

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Governor's Sentencing and Parole Review Task Force
Wednesday, January 09, 2008
Room 1B, LOB

Members Present: Ana G. Alfaro, Brian Austin, Maureen Price-Boreland, William Carbone, Judge Patrick Carroll(for Judge Barbara Quinn), Linda Cimino, Eric Crawford, John Danaher, Robert Farr, Thomas Flaherty, Mary Galvin, Lisa Holden, Kevin Kane, James Kenny ,Thomas Kirk, Theresa Lantz, Lisa MacDonald, MaryAnne O'Neill, Susan Storey, Judge Thomas West

The meeting was called to order at 1:06p.m., by Lisa Holden, Co-Chair
Committee members discussed all recommendations from the subcommittees.

The task force adopted by votes, each of the following recommendations.

1. Board of Pardons and Paroles

- A. Access to Records:
- B. Strengthening the Board:
- C. Risk Assessment Instruments:
- D. Violent Offenders:
- E. Notice to Police Department and Victims:

The Task Force vote on these recommendations regarding the Board of Pardons and Paroles was as follows: 18 yea, 0nay, 2 abstentions

2. Comprehensive Criminal Justice Information System

- A. System Oversight:
- B. Development of Long-term Plan:
- C. Short-term Goals in Support of Long-Term Objectives:
- D. Funding and Staffing:

The Task Force vote on these recommendations regarding a comprehensive criminal justice information system was as follows: 20 yea, 0nay, 0 abstentions.

3. Victims

- A. Public Safety:
- B. VINE Information and Notification Service:
- C. Protection of Victim Information:
- D. Access to crime victims services:

The Task Force vote on these recommendations regarding victims was as follows:
20 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstentions.

4. Re-entry

- A. Expand Institution-based Interventions and Programs:
- B. Manageable Caseloads for Probation and Parole Officers:
- C. Access to Community-based Treatment Programs and Services:
- D. Swift and Certain Response to Offender Violations:
- E. Expanded Re-entry Evaluation:
- F. Research and Evaluation:

The Task Force vote on these recommendations regarding Re-entry was as follows: 18 yea, 0 nay, 2 abstentions.

5. Special Populations

- A. Sex Offenders:
- B. EOS Population:
- C. Probationers, Parolees, and Diverted Individuals:

The Task Force Vote on these recommendations regarding Special Populations was as follows: 20 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstentions.

6. Sentencing Status

- A. Home Invasion:
- B. Persistent Offender Statutes:
- C. Residential Burglaries:
- D. Access to Records:
- E. Diversionary Program for People with Psychiatric Disabilities:
- F. Periods of Probations:

The Task Force vote on these recommendations regarding Sentencing Statutes as follows: a) with respect to Recommendations A, B, C and D: 18 yea, 0 nay, 2 abstentions; and b) with respect to Recommendations E and F; 20 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstentions.

CONCLUSION

The Task Force members appreciate having been afforded the opportunity to examine the process and procedures of the state's criminal justice system in an open and collegial environment, and to contribute to the reform of the system.

The Task Force, in developing its recommendations, tried to address the needs of all who are involved with the criminal justice system, including victims, offenders, law enforcement, community providers and the public.

While some of our recommendations directly address the issues raised by the Cheshire tragedy, we believe that the breadth of our recommendations regarding Re-entry and Special Populations speaks to the broader need for the state to focus its efforts on preparing offenders to reintegrate into the community upon release. Increased programs, both institution-based and community-based, are vital to the success of these efforts.

We also believe that the voices of victims and families have been unheard for too long. Our recommendations concerning victims are designed to increase the safety of victims and allow them greater input into the system.

Finally, we wish to thank all of the individuals who made presentations to the Task Force for contributing to our knowledge and understanding of the state's criminal justice system and, ultimately, for helping us to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations that we believe will enhance public safety and have a positive long-term impact upon our community.

Please see attached final report for more detail.

Meeting adjourned 3:50p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Avarista
Office of Policy and Management