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 Daresbourg, 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
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