

Connecticut Sentencing Task Force
Offense Classification/Sentencing Structure
Subcommittee Summary
August 20, 2007

Meeting Commenced: 1:15pm

Introduction: Chairman Farr

Recap of National Association of Sentencing Commissions Conference (Aug 5-7)

- Similarities and differences among various sentencing commissions
- California is currently facing a correctional population crisis
- The importance of sentencing policy
- The model penal code should be reviewed by the CT sentencing task force
- Unique conference that combines both research and policy
- Washington article (OPM website)- are the evidence based options that would contribute to lower crime rates? Can prison construction be avoided?

Summary of Last Meetings – Andrew Clark

- For a copy of the written summary please visit:
<http://www.ct.gov/opm/CriminalJustice/SentencingTaskforce>
- A recording of this meeting can be found on the CTN website

Direction of Subcommittee

- Additional research
- Legislature may move forward without the Tasks Forces' recommendations

Burglary Statistics- Chris Reinhart

- Please visit:
<http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/cjppd/cjresearch/projects/20070505chrisreinhartolr.pdf>

Defining the Offender Population: Persistent Offenders and/or Burglary (led by Barb Tombs, Vera Institute)

- Individuals convicted of burglary have the highest recidivism rates
- Most burglars are repeat offenders and will have multiple charges
- Can we find the average sentence for burglary 2 convictions?
- Approximately 14,000 sentenced individuals currently in CT's prison
- Are there specific conditions/ reporting requirements for individuals arrested for burglary?
- Many of the individuals arrested for burglary 3 are more often breaking into vehicles as opposed to residential dwellings

- It is imperative to improve statewide criminal justice agency data systems- need to understand certain types of offenders and adequately define them.
- We could have avoided the issues after the Cheshire home invasion had we had a more comprehensive data system.
- Will we include attempted and conspiracy in our burglary statute?
- Most of the crimes considered habitual apply most often to sex offenses
- Three strikes law in other states- is it a crime deterrent?
- Comparing other states and use of the three strikes law- 23 states have it including the Federal government, only three of those states utilize it regularly. It is discretionary and has flexibility
- Incarcerated population by city and town- where are the unsafe communities in Connecticut? Where are the serious offenders coming from and returning to after prison?
- Programs for persistent offenders “frequent flyers” most of these individuals have underlying issues that drive their criminal behavior (i.e., substance abuse, mental illness, drugs, etc.) they tend to waste resources.

Meeting Adjourned- 3:40 pm

Next Meeting- September 10, 2007 1:00pm

Full Meeting- September 24, 2007