

**Minutes of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission  
DPS&C Headquarters, Building 1  
504 Mayflower, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
10:00 am October 21, 2010**

The Honorable Ricky Babin called the October 21st, 2010 meeting of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission to order at 10:25a.m. Commission members present were:

**Members**

Mr. Michael Ranatza (Proxy for Honorable Louis Ackal)  
Honorable Ricky Babin, District Attorney, 23<sup>rd</sup> JDC  
Honorable Louis Daniel, Judge, 19<sup>th</sup> JDC  
Ms. Jean Faria, State Public Defender  
Honorable Fredericka Wicker, Judge, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal (Proxy for Justice Guidry)  
Mr. James LeBlanc, Secretary Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Honorable Joseph Lopinto III, Member of the House of Representatives  
Ms. Mary Manhein, LSU Forensic Sciences  
Mr. William Kline, (Proxy for Honorable James McDonald)  
Mr. Robert Mehrstens, Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement  
Ms. Julia Jones (Proxy for Mr. Joseph Montgomery)  
Ms. Julie Cullen (Proxy for Honorable Charles Riddle, District Attorney JDC)  
Honorable Helena Moreno, Member of the House of Representatives (Proxy for the Honorable Ernest Wooten, Chairman, House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice)

There was a quorum with 13 of 21 members present or represented by proxy.

- I. Department of Veterans Affairs – Mr. David LaSernge
  - A. Development of Veterans Court to deal with legal matters of Veterans.
  - B. Training of District Judges and District Attorneys on the legal needs of Veterans.
  - C. Jean Faria asked that the training be extended to the Public Defenders as well.
  - D. Also advised to contact Pete Adams of LDAA to get feedback for input on the Veterans Court.
- II. Update on Department of Corrections Budget Cuts - Secretary LeBlanc
- III. Report of the Statutory Revisions Committee, Workgroup 2:Release Mechanisms – Honorable Fredericka Wicker, Committee Chair
  - A. The Workgroup has met three times and continues to add advisory members to represent all areas of law enforcement.
  - B. Mission Statement has been adopted.
  - C. Short Term Priorities Identified:
    - i. Geriatric Releases
    - ii. Release on Parole 2/3 on a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1//2 on a 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- iii. Moving the infirm and terminally ill from DOC custody to secure nursing homes that can provide medical supervision while they remain on parole.
- IV. Re-Entry and Evidenced Based Committee – Jean Faria on behalf of the Honorable Charles Riddle, Committee Chairman
  - A. The Re-Entry Committee has met three times.
  - B. Mission statement has been adopted.
  - C. Short Term Goals identified:
    - i. Strengthening Probation & Parole
    - ii. Re-Entry Centers
    - iii. Day Reporting Centers
    - iv. Issuing State Identification Cards
    - v. Providing Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment locally
    - vi. Partnering with DHH and other agencies on common resources and services.
    - vii. Accurate ID along with Social Security Cards
- V. Research and Technology Committee – Robert Mehrrens, Committee Chairman
  - A. Research & Technology have met twice.
  - B. Mission Statement has been adopted.
  - C. Determined the immediate data that is available from our partner agencies
    - i. CAJUN (Department of Corrections)
    - ii. CMIS (Supreme Court of Louisiana)
    - iii. Probation and Parole Case Management System
  - D. Data and research requests from each of the other committees have been received and are being addressed.
  - E. Framework for Comprehensive Data System and funding being researched by Carle Jackson.
  - F. Secretary LeBlanc reminded the group of data available or in process for DOC:
    - i. SAS Datamining Report available November 2010
    - ii. Justice Mapping of 2008 Data (Parole Population)
- VI. Report on Pew Charitable Trust - Mr. Richard Jerome
  - A. The letter requesting technical assistance was received and a response will be forth coming.
    - i. The breadth of signatures on the letter and the participants at the August 12 meeting demonstrated support of all parties in Louisiana.
    - ii. Currently working with 9 other states working on Sentencing Restructuring.
    - iii. Pew works with Sentencing Commissions, task force, state officials, governors' office and others to provide technical assistance and national experts on various topics.
- VII. Approval of the Minutes from meeting of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010
  - Motion by Honorable Joseph Lopinto
  - Second by Honorable Lou Daniels
  - Motion passed.

VIII. Other Business

- A. Question raised by June Behrens (guest) on multiple Offender Bill and how the data impacts inmates total sentence. A brief discussion ensued.
- B. Chairman Babin encouraged members to contact other members that have not been active to nominate a proxy.
- C. The next report of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission to the Governor and Legislature is due March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012; however, the Commission plans to issue an interim report to the legislature for the 2011 Regular Session in order to provide an update of the Sentencing Commissions activities and to make any necessary recommendations.
  - i. Representative Lopinto reminded the group that the 2011 Regular Session is a fiscal session, which limits the number of general bills each legislator is allowed to five.
  - ii. He encouraged drafting legislative proposals as soon as possible to allow legislators ample time to consider any recommendations by the Commission.
- D. January 31 will be the Commissions deadline for drafts of legislation.
- E. Chairman Babin recognized Cloyce Clark attending the meeting on behalf of the Governor's Office.

- IX Meeting Adjourned  
Motion – Honorable Ricky Wicker  
Second – Mr. Michael Ranatza

Next Meeting  
December 8, 2010 10:00 DOC Headquarters