

Lincoln, Nebraska
April 23, 2004

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

The Community Corrections Council (Council) met Friday, April 23, 2004 at 9:00 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel located at 1040 P Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was open to the public and was preceded by advance publicized notice in the Lincoln Journal Star.

Members present:

Edward C. Birkel
Harold W. Clarke
Allen Curtis
Dr. Aileen Gruendel
Frank E. Goodroe
William Burgess
Catherine Cook
Joseph P. Kelly
Robert P. Lindemeier
James McKenzie
Senator John Synowiecki
Kenneth J. Vampola
The Honorable Karen B. Flowers
Senator Kermit A. Brashear, Chair
Dr. Scot L. Adams

Members absent:

The Honorable John P. Icenogle

Council staff present:

Linda Krutz, Chief
Julie L. Rogers
Julie Okray

Others present:

Judges:

The Honorable W. Mark Ashford
The Honorable Daniel E. Bryan Jr.
The Honorable Kristine R. Cecava
The Honorable Thomas A. Otepka
The Honorable Patrick G. Rogers

Vera:

Sara Mogulescu
Alicia Young
Mark H. Bergstrom Executive Director Pennsylvania
Commission on Sentencing
The Honorable Richard S. Gebelein Associate
Judge Superior Court of Delaware
Paul J. Morrison Kansas District Attorney

Public:

Steve King, DCS
Barb Thomas, HHS
Ron Reithmiller, DCS
Becki Hickman, DCS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Brashear called the Council meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Attendance is indicated above.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND OVERVIEW

Chairperson Brashear welcomed the council and all the visitors followed by introductions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 12, 2004, meeting stood approved as presented. It was discussed that the May 14, 2004 meeting will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel, and all future meetings thereafter will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel.

PROBATION/PAROLE FEE REPORT

The fee report was reviewed. Assumptions should be footnoted. Model projections for parole should be included.

TIMELINE

The changes in the timeline were indicated by underlined. The timeline was approved.

STATE STRUCTURED SENTENCING OVERVIEW

Sarah Mogulescu from the Vera Institute of Justice gave a historical perspective of structured sentencing and described types of sentencing guidelines utilized in states where they've been adopted.

DELAWARE'S SENTENCING MODEL

The Honorable Richard S. Gebelein an Associate Judge from the Superior Court of Justice discussed Delaware's Sentencing Model, as well as house and senate bills. He explained in detail the rules and guideline levels used in Delaware, and how they came about. Violent and non-violent crimes as well as the Parole and Probation levels along with the removal of mandatory sentences for drug offences.

The council recessed at 11:00 a.m. and reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

PENNSYLVANIA'S SENTENCING MODEL

Mark Bergstrom Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing spoke about Pennsylvania's Sentencing Model. Insight to the Pennsylvania Criminal Justice System was given. Sentencing goals and alternatives were explained in detail.

The council recessed at 12:10 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

KANSAS SENTENCING MODEL

Paul J. Morrison, District Attorney for Johnson County, Kansas presented an overview of the Kansas Sentencing Guidelines. Presented in detail the history of sentencing guidelines, correctional population and major points of sentencing guidelines, as well as their use of drug and non-drug sentencing grids. The crime severity levels, sentencing criteria and special sentencing rules.

“Q” & “A” DISCUSSION OF STRUCTURED SENTENCING MODELS

Discussion on Vera’s State Sentencing and Corrections Program Associates took place amongst committee members and visitors.

The council recessed at 2:35 p.m. and reconvened at 2:50 p.m.

TARGET POPULATION DATA AND POPULATION REPORT

Linda Krutz Chief of Community Corrections Council presented information on the target population data and population report.

PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING SENTENCING GUIDELINES – FELONY DRUG OFFENCES

Steve King gave a presentation detailing the percentages of drug offenders in the corrections system, the severity of the crime, and length of sentences.

INCORPORATING RISK ASSESSMENT INTO SENTENCING GUIDELINES.

Edward C. Birkel presented information on the overall caseloads and investigations numbers, and Traditional vs. Intensive Supervision Probation.

CONCLUDING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Brashear asked if there were any more discussion topics.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the Council will be held Friday, May 14, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie A. Okray