



STATE OF WASHINGTON

SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

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

MEETING MINUTES

March 14, 2025 9:00am – 12:00pm

1500 Jefferson Building, Room 2330

Olympia, WA 98516

and Zoom

Members Present:

Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair

Greg Link

Secretary Tim Lang (proxy: Dianne Ashlock)

Ramona Brandes (proxy: Greg Link)

Hon. Karen Donohue

Hon. Jeffery Swan (proxy: Judge Saint Clair)

Commissioner Tye Menser

Councilmember Carmen Rivera

Jeremiah Bourgeois

Norrie Gregoire

Chief Brian Smith/Chief Kal Fuller

Amy Anselmi (proxy: Mindy Fischer)

Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry

Dr. Esther Matthews

Jon Tunheim

Members Absent:

Rep. Tarra Simmons

Jennifer Redman

Hon. Josephine Wiggs

Senator Claire Wilson

Hon. Sharonda Amamilo

Rochelle Cleland

Hon. Veronica Galván

Kecia Rongen

Staff:

Keri-Anne Jetzer

Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson, PSPRC

Whitney Hunt, SOPB

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Judge Saint Clair called the meeting to order.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #25-44: APPROVE JANUARY 10, 2025, MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Jeremiah Bourgeois

SECONDED: Chief Smith

PASSED: Passed

MOTION #25-45: APPROVE JANUARY 17, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Jeremiah Bourgeois

SECONDED: Chief Smith

PASSED: Passed

ABSTAINED: Judge Donohue

MOTION #25-46: APPROVE JANUARY 24, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Jeremiah Bourgeois

SECONDED: Chief Smith

PASSED: Passed

ABSTAINED: Judge Donohue

III. LEGISLATIVE BILL UPDATE

Keri-Anne provided a list of the bills the SGC took a position on and briefed members on the status of several of the bills. Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson updated members on the changes to the still-moving juvenile population management bills (E2SSB 5296 and E2SSB 5278).

Members did not wish to change the SGC's position on either of the juvenile population management bills.

IV. 2025 WORK PLAN

Keri-Anne reminded members of the work plan the SGC created last year before it received a request to review HB 2504 (2024). She provided a list of old and new suggested topics for members to consider.

Commissioner Menser inquired what a review of the drug grid would entail. Keri-Anne replied that she expected it would be similar to the analysis Dr. Knoth-Peterson completed for the Criminal Sentencing Task Force on the standard sentencing grid. Dr. Knoth-Peterson offered additional information on what that review might include.

Jeremiah Bourgeois asked if there had been a review of the different indeterminate sentencing schemes. Dr. Knoth-Peterson replied that there are some reports that look at specific areas under ISRB's jurisdiction, but wasn't aware of any in-depth discussions of the sentencing schemes and how they operate. Jeremiah stated he would be interested in adding a comprehensive review of indeterminate sentencing schemes to the list of potentials. He said he was interested in outcomes and how the statutes operate. He believed this would be informative to members, too, especially given expanding parole.

Chair Judge Saint Clair suggested members prioritize the topics in order to get a better idea of resources needed.

Dr. Matthews noted that some people who receive re-sentencings today end up with less confinement than those who were sentenced a while ago for the same offense. She expressed interest in looking at the equity and possible ways to address that equity. She thought it may also be useful to inform an SGC position should re-sentencing bills come up in the future. Keri-Anne remarked that she and Dr. Knoth-Peterson had started updating the SGC's 2010 20 Years in Sentencing trend report but other requests took them away from that. She thought that might be akin to Dr. Matthews's suggestion. Dr. Knoth-Peterson added that there could be analyses on the changes that have been made over time and what the impact of those changes have been.

Judge Saint Clair expressed interest in looking at Persistent Offender sentencing. There was discussion about what the Assault 2 fix would involve. Keri-Anne explained it centered around the wide variety of behavior that is encapsulated within the Assault 2 offense. Greg Link expounded that Assault 2 can include bruising from a fight to pointing a gun at another person. There is a tension between finding a seriousness level that recognizes the minimal behavior and also accounts for the serious behavior. Assault 2 is a class B offense, is categorized as a violent offense and a strike offense but is only ranked at seriousness level 4. Greg noted that there are a few people who have received Persistent Offender sentences because they had three Assault 2 convictions. Norrie Gregoire commented that in his county's adult recovery court (drug court), a violent offense is a prohibitor from participation. He said what they learned was that some Assault 2's might be a violent offense and others might not so some people might be prohibited from participating in the therapeutic court while others aren't. He expressed interest in exploring some kind of fix just to clean that up as it creates confusion.

Keri-Anne will send out a list of potential work plan topics and ask members to rank them in order of importance. The list will be reviewed at the next meeting.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Matthews gave members an update on the recent work of the Jail Modernization Task Force. Members have been divided into groups to work on proposals related to the group's topic. Those topics include infrastructure, modernizing behavioral health services and associated costs, diversion and reentry, how to attract and retain jail staff, and how to get funding for pilot programs.

Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry reported that the person that will be working with us on these issues has only recently been hired at OFM. Dr. Georgoulas-Sherry hoped to have a meeting with this person to discuss the status of the AAG/AG opinion the SGC is seeking as well as feedback on whether the SGC has the authority to submit agency request legislation.

Jeremiah Bourgeois informed members that he and Dr. Matthews have both reached out to other stakeholders to gather work plan suggestions. Keri-Anne announced there is still room for additional SGC members if anyone is interested in participating on the committee.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public wished to address the members.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION



Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair (Ret), Chair

5/9/25

Date