



ARKANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

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

Phone: (501) 682-5001 • Fax: (501) 682-5018

Commission Meeting March 8, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Judge Gordon McCain
Mr. Nathan Smith
Mr. Keith Rutledge
Mr. Cory Cox

Judge Shannon Blatt
Ms. Kathleen Bell
Mr. Dan Shue

Ms. Diana Lowe
Mr. Michael Robbins
Mr. Kendrell Collins

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Judge Carlton Jones

STAFF PRESENT

Tawnie Rowell
Micaela Whitelow

Toni Hamp

Laura Ebner

VISITORS PRESENT

Jerry Bradshaw (ACC)

Lindsay Wallace (Chief of Staff)

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 December 2022 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

The Commission was presented with Population Monitoring report. The population seems to be tracking within 4% of projections and showing a slow rebound from COVID population levels. County jail backup is still reasonably high, but not as high as it was in early 2015. There is a concerted effort to open temporary beds to ease the burden. This will be in existing facilities so it should happen soon.

Director Tawnie Rowell presented the Time Computation Report for the third quarter of 2022. The Time Computation Report is prepared in accordance with the DOC Secretarial Directive and contains the statistical results of the commission staff's review of time entry.

Ms. Rowell presented the Director's report. Legislative tracking and preparation of impact assessments is the predominant job duty for Commission staff. There have not been as many criminal justice bills as

Arkansas Sentencing Commission Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2023
Page 2 of 2

years past. To date, 28 bills have been identified as requiring an impact assessment by the Sentencing Commission. Work on the criminal justice reform bill is ongoing, and the Sentencing Commission bills are included in that package. If any commissioner wants to go to the NASC meeting in Tahoe this year, let us know. Mr. Rutledge asked about the new DOC secretary, Mr. Joe Profiri, who replaced Solomon Graves at the beginning of the year.

Chief of Staff Lindsay Wallace reports Secretary Profiri is on board and plans to attend the next commission meeting. The next meeting is tentatively set for May 31, pending the end date for the legislative session. This will be the meeting at which the Commission ranks offenses created and modified during the legislative session and will be held in person at the DOC Headquarters building. Commission staff will reach out for a tentative backup meeting date in case of an extended session.

Ms. Rowell reports the commission has funds to reimburse for travel if overnight is required at the May meeting. She advised that the commissioners and staff can do a lot of work on the front end, but all need time to review the information. It is critical for the commission to have adequate time for review. If necessary, a date conflict request for a June meeting will be sent.

The next meeting will be on May 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. and will be held in-person.

Meeting adjourned.