

**Minutes of the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting
December 14, 2023**

The Honorable Benjamin J. Sexton, Vice Chair, called the Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSSC) to order on December 14, 2023, at 1:32 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
Jeff Wagaman, Kearney & Associates
Gloria Geither, Department of Corrections
Melissa Waldock, Department of Corrections
Amy Finnerty, CSO Adult Supervision/PSI, 5th Judicial District

Staff:

- Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
- John Grube, Director of Research
- Jason Lamprecht, Senior Research Analyst
- Grazi Gifford, Administrative Specialist
- Trish Beck, Program Auditor
- Gwyn Harvey, SB 123 Program Consultant
- Kim Sage, Finance Manager
- Francis Givens, Special Projects Manager

☒ Chris Lyon, Staff Attorney

Approval of Proposed Agenda

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

Approval of October 14, 2023, KSSC Minutes

Vice Chair Sexton referred to the October 14, 2023, KSSC Minutes. Honorable Stephen Hill moved to approve the minutes. Pat Colloton seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.

Department of Corrections – Custody Classification

Gloria Geither, Department of Corrections, presented the *Custody Classification*. She discussed the Kansas custody system. The system has changed for the better. It is gender specific and allows incarcerated offenders to overcome their past at a certain point, rewards positive behavior by decreasing risk levels, and is more indicative of the current population aging trends.

An Examination of Legal Representation on Plea Bargained Sentencing Outcomes for Criminal Defendants

John Grube, KSSC Director of Research, presented *An Examination of Legal Representation on Plea Bargained Sentencing Outcomes for Criminal Defendants*. Mr. Grube discussed the Study's Importance, gaps in the literature, Kansas Sentencing in context, types of counsel in Kansas, theoretical framework, data source, dependent and independent variables, and results.

Agency Report

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

- The December 2023 KDOC Prison Population Letter and KSSC's Monthly Prison Population Monitoring Report were reviewed and discussed.
- The 2023 DRM will soon be completed.
- KSSC continues working with DOMO to complete the Electronic Journal Entry Project and will soon begin the second pilot study.
- An SB 123 assistance letter will be sent to prevent SB 123 substance abuse treatment providers from dropping their certification to provide services to court-ordered and RAFT offenders. Statewide providers have advised they may quit the program due to the lack of cooperation from probation.
- Thank you to the Commission members and staff for the services provided to the Agency in 2023.

Adjournment

Jessica Domme moved to adjourn. Mark Dupree seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

The next Sentencing Commission meeting will be on January 19, 2024.