



ARKANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

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

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Commission Meeting May 25, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

Judge Gordon McCain
Mr. Nathan Smith

Judge Shannon Blatt
Mr. Kendrell Collins

Mr. Bob Balfe
Mr. Michael Robbins

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Judge Carlton Jones
Mr. Keith Rutledge

Mr. Pat Roberts
Mr. Dan Shue

Ms. Diana Lowe

STAFF PRESENT

Tawnie Rowell

Toni Hamp

Laura Ebner

VISITORS PRESENT

Lindsay Wallace (Chief of Staff)
Joe West (ARAG)

Amber Schubert (ACC)

Nicole Pugh (ADC)

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

Judge McCain moved and Nathan Smith seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the March 2022 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Robbins moved and Mr. Smith seconded the motion to approve the quarterly expense report. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Commission was presented with the renewal of the contract with JFA Associates. Mr. Robbins moved and Mr. Balfe seconded the motion to approve the contract. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission reviewed a Proposed Technical Corrections Bill for the update of certain sections of Arkansas Code to replace any references to forms replaced by the Sentencing Order. Mr. Smith moved and Judge Blatt seconded the motion to approve the proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission considered Proposed Revisions to Drug Rankings. Amber Schubert presented the commission with information on the Division of Community Correction Residential Treatment Program and the eligibility requirements for offenders to enter the program. Ms. Schubert detailed the rankings of certain drug offenses disqualify offenders who would otherwise qualify for the ACC's program. After a brief discussion, Mr. Smith moved and Judge Blatt seconded the motion to table the matter. The motion was approved unanimously.

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Tawnie Rowell presented the Population Monitoring Report. The population is trending upward and nearing pre-COVID numbers. Lindsay Wallace provided additional information about the county jail backup, estimated around 1700, with offenders moving through in reasonable time. Ms. Wallace also reported that there are no COVID cases at the ADC units.

Tawnie Rowell presented the Director's report. The 2019 report on compliance with sentencing guidelines is complete. The results of the first time-computation audit have been submitted to Secretary Graves. The Attorney General released an opinion on the issue of residential burglary which has the potential to significantly impact the prison population. The Lean Six Sigma project discussed at the last meeting continues. The goal of streamlining the process of getting sentencing order data into the department in a more efficient manner is ongoing.

The next meeting will be on September 21, 2022, via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned.