

**Connecticut Sentencing Task Force**  
**Sentencing Structure Subcommittee**  
**October 2, 2007**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:** Robert Farr (BOPP), Andrew Clark (CCSU), Randy Braren (BOPP), Fred Levesque (DOC, Steve Cox (CCSU), Linda DeConti (OPM), Roland Fasano (Judicial), Thomas Ullman (Public Defender), Brian Austin (OPM), Kevin Kane (C.S.A), David Shepack (State's Attorney's Office), Jerry Stowell (BOPP), Rich Sparaco (BOPP)

**Meeting Commenced-** 1:15 pm

**Introduction-** Chairman Farr

- Conference overview

**Summary of Last Meeting-** Andrew Clark, CCSU

- Written summary can be found on the OPM website  
[www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/SentencingTaskForce](http://www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/SentencingTaskForce)

**Discussion-** Deliverables and Timeline for Interim Report

- Recommendation to set up a small working group to discuss philosophies and mission of the task force- Thomas Ullmann
- This work group is in line with the original legislative task
- Collate everything that had been presented so far and present it to the entire committee
- This may require three two hour meetings before the end of November
- This process will need to take place over the next six weeks

**Presentation-** An Analysis of Connecticut Burglary Crime Data, OPM (Dr. Stephen M. Cox, CCSU)

- Heard all questions and concerns of the Task Force
- The Forecast/Research Work Group addressed these concerns and questions by collecting and analyzing data from a number of various criminal justice agencies
- Issues with data: the Forecast/Research Work Group is confident that the numbers presented today are accurate however, there may be some questions not answered because some of the data is imprecise
- Connecticut has the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest burglary rate, three times lower than the leading state, North Carolina
- The FBI's definition of burglary is different from Connecticut- the CT state police is not required to define burglary the same way
- Connecticut has experienced a decrease in burglary since 1995
- Most burglaries happen during the day (70%), and 20% of all burglaries happen in a residence during the night.

- Why would a person be charged with a 53-01 burglary 3, as opposed to a larceny charge if they broke into a vehicle? (Cox) The person would probably be charged with both but plea to the more serious charge (Kane)
- CT criminal justice agencies have varying definitions of “violent”
  - 34- BOPP
  - 61- CSSD
- Nolle rate seems high (57%) but it includes underlying charges being nolleed but may be counted as a burglary charge
- Burglary 1- Analysis showed that 95% convicted offenders sentenced to prison 7.8 years average sentence- 59% sentenced with some form of post release supervision
- Burglary 2- Analysis showed that 79% convicted offenders sentenced to prison, 2.2 years average sentence- 50% sentenced with some form of post release supervision
- September 14, 2007- total DOC supervision: 25,631, 18% of offenders have been convicted of at least one burglary. Only 237 had a single criminal docket.
- The majority of those convicted of burglary tend to be white males- mirrors the national demographic
- Average age at first conviction is 21 years old, average age at last conviction is 28 year old
- Burglars had a higher alcohol/drug score, discipline score, mental health score and violence score.
- Top five cities where burglars come from- Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Britain.
- **Recommendations to task force**
  - Establish a clear vision of what it is trying to be solved and which information will be most helpful to support solutions to those problems
  - Need a common definition of “violent offenders” in Connecticut
- **Recommendations to improve research**
  - Meet with OBTS staff to discuss research/data needs and data accessibility
  - Set standards for data quality
  - Consider the way in which things are counted- individuals, cases, dockets, etc.
  - Need to develop a unique identifier across of agency data systems

## Discussion

- Employment and how it effects recidivism
- Should we take out burglary statutes and break them down? (residential, non-residential, weapon, etc.)
- The legislature has approx 15 proposals regarding burglary and home invasion
- Kevin Kane will be drafting a proposal on persistent offenders
- Would it be possible to look at felony murder convictions and look at which ones have a predicate burglary offense?

**Meeting Adjourned- 4:15 pm**

**Next Meeting- October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 pm**

-Look over proposals

-Presentation of impact of persistent offenders- recommendation on changes for persistent offender statutes

- Try and create one single definition of “violent offender” across all agencies

-Impact of three strikes law