



ARKANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

1302 Pike Avenue, Suite E • North Little Rock, AR 72114

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Commission Meeting December 7, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

Judge Gordon McCain

Mr. Nathan Smith

Mr. Keith Rutledge

Judge Shannon Blatt

Ms. Kathleen Bell

Mr. Dan Shue

Judge Carlton Jones

Mr. Michael Robbins

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Mr. Kendrell Collins

Ms. Diana Lowe

STAFF PRESENT

Tawnie Rowell

Michaela Whitelow

Toni Hamp

Laura Ebner

VISITORS PRESENT

Solomon Graves (Secretary)

Joe West (ARAG)

Lindsay Wallace (Chief of Staff)

Amber Schubert (ACC)

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

Judge Blatt moved and Mr. Shue seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the September 2022 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Judge Blatt moved and Mr. Shue seconded the motion to approve the quarterly expense report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Commission was presented with population monitoring report. Secretary Graves discussed the current trend of population growth and reports that population levels have rebounded to pre-COVID levels.

Tawnie Rowell presented the Sentencing Commission's recently published reports. The biennial report on commission proceedings is statutorily required and is combined with the guidelines compliance report. The time computation report for the second quarter is prepared in accordance with the DOC Secretarial Directive and contains the statistical results of the commission staff's review of time entry.

The Commission was presented with the tentative plan for developing a Balanced Correctional Plan in collaboration with the Board of Corrections. Significant changes to parole eligibility and sentencing are anticipated in the upcoming legislative session, so this plan will begin after the 94th General Assembly

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concludes. Three sub-committees will be assembled with two members from the Board of Corrections and three members of the Sentencing Commission. Commission staff will be assigned to each sub-committee to coordinate scheduling, subject matter experts, and compiling materials and data. The goal is to have recommendations by early 2024 to present at a joint meeting of the Board of Corrections and the Sentencing Commission. Mr. Rutledge moved and Judge Jones seconded the motion to proceed with moving forward in establishing the balanced correctional plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tawnie Rowell presented the Director's report. The Commission staff's roles during the upcoming legislative session and the new tools utilized for bill tracking were discussed. The commissioners were invited to review the program for bill tracking.

Secretary Graves thanked the Commission for availing the director and staff for their continued support of the whole of correctional needs for the state.

The next meeting will be on March 8, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. and will be held both in-person and via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned.