



STATE OF WASHINGTON

SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

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

MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2025 9:00am – 12:00pm

1500 Jefferson Building, Room 2330

Olympia, WA 98516

And Zoom

Members Present:

Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair, Chair
Hon. Sharonda Amamilo
Greg Link (proxy: Kate Benward)
Secretary Tim Lang (proxy: Mac Pevey)
Ramona Brandes
Hon. Karen Donohue
Hon. Jeffery Swan
Commissioner Tye Menser
Councilmember Carmen Rivera
Jeremiah Bourgeois (proxy: Ramona Brandes)
Norrie Gregoire
Chief Brian Smith/Chief Kal Fuller
Dr. Vasiliki Georgoulas-Sherry
Dr. Esther Matthews
Senator Claire Wilson
Kecia Rongen
Jon Tunheim
Hon. Veronica Galván
Hon. Josephine Wiggs

Members Absent:

Rep. Tarra Simmons
Jennifer Redman
Amy Anselmi
Rochelle Cleland

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 #25-51: APPROVE FEBRUARY 28, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Kecia Rongen
SECONDED: Chief Smith
PASSED: Passed
ABSTAINED: Jon Tunheim, Judge Donohue, Mac Pevey

MOTION #25-52: APPROVE MARCH 7, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Kecia Rongen
SECONDED: Chief Smith
PASSED: Passed
ABSTAINED: Jon Tunheim, Ramona Brandes (Jeremiah Bourgeois, Councilmember Rivera), Judge Donohue, Mac Pevey, Dr. Matthews

MOTION #25-53: APPROVE MARCH 14, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Chief Smith
SECONDED: Dr. Matthews
PASSED: Passed
ABSTAINED: Judge Wiggs, Kecia Rongen, Mac Pevey, Ramona Brandes (Jeremiah Bourgeois, Councilmember Rivera)

MOTION #25-54: APPROVE APRIL 11, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

MOVED: Norrie Gregoire
SECONDED: Chief Smith
PASSED: Passed
ABSTAINED: Jon Tunheim, Kecia Rongen, Mac Pevey, Judge Donohue, Judge Galván, Ramona Brandes (Jeremiah Bourgeois, Councilmember Rivera)

III. LEGISLATIVE BILLUPDATE

Keri-Anne provided an update on the status of legislative bills that the SGC had taken a position on as of Sine Die.

Ramona Brandes observed that no bills that the SGC outright opposed passed and that bills where the SGC expressed concerns were modified to address those concerns. She thanked everyone for their hard work during this long legislative session. She thought it made an impact. Chair Judge Saint Clair also expressed his appreciation and was pleased that the SGC's perspective was sought out during session. Senator Wilson echoed Chair Saint Clair's thoughts and expressed deep appreciation for engagement by Dr. Matthews and Dr. Knoth-Peterson. While she noted there is still much work to be done in the juvenile space, she said the expertise they brought before the committees was critical. Ramona Brandes felt that Keri-Anne and Dr. KP testifying in person, instead of simply signing in, had a huge impact as well.

IV. JUVENILE COMMITTEE PROJECT

In the absence of Chair Jeremiah Bourgeois, Ramona Brandes briefed members on the most recent meeting of the Juvenile Committee. She commented that the committee is not yet ready to make an ask of the SGC as additional conversation from its members is needed. Ramona relayed the topics being considered include the sentencing grid and sentencing alternatives. Dr. Knoth-Peterson had presented to the committee on the history of juvenile sentencing as well as breaking down how juveniles are sentenced that Ramona thought was easily understood, and she recommended members who struggle to understand the juvenile sentencing system to review the presentation. The committee meets again in a few weeks and then will be ready to bring their requests before the SGC. Chair Saint Clair expressed excitement that the committee is taking a deeper dive into the juvenile sentencing process, but recognized a challenge is the limited resources that need to be balanced with other on-going projects.

Keri-Anne reminded members that the Juvenile Committee works at the direction of the SGC, but in absence of any assigned work, the committee may bring project ideas to the SGC for approval.

Judge Galván requested to be added to the committee. She invited legislators to a listen session at her court to watch the work being done and speak to the people who do the work. She believed that it was important to get context for how the work is done while engaging in these discussions. Chair Judge Saint Clair suggested there may be SGC members who could also benefit, if Judge Galván cared to extend the invitation to the SGC.

V. SENTENCING ALTERNATIVES PRESENTATION

Dr. Knoth-Peterson presented on Washington's adult and juvenile sentencing alternatives.

Discussion about FTOW included the number and percentage of eligible sentences versus actual FTOW sentences. Members wondered if there was a change in the use of FTOW when the level of supervision associated with the sentencing alternative changed. A member also wondered if the addition of DOSA around 2000 might have had an impact on the use of FTOW. Another member asked what changes to FTOW might increase its utilization.

Discussion about DOSA noted that use of the sentencing alternative may be due to counties having a drug court.

Discussion about the MHSA included a suggestion that the increase in the number of sentences between FY23 and FY24 could be related to a 2024 legislative change that required the HCA to reimburse for in-custody mental health assessments and preliminary treatment plan developments, and, during the course of serving the alternative, on-going monitoring of the defendant's adherence. This made it easier for providers to supervise a Mental Health Sentencing Alternative sentence, which had been a barrier.

Conversation about SSOSA stated that if a defendant has an indeterminate sentence or other sentence with a lifetime statutory maximum and violates the SSOSA community custody conditions during any time, the SSOSA can be revoked and the defendant would return to prison for an indeterminate sentence, up to life. Another largely unknown aspect is that, while the SSOSA statute doesn't indicate that a person can serve partial confinement on electronic home monitoring (EHM), the EHM statute states it cannot be used for a sex offense. A member thought the SGC might care to weigh in on the remand statute, too. An evaluation is required for a SOSSA, so when a defendant pleads guilty, time is set over for sentencing while the evaluation is given and/or the prosecutors consider it. However, there is a mandatory remand statute that requires those who committed certain offenses to be held in custody and sometimes custody may not be appropriate.

Whitney Hunt briefed members on discussions had and recommendations made by the Sex Offender Policy Board related to SSOSA.

Members decided they wanted to look at each sentencing alternative independently first and then compare them side-by-side. They chose to start with FTOW at the next meeting. A survey of court officials was also suggested, noting that some counties use some alternatives more than others.

It was recommended that the Juvenile Committee be given the work of reviewing the juvenile sentencing alternatives. Ramona Brandes requested the percentage of sentencing alternatives by county by the total number of cases.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No member of the public wished to address the members.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION



6/13/25

Judge J. Wesley Saint Clair (Ret), Chair

Date