

SENTENCING COMMISSION

MINUTES

Committee:	SENTENCING COMMISSION
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Date:	Wednesday, Nov.1, 2000	Time:	12:00 PM	Place:	Room 403
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Members Present	Camille Anthony, David Bateman, Paul Boyden, Blake Chard, Rep. Greg Curtis, Sam Dawson, Dr. Judy Engen, Pete Haun, Rep. Neal Hendrickson, Joel Millard, John T. Nielsen, Judge Sterling Sainsbury, Curt Garner for Michael Sibbett, Sen. Pete Suazo, Russ Van Vleet, Judge Robert S. Yeates
Members Absent	Mary S. Corporon, John Hill, Julie Holbrook, Steven B. Kelly, G. Fred Metos, Reed M. Richards, Sen. John Valentine, Judge Judith Billings, Judge Tyrone Medley, Judge David Mower
Staff	Gary Franchina, Ron Gordon, Jo Lynn Kruse, Ed McConkie

Agenda Item:	Welcome and Approval of Minutes By Ed McConkie
Notes:	John T. Nielsen welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Judy Engen, who is replacing Gary Jorgensen. Patrick Nolan has, for personal reasons, resigned from the Sentencing Commission. The commission thanks Mr. Nolan for his years of service. Rep. Hendrickson motioned to accept the October minutes. Judge Yeates seconded and it passed unanimously .

Agenda Item:	<u>General Business</u>
Notes:	Ed McConkie and John T. Nielsen gave a presentation a few weeks ago to the Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Legislative Interim Committee regarding the potential sunset of the Sentencing Commission. It unanimously recommended renewal of the Commission for 10 more years to the upcoming 2001 legislature. No problems are anticipated. The Sentencing Commission will continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. The December meeting will finalize the legislative recommendations that we couldn't complete in our October meeting. Specifically the recommendations from the Anomalies Sub Committee regarding sex offender registry issues and whether or not aggravated kidnapping needs to be added and in what form. The other issue left unresolved is the specific indeterminate range for what is now characterized as "life in prison." The January meeting will be occupied with a number of bills on which the Commission will have to take a position. The February meeting will be in the middle of the legislative session and will have a full 90 minute meeting concerning legislation. No meeting will be held in March.

Agenda Item:	Juvenile Risk Assessment Effort Update – Ron Oldroyd – Dep. Juvenile Court
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	Administrator and Kit Ennis, formerly with Youth Corrections
Notes:	Washington State has developed a promising risk assessment instrument for juvenile offenders. The entire package also includes ways to identify effective treatment programs and staff training for motivational interviewing to carry out a cost benefit evaluation. They entered into a partnership with a private software company to put the instrument into a software package. The cost for Utah to purchase it from them would be over one and a half million dollars. Upon more investigation, Mr. Oldroyd found out that the risk instrument itself is a public domain and that Washington is willing to just give it to us. And now Utah is able to create its own software for about \$75,000 to \$100,000. It should be in place by March 2001. Any such efforts such be coordinated with the existing Juvenile Sentencing Guidelines and the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of the Sentencing Commission.

Agenda Item:	Draft Policy on Guidelines Tracking and Release of Information – Ed McConkie
Notes:	<p>We have had the adult guidelines for over 2 years and the juvenile guidelines for over 3 years. The staff of the Sentencing Commission is receiving more formal and informal requests for information stemming from both of these efforts. In order to fulfill its statutory duties, the Commission needs accurate data and information upon which to base future policy recommendations in sentencing. An extensive discussion ensued including the legal and research complexities involved in tracking and releasing sentencing guidelines information. There was concern that the Commission provide good sentencing policy without being viewed as a report card agency over the judiciary. The Commission discussed how to handle these requests and walked through a draft policy document that was currently being considered by a number of judicial governing boards as well.</p> <p>It was determined that there was no rush to have this policy finalized and that it was more important to have it done correctly, than to have it done right away. Finally, it was decided to convene a panel of legal and research experts from each of the relevant agencies including adult and youth corrections and courts to begin to address the specific issues involved. For example, assigned assistant attorneys general would need to be consulted. Commission staff would determine the specific individuals to be involved and begin this effort.</p>

Agenda Item:	Next Meeting
Notes:	The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2000 at noon, room 403

Minutes prepared by Jo Lynn Kruse
Executive Secretary CCJJ