



# KANSAS

## KANSAS SENTENCING COMMISSION

Honorable Ernest L. Johnson, Chairman  
Helen Pedigo, Executive Director

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

### **Minutes of the Kansas Sentencing Commission Meeting September 25, 2008**

The Honorable Ernest L. Johnson, Chairman, called the Kansas Sentencing Commission meeting to order on September 25, 2008, at 1:33 p.m. The meeting was held in the Senate Room of the Jayhawk Tower Building, Topeka, Kansas.

#### **Participants:**

##### **Members:**

Honorable Ernest L. Johnson, Chairman  
Honorable Larry Solomon  
Senator John Vratil  
Representative Kevin Yoder  
Roger Werholtz, Secretary of Corrections  
Patricia Biggs, Kansas Parole Board  
Chris Mechler, Office of Judicial Administration  
Annie Grevas, Director of Community Corrections, 28<sup>th</sup> District  
Thomas Drees, Ellis County Attorney  
Captain Dale Finger, Public Member  
Rick Kittel, Board of Indigents' Defense Service  
Daniel Monnat, Private Defense Council

##### **Staff:**

Helen Pedigo, Executive Director  
Ed Britton, Staff Attorney  
Kunlun Chang, Director of Research  
Fengfang Lu, Senior Research Analyst  
Janice Brasher, Fiscal Director  
Marty Schmiedeler, Accountant  
Jennifer Dalton, Accountant  
Brenda Harmon, Public Service Administrator

##### **Guest:**

Kristi Bilyew-Drewel, Reentry Program and Data Manager, KDOC

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Johnson referred to the minutes of the August 26, 2008, Kansas Sentencing Commission meeting conference call. A motion was made to approve the minutes as written by Senator John Vratil and seconded by Ms. Chris Mechler. The motion carried.

### **LSI-R Committee**

Ms. Kristi Bilyew-Drewel provided an overview on LSI-R User Interface Recommendations. Handouts were provided. Ms. Chris Mechler provided an overview of the FY 2010 OJA budget request. A highlight of that overview is that OJA has requested 10 new additional Court Service Officers be hired to take over case loads of officers who will become LSI-R trainers. After a brief discussion, Commission members asked that the figures be more precise for more credibility.

### **SB123 Report/Presentation**

Ms Helen Pedigo and Ms. Jan Brasher presented the 2003 SB123 Update that was presented at the September Conference. A handout was provided. The SB123 case numbers are remaining stable. The number of SB123 Providers has increased from 108 at inception to 140 today.

### **Recodification Commission**

Senator Vratil gave an update on the Recodification Commission. The Recodification Commission is relying a great deal on the Proportionality Subcommittee and the recommendations of the Subcommittee. Progress is steady, but slow, with lots of discussions. The majority of the Commission accepted the arguments of the Proportionality Subcommittee that the crimes needed to be proportional to the severity of the offense. With some minor tweaking of Sentencing Commission recommendations, the Recodification Commission accepted the recommendations. The Recodification Commission will base their recommendations on their best judgment on what is best for public policy.

### **Reentry Policy Council**

The August 15 meeting was canceled and has been rescheduled for October 24.

### **Substance Abuse Policy Board**

Ms. Chris Mechler provided an update on the Substance Abuse Policy Board. The Board met on September 18 with a day of informative high-quality presentations, which gave the Board a lot to talk about. The next meeting is set for October 16, with time set aside to talk about the substance of their report to the Legislature.

### **Agency Report**

Ms. Pedigo provided an agency report. A handout was provided. Items discussed include:

- Commission Member, Judge Solomon has resigned from the Commission.
- The DRAFT SB123 36-Month Evaluation is included in the packet for discussion and approval at the October meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Kansas Sentencing Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in the Senate Room of the Jayhawk Tower.

Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.