

**Minutes of the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting
August 29, 2024**

The Honorable Benjamin J. Sexton, Vice Chair, called the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting to order on August 29, 2024, at 1:33 p.m.

Participants:

Members:

- ☒ Honorable Benjamin J. Sexton, Chair
- ☒ Honorable Stacey L. Donovan, Vice Chair
- ☒ Honorable Stephen D. Hill, Kansas Court of Appeals
- ☐ Senator David B. Haley
- ☒ Representative Dennis "Boog" Highberger
- ☒ Representative Stephen Owens
- ☒ Mark Keating, Kansas Prisoner Review Board
- ☐ Senator Carolyn McGinn
- ☒ 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:

Christie Koehn, Chief Court Services Officer, 6th Judicial District
Amy Finnerty, CSO Adult Supervision/PSI, 5th Judicial District
Christina Douthitt, Court Services Officer, 1st Judicial District
Jenny Forrester, Court Services, 28th Judicial District
Kerry Hauser, Department of Corrections
Kevin Waring, Chief Court Services Officer, 10th Judicial District
Tom Weishaar, Chief Court Services Officer, 1st Judicial District
Tresa Miller, Chief Court Services Officer, 11th Judicial District

Staff:

- ☒ Scott M. Schultz, Executive Director
- ☒ John Grube, Director of Research
- ☒ Jason Lamprecht, Senior Research Analyst
- ☒ Elliott Smith, SB 123 Program Director
- ☒ Trish Beck, Program Auditor
- ☒ Gwyn Harvey, SB 123 Certification Specialist
- ☒ Francis Givens, Special Projects Manager
- ☒ Chris Lyon, Staff Attorney
- ☒ Kim Sage, Finance Manager
- ☒ Brenda Harmon, Administrative Services Manager

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 June 27, 2024, KSSC Minutes

Vice Chair Sexton referred to the June 27, 2024, KSSC Minutes. Honorable Stephen Hill moved to amend the "*Agency Report*" by striking "the Governor" and adding "Chief Justice Marla Luckert." Jessica Domme seconded the motion. The motion to amend carried, and the minutes were approved.

KSSC Vice-Chair Election

Vice Chair Sexton nominated the Honorable Stacey L. Donovan to serve as the Vice Chair of the Kansas Sentencing Commission. Vice Chair Sexton noted although he had been appointed as Chair of the Commission recently by Governor Kelly, the appropriate paperwork with the Secretary of State's office had not been finalized. Jessica Domme moved to approve the nomination of Judge Donovan contingent on the finalization of the chair appointment. Pat Colloton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Review and Approval of FY 2025 Prison Population Projections

Dr. John Grube, Director of Research, presented the *FY 2025 Prison Population Projections* to the Commission. The Honorable Stacey L. Donovan moved to approve the FY 2025 Prison Population Projections. Pam Weigand seconded the motion. The motion carried.

SB 123 Program Update

Elliott Smith, SB 123 Program Director, provided an overview of the August 29, 2024, KSSC SB123 Committee meeting and discussed the program's recent accomplishments and work in progress.

KSSC Legislative Committee Update

Vice Chair Sexton and Executive Director Scott Schultz reported on the August 28, 2024, KSSC Legislative Committee meeting activities. The Committee discussed possible 2025 legislative proposals and agreed to recommend exploring revisions to offender good time/program credit and the Kansas Offender Registration Act.

Kansas Sentencing App (KSApp) Update

Executive Director Scott Schultz provided an update on the KSApp. This app is expected to revolutionize the processing of felony sentencing forms, significantly improving efficiency and accuracy while reducing paper resources for practitioners, including the local clerks' offices.

KSSC ensures all users have access and are fully trained to use the KSApp. Most Court Services Officers statewide have already had the opportunity to participate in webinar training and hands-on exercises. Additionally, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges in a many districts have received training.

KSSC's goal is to have all Kansas attorneys and judges fully trained with access to the app by the end of September 2024. A soft launch is anticipated on October 1, 2024. To achieve this, KSSC has offered free CLE webinars.

Executive Director Scott Schultz testified on the project's status to the Joint Committee on Information Technology on August 27, 2024.

Agency Report

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

- The 2024 Desk Reference Manual will be completed by the end of September.
- Executive Director Schultz and Kim Sage, Finance Manager, continue to work on the agency budget to meet the deadline of September 16, 2024.
- KSSC has launched a new website and acknowledged Francis Givens, Special Projects Manager, and Trish Beck, Program Auditor, for their work on the project.
- Executive Director Scott Schultz summarized topics discussed at the National Association of Sentencing Commission's annual conference in Raleigh, NC.
- KSSC has notified the Jayhawk Tower Partners with a letter of intent to renew its office space lease in December 2024.
- The 2024 KSSC Workshop will be held at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library on September 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mark Dupree moved to adjourn. Pat Colloton seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

The next Sentencing Commission meeting will be the KSSC Workshop on September 18, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library.