

Minutes of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission
DOC Headquarters, Building 1
504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
1:00 p.m. December 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order Chairman Honorable Ricky Wicker

Members Present

Honorable Ricky Wicker Acting Chairman (Proxy for Honorable Ricky Babin, Chairman)
Honorable Mike Cazes (Proxy for Honorable Louis Ackal)
Honorable Mike Cazes
Honorable Louis Daniel
Honorable Laurie White (Proxy for Honorable Lynda Van Davis)
Mr. David Dugas
Mr. John DiGiulio (Proxy for Ms. Jean Faria)
Honorable Ricky Wicker (Proxy for Honorable Greg Guidry)
Ms. Debbie Hudnall (Proxy for Mr. Mark Graffeo)
Mr. Cheney C. Joseph, Jr.
Secretary James M. Leblanc
Ms. Mary H. Manhein
Honorable Ricky Wicker (Proxy for Honorable Jay B. McCallum)
Carle Jackson (Proxy for Honorable Michael McDonald)
Mr. Ruston Legendre (Proxy for Mr. Robert Mehrtens)
Representative Helena Moreno

Committee, Advisory and Staff Members

Rhett Covington, DOC
Frank DiFulco, LASC
Jennifer Eagan, LASC
Whalen Gibbs, DOC
Melanie Gueho, DOC
Carle Jackson, LCLE
Billy Kline, DOC
Natalie LaBorde, Governor's Office
Sandra Laborie, 5th Circuit Court
Katherine Lee, LCLE
Genie Powers, DOC
Jan Rodrigue, DOC
Gerald Starks, DOC
Opal West, LCLE

Guests

Jane Burgin
Linda Lala Duscoe, CURE

Lauren-Brooke Eisen, VERA
Christine Fiudo, Orleans Parish DA's Office
Will Harrell, Justice Collaborative
Sid Newman, Crime Stoppers
Rhonda Nichols
Debra Sheehan, CURE
Sara Sullivan, VERA
Ashanti Witherspoon, Miracle Place Church
Checo W. Yancy, LA/CURE

I. Roll Call

- a. Roll Call was taken by Katherine Lee, LCLE

II. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

Motion by Honorable Mike Cazes
Second by Mr. Cheney C. Joseph, Jr.

III. Lafayette Mental Health Project Update: Carle Jackson

The committee informed the Commission last month that there are three components which are: 1. Diversion-mental health services will be readily available to defendants placed on diversion by the District Attorney; 2. Mental Health Court (15th JDC) for probationer; 3. Release Services-mental health services will be available to offenders with serious mental illness returning to the Lafayette area from prison. There was a two to three month gap without services due to the approval from Medicare. The Committee wants to make sure they receive the service before they enter back into the community. A large portion of the manual from Judge Edwards is almost completed and also the Sheriff's office has developed their whole program packet. The committee will meet on Monday, December 17, 2012 and the project is planning to go live in the month of January. The grant for the project's full evaluation is not yet known. The evaluation will be conducted by LSU.

The team has made great progress and the project is intended to begin operation in early 2013.

IV. Term Planning

No Additional Items for Consideration

Justice Reinvestment in the States – Honorable Ricky Wicker, Acting Chair

Judge Wicker presented a Power Point showing the progress the committee has made identifying possible strategies and tactics to successfully implement the legislation and policy changes to state groups, such as Louisiana Sentencing Commission, have sponsored and passed and, more broadly, to educate both the stakeholders and the community about the Louisiana Sentencing Commission's work toward its goal of increased public safety through smarter, more economic sentencing and incarceration policy which reduces our prison population and supervision numbers and increases successful outcome measured by reduced recidivism.

V. Discussion of Proposals being Vetted

- A. SOAP Sex Offender Assessment Panel Law – Deferred for 30 days
- B. OUI (Operating a vehicle while intoxicated) – Deferred for 30 days
- C. Simple Escape Revisions – Deferred for 30 days
- D. Cleansing Period for Parole Eligibility – Out for Vetting

VI. Committee Reports: Honorable Ricky Wicker, Acting Chairman

- A. Front End Committee – Pretrial Services Legislation/Passed on to Legislation
 - 1. Pretrial services purpose is to provide more effective protection of the public by establishing pretrial services programs that will assist judicial officers in discharging their duties related to the pretrial release/detention decision including setting appropriate bonds, determining conditions of release, and/or ordering preventive detention. Such programs are intended to provide more complete information for use by judicial officers in determining the risk to public safety or non-appearance and to provide services to support return to court and public safety during the pretrial period. Any city, parish or combination thereof may establish a pretrial services program.
 - 2. Art. 335 – Other conditions related to the appearance of the defendant/Out for Vetting
 - 3. Confidentiality of the Pretrial Services Part III/Deferred for 30 days – In order to allow immediate access to defendants for the pretrial interview without giving rise to a right to counsel, assure full participation by defendants in the interview, and avoid compromising ongoing investigations, information collected as part of a pre-trial services investigation must be protected from disclosure and have restricted admissibility.

A motion was made for adjournment of the meeting by Honorable Laurie White and second by Honorable Michael McDonald. The Honorable Ricky Wicker, Acting Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.