

**Minutes of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission  
DOC Headquarters, Building 1  
504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
1:00 p.m. February 21, 2013**

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  
Cheney Joseph (Proxy for Mr. Charles Ballay and Honorable Louis Daniel)  
Mr. David Dugas  
John Di Giulio (Proxy for Ms. Jean M. Faria)  
Honorable Ricky Wicker (Proxy for Honorable Greg Guidry)  
Ms. Debbie Hudnall (Proxy for Mr. Mark Graffeo)  
Mr. Cheney C. Joseph, Jr.  
Cecil Guin (Proxy for Ms. Mary Manheim)  
Secretary James M. Leblanc  
Honorable Jules Edwards (Proxy for Honorable Jay B. McCallum)  
Mr. Ruston Legendre (Proxy for Mr. Robert Mehrstens)  
Carla Smith (Proxy for Honorable Laurie A. White and Representative Helena Moreno)

**Committee, Advisory and Staff Members**

Darryl Campbell, DOC  
Rhett Covington, DOC  
Traci DiBenedetto, DOC  
Melanie Gueho, DOC  
Carle Jackson, LCLE  
Billy Kline, DOC  
Natalie LaBorde, Governor's Office  
Sandra Laborie, 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court  
Katherine Lee, LCLE  
G.F. Martin, Orleans Parish DA's Office  
J. Edward McAuliffe, Orleans Parish DA's Office  
Genie Powers, DOC  
Opal West, LCLE  
Angela Whittaker, DOC

**Guests**

Ethan Ashley, Black Alliance for Educational Options  
Linda Lala Duscoe, LA CURE  
Shelia Feigley, Private Citizen  
Steven Forber, Office & Juvenile Justice  
Tawanda Green, Rejoice 4 Re-entry

Mummi Ibrahim, Juvenile Justice Project of LA  
Debra Sheehan, LA CURE  
Sara Tirrell, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Office

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 original court opening session scheduled for January 31, 2013 was deferred due to complications with Medicaid.

IV. New Items for 2013 Regular Session

- A. Revision of Drug Laws – this will include mandatory treatment for drug charges  
Drug Courts – Drug Courts will be expanded. Since the announcement, the perception is that drug offenders are going to be released. Offenders are wanting to revoke themselves to serve less time.  
Treatment on release- Offenders must have employment and residence plan before release.  
The Commission voted to go on for further vetting by District Judges, DA's and Defense Attorney's.  
Parole Eligibility- To provide treatment to those who are incarcerated as opposed to incarceration. Language is still in development.  
Natalie LaBorde- recommends to defer proposal until next meeting
- B. Deferred Items:
  - a. Veteran's Provisions: La. C.Cr.P. art. 551.1 – Request from the Veteran's Administration ask that judges ask the defendant about military status, substance abuse, and mental health issues at arraignment. Judge Edwards asks for deferment because he thinks a much better approach would be to capture the information at booking and then the defendant's attorney can intervene. This way the interview can be conducted in a more private and appropriate setting.

V. Discussion of Proposals being Vetted and Action

- A. SOAP Sex Offender Assessment Panel Law  
Governor asked that this be deferred due to funding problems
- B. OUI (Operating a vehicle while intoxicated)  
Governor asked that this be deferred till next year
- C. Simple Escape Revisions  
Deferred
- D. Cleansing Period for Parole Eligibility  
Deferred
- E. Pretrial Services  
Deferred

F. Bond Forfeiture Statutes  
Deferred

G. Conditions for Pretrial Release – This has already been voted out.

H. Risk/Needs Assessment Pilot Program - 22<sup>nd</sup> JDC will conduct pilot program to administer criminogenic risk/needs assessment tool for all felony offenses at arraignment to be used in sentencing process. The court is receiving technical assistance to help put the system in place.

I. Need authors for bills –

a. Pretrial Release – will be sought by Judge Rusty Knight

b. Bail Bond Legislation – will be sought by Sarah Terrell

VI. Committee Reports: Honorable Ricky Babin, Chairman

A. Front End Committee – Honorable Ricky Wicker

a. Worked on all proposals previously discussed.

B. Release Mechanism Committee – Honorable Laurie White

Did not meet

C. Re-entry and Evidence Based Corrections Committee – Rhett Covington

GED cost issue was discussed. The computerized GED version will cost \$120 per person and DOC does not have the funds. DOC can extend the paper/pencil test for another year.

The committee will be preparing a plan so that the college training schools will accept the GED. Kim Burnette wants the Sentencing Commission to recommend to BESE that local schools serve school age students housed in parish jails.

D. Research and Technology – Melanie Gueho

Did not meet

VII. Update on HCR 113: Report by Darryl Campbell

Added judges access for information on current providers. The database includes 2,238 offenders, 638 active, and 1,602 inactive. Currently, have 16 providers and four more will be added. HCR 113 is being worked on. Before the next workgroup meeting, Darryl and Judge White will meet. A report will be presented at the next meeting.

A motion was made for adjournment of the meeting by Chairman Judge Wicker and second by Honorable Mike Cazes. The Honorable Ricky Wicker, Chairman, adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.