

**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE & SENTENCING REFORM**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Friday, October 30, 2015**  
**Chicago, Illinois**

**Attendees:** John Cabello, John Maki, Rodger Heaton, Brendan Kelly, Andy Leipold, Elena Quintana, Kathryn Bocanegra, Jerry Butler, Scott Drury, Karen McConnaughay, Pam Rodriguez,, Dave Olson, Mike Pelletier, Howard Peters, Elgie Sims; Greg Sullivan, Michael Tardy, Gladyse Taylor, Lisa Desai

**Phone In:** Kathy Saltmarsh, Brian Stewart, Doug Marlowe, John Baldwin, Stephen Sawyer; Chelsea Kline

**Minutes**

- *Motion to adopt the minutes from the September 8, 2015 Commission meeting, with correction to include attendance by Commissioner Brendan Kelly.*

*Motion to adopt: Elizabeth Robb*

*Seconded: Andrew Liepold*

*Motion Carried*

**Administrative**

Despite substantial effort there is a concern we may not dig as deeply as is necessary before the report is due to the Governor. It is suggested, as a Commission, a request is made to the Governor for an extension. The request would include providing part one of two reports on January 1, 2016. This portion would include foundational reforms that are more administrative in nature and reforms that can be handled within IDOC. The second portion on March or April 1 is more comprehensive with reforms that require statutory changes - legislative packages.

**Jerry Butler:** Supports

**Elena Quintana:** Supports

**John Cabello/Stewart** –3/31 up to May can get things passed

**Scott Drury**-Supports – given scope, introduce in early April

**Elgie Sims**-Supports-It can move effectively when we are doing the right thing. We should not rush. Tasked with this and need to do it right. We are not going to get this opportunity again.

**E. Quintana**-Supports. Additional time allows for additional buy-in from stakeholders, unions, states attorneys

**Greg Sullivan**- Resist adding amendments that are not part of the request

## **Public Comment**

### **Elizabeth Clarke, Juvenile Justice Initiative**

- Testimony to augment recommendation that the Commission include replicate juvenile diversion and sentencing options for young adults and/or raising the age of juvenile court to 21 as a means of reducing the jail and prison populations. Research indicates as young adults through late teens and early 20's they experience a period of rapid and profound brain development at which time we may have a significant opportunity to exert a positive influence and reduce criminality through appropriate interventions.
- Discussion of the issue referencing racial disparities. JJI report examined arrest data and concluded that black young adults were 3.44 times more likely to be arrested than white youths and 3.59 times more likely to be arrested statewide.

### **Recommendations from the Justice Coalition for Safety and Fairness**

- Create accountability for prisoner behavior and rehabilitation by returning authority to the IDOC to withhold and to award sentence credit for each day served.
- Establish post sentencing periodic review by a court or parole board for individuals serving lengthy terms of incarceration.
- Restore judicial discretion for offenses involving a fire arm.
- Remove constraints unproven to increase public safety currently placed on individuals convicted of sex offenses, including certain registration and residency restrictions and indefinite detention.
- Raise the age of criminal responsibility to 21 and create a process for young adults under 25 to prevent permanent felony convictions which prohibit them from becoming productive citizens of the community.

### **Scott Main/Attorney Northwestern Law-Testimony on Behalf of Project I-11**

Section of Illinois Constitution that prison sentences should aim to restore the prisoner to useful citizenship as well as to punish.

- Statute form of parole was abolished in the late 1970's due to inconsistency and inadequate methods to improve chances for parole.
- Recommendations and principles for legislation enable a decision making body to hear and rule upon sentence modification from prisoners who have served 15 years of their sentence.
- Decision making body appointed by the Governor. Independent board – Merit selection.
- IDOC would notify prisoners of their rights and ensure they have adequate help to prepare applications
- Decision makers focus on whether the purpose of incarceration would be better served by a modified sentence. What is the likelihood of the prisoner living successfully outside?

Suggesting eligibility of parole for earned release after 15 years served. If a no vote - eligible again in 5 year intervals.

Board bases decisions on risk analysis, standards and procedures

## **Father Tom Carroll – Antonio Magic / Communities United**

In 1982, \$4B annually for Corrections

Today, \$8.5B for Criminal justice.

He encourages justice reinvestment by shifting resources from criminal justice to reinvest in tools, programs and training.

Seventeen year old Antonio suggests more investment in communities and additional strategies that align with education affordable housing and jobs.

**James Nelson** Addressed release and underlying cause of crime are poverty, lack of education and disproportion arrest affecting black males due to police profiling. Please handle from a holistic perspective.

- Invest in education
- Look at the job situation – state sponsored programs
- Ratio disparity – blacks contribute 13% but 74% of arrests

**Arnold Dugan** has served 11 sentences. In the federal system you must be in a halfway house as part of your release. He reiterates the importance of programming before release, living in a halfway house and bringing offenders to the table for discussion. No one affected by these changes are in the room. The felony question on job applications has kept him from obtaining employment. There are times when he feels that “Hey I know how I can earn some money” What else can a person do...

**Meeting Adjourned.** Next Commission meeting to be held on Friday November 20, 2015

9:00 am – 5:00 pm at Adler University 17 N. Dearborne at Washington. There will be call in capability however you will be unable to vote. It is important to attend in person.

It may be necessary to meet in December. With the holidays approaching we hope to schedule around 12/10 or 12/11.