



# KANSAS

## KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

Honorable Ernest L. Johnson, Chairman  
District Attorney Paul Morrison, Vice Chairman  
Helen Pedigo, Executive Director

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

### **Minutes of the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting**

**June 28, 2007**

The Honorable Ernest L. Johnson, Chairman, called the Kansas Sentencing Commission meeting to order on June 28, 2007, at 1:40 p.m., once a quorum had been met. The meeting was held in the Senate Room of the Jayhawk Tower Building, Topeka, Kansas.

#### **Participants:**

##### **Members:**

Honorable Ernest L. Johnson, Chairman  
Attorney General Paul Morrison, Vice Chairman  
Honorable Christel Marquardt  
Representative Janice Pauls  
Roger Werholtz, Secretary of Corrections  
Rick Kittel, Board of Indigents' Defense Services  
Chris Mechler, Office of Judicial Administration  
Annie Grevas, Director of Community Corrections, 28<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Patricia Biggs, Kansas Parole Board  
Captain Dale Finger, Public Member  
Thomas Drees, County Attorney  
Reverend Junius Dotson, Public Member

##### **Staff:**

Helen Pedigo, Executive Director  
Natalie Gibson, Staff Attorney  
Kunlun Chang, Director of Research  
Fengfang Lu, Senior Research Analyst  
Lora Moison, Research Analyst  
Jessica Brunton, Research Analyst  
Marty Schmiedeler, Accountant  
Jennifer Dalton, Accountant  
Amanda Nations, Program Consultant

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Kansas Sentencing Commission meeting. A motion was made by the Honorable Christel Marquardt and seconded by Ms. Annie Grevas to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

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### **Proposed Approval of KSC 2007 Resource Directory**

Chairman Johnson discussed the 2007 KSC Resource Directory, which was emailed to Commission members last week. Plans are to have the Directory bound for members, but last minute changes have prevented that until next month. Staff will check to make sure the Kansas Parole Board is included in the Directory. Ms. Pedigo stated it will be placed on the KSC web site, with updates provided on a regular basis to keep the Directory current. The last Resource Directory was published in 2002. The majority of work done on this one was by the KDOC inmate currently working with KSC staff.

A motion was made by Ms. Patricia Biggs and seconded by Mr. Thomas Drees to approve the format and content of the 2007 KSC Resource Directory, with posting and updates to be provided on the web site. The motion carried.

### **Proportionality Subcommittee**

Mr. Drees gave a presentation explaining his proposal for a subcommittee to be formed to look at proportionality of sentences in conjunction with the recodification of the criminal code. A handout was provided. Following a discussion by Commission members, a motion was made by Mr. Thomas Drees and seconded by Ms. Chris Mechler to have the KSC create a subcommittee to look at the Kansas sentencing guidelines, including the computation process, proportionality of sentencing and grid structure and bring this back to the Sentencing Commission in hopes of submitting a proposal to the Kansas Recodification Commission for consideration. This would enable a bill to be drafted for Legislative consideration. The motion carried, with Judge Marquardt abstaining from the vote.

Mr. Thomas Drees will chair the proportionality subcommittee. Members of this committee will also include: AG Paul Morrison, Mr. Rick Kittel, Representative Janice Pauls, Ms. Patricia Biggs, Ms. Chris Mechler, and Reverend Junius Dotson. The first meeting will be held July 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Jayhawk Tower Building. The room location will be emailed to subcommittee members once scheduled.

### **Kansas Reentry Policy Council Update**

Chairman Johnson briefed members on the June 4 meeting of the Kansas Reentry Policy Council. Secretary Werholtz also attended the meeting, and provided information. Key themes of the Council are: emphasis on safety; emphasis on prevention (that probation and community corrections must be involved); and all agencies involved should benefit from the process, with regard to their mission. Priorities set by the Reentry Policy Council after the first four areas identified by the Steering Committee (housing, employment, legal barriers and substance abuse) are: probation and community corrections; offenders with mental illness; organization culture; reducing revocations; law enforcement; risk reduction case management; and family issues/child support. A handout of minutes from the June 6 Steering Committee meeting was provided.

### **Executive Director Report**

Ms. Pedigo provided and discussed an executive director report, which outlined this month's main staff accomplishments. Items discussed included:

- Value Options, new state Medicaid contractor
- 2003 – SB 123 36-month evaluation
- FY 2007 DOC and JJA projection error rate
- FY 2008 projections, schedule timeline
- Journal Entry data entry stats
- Journal Entry state wide training schedule
- SB 123 invoices and expenditures

- Reentry
- Media contacts, KORA requests
- 2007 Journal Entry and related forms now on web site in several formats
- Templates of electronic Journal Entry System received

**Next Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the Jayhawk Tower.

The meeting was adjourned.