

**Minutes of the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting
October 19, 2023**

The Honorable W. Lee Fowler, Chair, called the Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSSC) Zoom Meeting to order on October 19, 2023, at 1:33 p.m.

Participants:

Members:

- Honorable W. Lee Fowler, Chair
- Honorable Benjamin J. Sexton, Vice Chair
- Honorable Stephen D. Hill, Kansas Court of Appeals
- Senator David B. Haley
- Representative Dennis "Boog" Highberger
- Representative Stephen Owens
- Senator Carolyn McGinn
- Jonathan Ogletree, Kansas Prisoner Review Board
- Jessica Domme, Kansas Attorney General's Office
- Spence Koehn, Office of Judicial Administration
- Secretary Jefferey Zmuda, Department of Corrections
- Mark Dupree, Wyandotte County District Attorney
- Jessica A. Glendening, Third Judicial District Public Defender's Office
- Pat Colloton, Public Member
- Jermaine Wilson, Public Member
- Dustin Curry, Private Attorney
- Pam D. Weigand, Douglas County Criminal Justice Services Director

Guests:

Heather Schlochtermeyer, Chief Court Services Officer, 20th Judicial District
Rob Mealy, Kearney & Associates
Sandra Miller, Court Service Officer, 10th Judicial District
Christie Koehn, Chief Court Services Officer, 6th Judicial District

Staff:

- Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
- Brenda Harmon, Administrative Services Manager
- John Grube, Director of Research
- Jason Lamprecht, Senior Research Analyst
- Chris Chavez, Data Entry Specialist
- Grazi Gifford, Administrative Specialist
- Trish Beck, Program Auditor
- Gwyn Harvey, SB 123 Program Consultant
- Kim Sage, Finance Manager

Approval of Proposed Agenda

Chair Fowler asked if there were objections or additions to the agenda. The agenda was approved with no modifications.

Introduction & Welcome New KSSC Member

Chair Fowler introduced and welcomed Pam Weigand, Director of Douglas County Criminal Justice Services, as the newest member of the Sentencing Commission.

Approval of September 13, 2023, KSSC Workshop Minutes

Chair Fowler referred to the September 13, 2023, KSSC Workshop Minutes. Vice-Chair Sexton moved to approve the minutes. Pat Colloton seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

Review and Approval of Letter to Governor Laura Kelly

Chair Fowler referred to the draft *Letter to Governor Laura Kelly*. K.S.A. 74-9101 requires KSSC to provide a letter to Governor Laura Kelly with alternatives to opening or building additional prison beds. The proposals are data-driven and the most rational approach to public safety to maintain space requirements for the most severe offenders while seeking alternative methods to curb admissions.

Executive Director Scott Schultz reviewed KSSC's legislative proposals in the draft *Letter to Governor Laura Kelly* to accomplish its statutory charge.

Jonathan Ogletree moved to approve the draft *Letter to Governor Laura Kelly*. Honorable Stephen Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Review and Approval of 2024 KSSC Meeting Dates

Executive Director Scott Schultz referred to the handout *2024 KSSC Proposed Meeting Schedule*.

Pam Weigand moved to approve the proposed meeting schedule. Representative Dennis "Boog" Highberger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agency Report

Executive Director Scott Schultz provided an update and summarized recent activities of the agency:

- Welcome and recognition provided to newly appointed KSSC member Pam Weigand.
- Governor Kelly recently reappointed members Jessica Glendening, Jermaine Wilson, Mark Dupree, and Pat Colloton. Executive Director Schultz thanked the members for their continued service with the KSSC.
- The October 2023 KDOC Prison Population Letter and KSSC's Monthly Prison Population Monitoring Report were reviewed and discussed.
- On October 04, 2023, Executive Director Schultz appeared before the J. Russell Jennings Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee to present a KSSC update. Executive Director Schultz reviewed KSSC's response to the Committee's question regarding potential sentencing disparities between male and female felony offenders.
- KSSC has contacted the Office of Judicial Administration regarding the security incident with the judicial branch. Emails from the clerks' offices have been suspended pending a full review of their computer system. KSSC will receive PSIs and JEs in the interim by U.S. Mail and fax.
- KSSC continues working with DOMO to complete the Electronic Journal Entry Project and will soon begin the second pilot study.
- The 2023 DRM will soon be completed. Due to increased printing and shipping rates, the cost to purchase

DRM will increase.

- John Grube, Director of Research, will attend The American Society Criminal Conference in Philadelphia in November 2023.
- KSSC has renewed contracts with Domo, Inc. and will shortly do so with Carelon Behavioral Health, Inc.
- The agency's budget was submitted in September. KSSC will receive the recommendations from the Division of the Budget in November.
- KSSC recently completed and submitted its Continuity Of Operations Plan (COOP) as required by Governor Kelly.
- KSSC was selected by the Legislative Post Audit to be involved in the second cybersecurity audit. The agency has cooperated in meeting several times with LPA personnel.
- Executive Director Schultz and John Grube, Director of Research, recognized Chris Chavez, Data Entry Specialist, for 15 years of service given to the KSSC.

Adjournment

The Honorable Stephen Hill moved to adjourn. Mark Dupree seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

The next Sentencing Commission meeting will be on November 16, 2023.