



ARKANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

A Division of the Arkansas Department of Corrections

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**Commission Meeting
Conference Call
May 11, 2020
8:15 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Judge Gordon Webb
Judge Mack McCain
Mr. Michael Robbins

Mr. Brent Standridge
Mr. Pat Roberts
Mr. Bob Balfe

Mr. Keith Rutledge
Mr. Daniel Shue

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mr. Nathan Smith

Judge Shannon Blatt

STAFF PRESENT

Lindsay Wallace

Tawnie Rowell

VISITORS PRESENT

Solomon Graves (Secretary)

Joe West (AG's Office)

Judge Gordon Webb declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Daniel Shue moved and Pat Roberts seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was approved.

Keith Rutledge moved and Michael Robbins seconded the motion to approve the quarterly expense report. The motion was approved.

The Commission considered the Population Monitoring Report. Solomon Graves elaborated on the effect of CoVID-19 on the prison population- a decrease that has been primarily driven by a decrease in intakes and a decrease in county-jail backup but supplemented by modified EPA releases.

Lindsay Wallace gave the director's report. Staff is currently finishing analysis of sentencing data from calendar year 2018. Training has slowed due to gathering restrictions, but staff is setting up Web-ex trainings in order to satisfy the Commission's statutory duty to provide annual CLE. Jail Standards has moved into the office suite and been a great help in keeping the office running through the pandemic.

Lindsay Wallace presented two draft bills to address the ambiguity discussed at the last Commission meeting regarding Criminal History Scoring. Both simply define "prior offense." The first defines "prior offense" as offenses committed up to the date of the commission of the offense being scored, and the second defines "prior offense" as offenses committed up to the date of sentencing for the offense being scored. Judge McCain moved and Daniel Shue seconded the motion to propose the draft bill that includes all offenses committed up to the date of sentencing for the offense being scored. The motion was approved with Brent Standridge voting no.

The next meeting date will be set after date conflicts are considered.

Keith Rutledge moved and Daniel Shue seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved.
Meeting adjourned.