

**Minutes of the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting
July 21, 2022**

The Honorable W. Lee Fowler, Chair, called the Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSSC) Zoom Meeting to order on July 21, 2022, at 1:30 pm.

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 John Barker
- Senator Carolyn McGinn
- Jonathan Ogletree, Kansas Prisoner Review Board
- Jessica Domme, Kansas Attorney General's Office
- Spence Koehn, Office of Judicial Administration
- Hope Cooper, Kansas Department of Corrections Designee
- Mark Dupree, Wyandotte County District Attorney
- Jessica A. Glendening, Third Judicial District Public Defender's Office
- Pat Colloton, Public Member
- Jermaine Wilson, Public Member
- Shelly Williams, Community Corrections Director

Guests:

Lindsay Archer, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Shirley Morrow, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Lorretta Sackey, Council for State Governments Justice Center
Ashley Bauman, Bauman Consulting Group, LLC
Amy Raymond, Office of Judicial Administration
Marie McNeal, Kansas Department of Corrections
Randall Bowman, Kansas Department of Corrections

Staff:

- Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
- Brenda Harmon, Administrative Services Manager
- John Grube, Director of Research
- Kilye Hucks, Research Intern

- Kira Johnson, SB 123 Program Director
- Gwyn Harvey, SB 123 Program Consultant
- Trish Beck, Program Auditor
- Grazi Gifford, Administrative Specialist
- Christopher Lyon, Staff Attorney
- Francis Givens, Special Projects Manager

Approval of Proposed Agenda

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

Approval of June 23, 2022, KSSC Meeting Minutes

Chair Fowler referred to the June 23, 2022, KSSC meeting minutes. Honorable Stephen Hill moved to approve the minutes. Jonathan Ogletree seconded the motion. The motion carried.

WRNA and LS/CMI Assessment Tools Status Report

Commission member Spence Koehn, Court Services Officer Specialist, presented the *Kansas Judicial Branch Updates* relating to Assessments, including Level of Services Inventory-Revised, Level of Services Case Management Inventory, Women's Risk Needs Assessment, training, and the Centralized Case Management System.

Hope Cooper, KDOC Deputy Secretary of Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Services presented the *KDOC Assessment Transition*, provided an update on the implementation of the LS/CMI, and explained the delay due to the vendor MHS. KDOC gives the agencies options to continue to use LSI-R electronically or paper LS/CMI until the transition process is complete. After completing the process, all the LSI-Rs will be converted to LS/CMI. Mrs. Cooper also presented a comparison of WRNA & LSI-R from different views.

KSSC Offender Plea Bargain Survey Report

John Grube, Director of Research, presented the *KSSC Offender Plea Bargain Survey Report*, exploring the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on plea bargaining through a theoretical perspective of the court as a community system.

Review and Approval of KSSC Appointment to the Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee

2022 Senate Substitute for House Bill 2361 created a law requiring the Kansas Supreme Court to adopt rules for establishing and operating specialty courts and established the Specialty Court Funding Advisory Committee. The law requires the Sentencing Commission to appoint a drug and alcohol addiction treatment provider to serve as a member of the Committee by August 1, 2022. Executive Director Scott Schultz recommended the candidate Libertee Thompson to serve on the Specialty Courts Advisory Committee. Mrs. Thompson has been a Licensed Addiction Counselor since 2003, and a Licensed Master Social Worker since 2013, and is currently a Coordinator for the Reno County Drug Court and a supervisor for Reno County Community Corrections (RCCC). She helped to design and implement the Reno County drug court program and was responsible for keeping updated policies and procedures, qualified team members, and funding mechanisms. From 2007 to 2010, she was a director of the Drug Rehabilitation Center for RCCC and was responsible for maintaining State Licensure. Her duties included staying current with SB 123 requirements and billing. She also has been a federal grant peer reviewer for SAMHSA and BJA since 2013 and, most recently, a part-time mental health therapist at Client Centered Counseling in McPherson.

Vice Chair Sexton moved to appoint Libertee Thompson to serve on Specialty Courts Advisory Committee. The Honorable Stephen Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agency Report

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

- On July 15, 2022, the Council for State Governments Justice Center notified the Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSSC) that their grant application to the United States Department of Justice was approved. The \$282,000 award will assist in contracting with a vendor to develop an electronic journal system (eJE) for criminal justice practitioners statewide. The KSSC has been in collaboration with the Kansas Office of Judicial Administration to integrate the eJE project with OJA's already established eFile system. KSSC continues to meet with the vendor, Domo Inc., to finish the project by the December 31, 2022, deadline.
- The KSSC Legislative Committee will be meeting upon adjournment of the KSSC meeting to discuss 2023 legislative proposals. The Committee's recommendations will be presented at the 2022 Workshop.
- The KDOC June 2022 Prison Population Letter and the KSSC July 2022 Prison Population Monthly Monitoring Report were reviewed and discussed.
- Prison Population Projections Consensus meetings will be held on July 28, 2022, and August 18, 2022.
- The KSSC Legislative Summary is now available on the KSSC website. KSSC staff continues working to complete the 2022 Desk Reference Manual.
- The Kansas Legislative Research Department has assigned Shirley Morrow to serve as KSSC's new Principal Analyst, replacing Murl Riedel.
- Supervisors are completing the mid-year Performance Reviews for KSSC staff.
- Executive Director Scott Schultz and Melissa Zoesch, Finance Manager, have been meeting weekly to prepare the agency's budget due September 15, 2022.
- John Grube, Director of Research, received the data from KDOC and will be working on the FY 2023 ten-year prison population projections.
- The Annual SB123 conference will be held in October 2022.

Adjournment

The Honorable Stephen Hill moved to adjourn. Patricia Colloton seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:49 pm.

The next Sentencing Commission meeting will be Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 1:30 pm.