

**Minutes of the Louisiana Sentencing Commission
Re-Entry and Evidenced Based Committee
October 26, 2011 9:30 a.m.
504 Mayflower Street
Department of Corrections Headquarters**

The Honorable Charles Riddle called the meeting to order at 9:41 am.

I. Participants:

Commission Members

Honorable Charles Riddle, Chairman, District Attorney (**By Phone**)

Honorable Jules Edwards, 15th Judicial District Court (Proxy of Honorable Jay McCallum) (**By Phone**)

Honorable Ricky Wicker, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal (Proxy of Honorable Greg Guidry) (**By Phone**)

Honorable Mike McDonald, 1st Circuit Court of Appeals

Advisory Members

Sue Austin, DHH/OBH

Honorable E. Jimmy Gaidry, 1st Circuit Court of Appeals

Gerri Garon, DOC

Whalen Gibbs, DOC

Melanie Gueho, DOC

Barry Matheny, DOC

Carle Jackson, LCLE

Rhonda Nichols, AIM (Home Incarceration)

John DiGiulio, La Public Defenders Office

Bobby Constintino, VERA (on telephone)

Guest:

Cloyce Clark, Asst. Executive Counsel, Governor's Office

Linda Duscoe, CURE

Rev. G. Ashanti Witherspoon, Miracle Place Church

Staff:

Sandra Laborie, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal

Sonya Lars, LCLE

II. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Charles Riddle

Second by Judge Wicker

III. Team 1 – Transitional Work Program

A. Team members

Chairperson - Sheriff Mike Cazes (West Baton Rouge Parish)

Whalen Gibbs, DOC

Jeff Travis, DOC

Ricky Ward, District Attorney - 18th JDC

Honorable Jimmy Gaidry, 1st Circuit Court of Appeal

John DiGuilio,

B. Focus

1. Examine the use of Transitional Work Program opportunities under the Rehabilitation and Workforce Development program (Work Release).
2. Eligibility requirements for re-entry and Transitional Work Programs. (How to move inmates to where jobs are available.)

IV. Team 2 – Substance Abuse

A. Team Members

Chairperson, Dr. Susan Tucker, DOC

Dr. Susan Austin, DHH

ADA Walter Armstutz, 24th JDC

Judge June Darensbourg, 24th JDC

Kerry Lintini, Louisiana Supreme Court

Sheriff Mike Neustrom, Lafayette Parish

Rob Reardon, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office

B. Focus

1. Use of dedicated state beds for substance abuse as an option for District Attorneys and Courts at sentencing.
2. Sentencing to dedicated state facility beds to provide substance abuse programming as an alternative to regular incarceration.

V. Team 3 - Conditions of Supervision

A. Team Members

Chairperson, Gerald Starks, DOC/P&P
Barry Burmeister
Judge Lauren Lemon
Marilyn Castle
Jerrie LeDoux, Parole Board Member
Rhonda Nicholls, AIM (Home Incarceration)

B. Focus

1. Examine the conditions of supervision both probation and parole relative to successful re-entry and recidivism
2. Evaluate the impact of conditions of supervision in the law (generally, R.S. 15:571.5 goodtime; RS. 15:574.2 parole; C.Cr.P. Art. 895 probation; and elsewhere in law and policy) on revocation and make appropriate recommendations.
3. Organize and clarify the conditions of supervision as they are expressed in law
4. Examine the possibility of expanding re-entry programming for inmates housed in Parish Prisons and other non-DOC facilities
5. Explore changes that would improve the ability of probation and parole to improve the success rate of their clients
6. Evaluate what resources are necessary for Probation and Parole to increase their impact on clients to facilitate re-entry and reduce recidivism.
7. Examine the possibility of placing workload limits on probation and parole officers and how that might work to improve their impact on clients.
8. Consider ways of reducing the amount of time an offender is under supervision after parole or goodtime release within the framework of determinate sentencing.
9. Consider the incorporation of GED/Literacy programming as a condition of probation or parole/goodtime supervision.

VI. Team 4 - Education

A. Team Members

Chairperson, Kim Barnett, DOC
Dr. Sue Austin, DHH
Cecil Guin, LSU Department of Social Work
Tavia Crumpler, Department of Education

Leslie Freeman, DHH
Mary Livers, OJJ
Judge Mark Daughtery, Orleans Juvenile Court
John Ryals, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Services

B. Focus

1. Examine the relationship of dropping out of school and later involvement with the criminal justice system and explore how we can use this information to prevent recidivism (criminal justice) or involvement with crime (education). LSU has done some research in this area. A recent study in Texas tracking 1 Million students also has implications in this area. The Picard Center at ULL has a wealth of education data developed for the Louisiana Department of Education.

VII. A phone conference will take place on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 2:30 with Charlie Riddle, Judge Wicker, Whalen Gibbs and all of the confirmed team leaders.

VIII. The meeting was adjourned.
Moved by Wicker
Second by Riddle