile correctional institutions.

SB 5278 - Concerning emergency measures for managing juvenile populations at state juvenile correctional institutions.

SB 5426/HB 1391 – Improving developmentally appropriate alternatives for youth outside the formal court process.

HB 1322/SB 5296 – Improving outcomes for individuals adjudicated of juvenile offenses by increasing opportunities for community placement options and refining procedural requirements.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the bills. Katie Hurley expanded on what Keri-Anne reported. Members discussed the bills. Greg Link expressed serious concern about how SB 5278 categorizes youth who are victims of assault by staff as safety risks. He went on to say they are, by definition, victims of crime noting there is a crime called Custodial Sexual Assault.

**MOTION #25-22:SUPPORT HB 1322/SB 5296 AND OPPOSE SB 5260 AND SB 5278**

**MOVED:** Greg Link  
**SECONDED:** Councilmember Rivera  
**PASSED:** Y – 6; N - 1  
**ABSTAIN:** Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kristi Knudsen, Kecia Rongen, Norrie Gregoire, Rochelle Clelland, Amy Anselmi

HB 1113 – Concerning accountability and access to services for individuals charged with a misdemeanor.

Keri-Anne briefed members on the bill. Ramona Brandes commented that the list of excluded offenses is extensive. Norrie Gregoire inquired if this bill fast-tracks people to treatment and intervention. Ramona Brandes confirmed it did. She added that giving people a way to divert from criminal conviction where they are taking accountability of their actions, where they are engaging in treatment necessary for reentry will have beneficial outcomes and is something she believed the SGC should support.

**MOTION #25-23: SUPPORT HB 1113**

**MOVED:** Ramona Brandes

**SECONDED:** Dr. Matthews

**PASSED:** Y – 7; N - 1

**ABSTAIN:** Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry, Kristi Knudsen, Rochelle Clelland, Amy Anselmi

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public present at the end of the meeting.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION**



4/11/25

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Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair (Ret), Chair

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Date