



## ARKANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

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### **Commission Meeting November 9, 2021**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Judge Shannon Blatt  
Mr. KenDrell Collins  
Judge Carlton Jones

Mr. Nathan Smith  
Ms. Diana Lowe  
Mr. Keith Rutledge

Mr. Daniel Shue  
Mr. Pat Roberts  
Mr. Bob Balfe

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Mr. Michael Robbins

Judge Gordon McCain

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Tawnie Rowell

Victoria Percifield

#### **VISITORS PRESENT**

Joe West (Attorney General's Office)

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Judge Gordon McCain had a conflict and was unable to attend the meeting. He asked that Judge Shannon Blatt act as chair in his place. Judge Carlton Jones moved and Nathan Smith seconded the motion for Judge Blatt to act as Chair of the meeting. The motion was approved. Judge Blatt declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

Nathan Smith moved and Judge Jones seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2021 meeting. The motion was approved.

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

The Commission considered the Population Monitoring Report. This iteration of the monitoring report includes the projections issued for 2021-2031. These projections are tracking very closely with the actual population so far.

The Commission considered the final adoption of amendments to the Sentencing Standards and Seriousness Reference Table that were preliminarily adopted at the June meeting of the Commission. There was no public comment. Keith Rutledge moved and Judge Jones seconded the motion to approve final adoption of the amended administrative rule. The motion was approved.

The Commission considered documentation pertaining to rankings of drug offenses. These offenses will be reviewed as a group at the second quarter meeting of the Commission in 2022.

Tawnie Rowell presented the Director's report. There has been some turnover in staff, but the Secretary's office is still on board with keeping all authorized positions filled. Staff has been collaborating with the ADC on some records issues, and the Time Computation Review committee submitted recommendations that Sentencing Commission staff be responsible for performing a review of time computation to ensure that inmates are being released at the correct time. Because the Commission approved final adoption of the new rankings, those will go before ALC for final approval and hopefully be effective on January 1, 2022.

Judge Blatt expressed her appreciation to the DOC for helping with an overcrowding issue in Sebastian County. She also attended a session in Jonesboro on the Sentencing Order and the Defense Related Disposition Form.

The next meeting will be in held via Zoom on March 16, 2021. Meeting adjourned.