

Connecticut Sentencing Task Force
Community Supervision and Alternative Sanctions-Subcommittee
Meeting Summary
October 16th, 2007
10:00 am

Introduction: Chairman Farr

Last Meeting Summary- Andrew Clark

- Full Summary can be found on the OPM website

Probation Recommendations- Thomas White, CSSD

Length of Probation- (handout provided)

- **Purpose:** To align the terms of probation with a behavioral change model of probation and evidence based practices.
- **Proposal:** To reduce the maximum terms of probation and to enable early termination based on positive behavior change
- Convicted offenders placed on probation shall be subject to the following maximum terms. Registerable sex offense- 10-35 years; Other Felonies- 3 years; Class A misdemeanors- 2 years; Class b and C misdemeanors- 1 year.
- Additional proposal details can be found on the OPM webpage

-Motion to approve recommendation-Andrew Clark, seconded by Nancy Kushins

-Motion passed

Mental Health Pre-Trial Program- Brian Coco, CSSD

- **Proposal:** Create a diversionary program that combines behavioral health treatment in the community, supervision provided by CSSD for defendants with psychiatric disabilities
- **Purpose:** To reduce the number of clients with psychiatric disabilities incarcerated or insufficiently served while aiding in recovery.
- Judge, prosecutor, defense attorney or CSSD employee can refer to the jail diversion staff or CSSD's contracted provider to access the client's mental health condition and history.
- Additional proposal details can be found on the OPM webpage

*The issues of confidentiality of information and the ability of the state's attorney to get information about previous participation in the program need to be re-examined.

-Motion to approve recommendation- Andrew Clark, seconded by Rich Sparaco

-Motion passed

Pre-Sentence Investigation Proposal

- **Purpose:** To gather and provide information to the courts and other criminal justice stakeholders that will aid at key decision points in order to enhance public safety
- **Proposal:** To expand the use of pre-sentence investigations for persons convicted of felonies

Options:

- A: All persons convicted of a first felony will have a PSI completed without exception
- B: All first time felons whose expected sentence may include a period of incarceration will have a PSI completed
- C: All first felons whose expected sentence may include a period of incarceration exceeding 2 years will have a PSI completed.
- Additional proposal details can be found on the OPM webpage
 - Because of limited staff and resources it may be difficult to administer a full PSI to all first time felons
 - Take 100 cases to determine how many offenders have first time felony convictions or not

Other Recommendations:

- Look at other mandatory post release supervision- Barb Tombs will present what other states have done at next meeting
- Have a brief narrative in the final draft report, as opposed to continue discussions
- Draft the report and distribute to members for review
- There will be further discussion regarding post release supervision
- Included in the report should be a summary of what the Task Force has been up to

Next Meeting: November 13th at 1:00 pm (Full Meeting)