

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE & SENTENCING REFORM

REGULAR MEETING

Friday, October 30, 2015

9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adler University, 15th Floor
17 N. Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois

EVALUATING REFORMS

9:30 – 9:45 **Opening Remarks & Administrative Issues**
Rodger Heaton, Chairman

9:45 – 12:00 **Commission Discussion of, and Voting Upon, Reforms**

A. Recommendations to Ensure the Validity and Integrity of Sentencing and Programming Practices

Expedite the use of risk and needs assessment tools by IDOC and the Prisoner Review Board.

Provide incentives and support for the establishment of local Criminal Justice Coordinating Councils to develop strategic plans to address crime and corrections policy.

Modernize data collection and sharing. Support the establishment of the Illinois Data Exchange Coordinating Council (IDECC), to facilitate an information-sharing environment among state and local units of government.

Require all State agencies that provide funding for criminal justice programs to evaluate those programs. Agencies should eliminate those programs for which there is insufficient evidence of effectiveness and expand those that are proven effective, and to the extent feasible, ensure that programming targets higher risk/need offenders.

B. Recommendations to Reduce the Number of Prison Admissions

Prevent the use of prison for those with short lengths of stay.

Give judges the discretion to determine whether probation may be appropriate for the following offenses:

1. Residential burglary;
2. A second or subsequent violation of driving with a revoked/suspended license;
3. Class 2 felonies;
4. Drug law violations; and

5. Unlawful use of a weapon (possession of a weapon by a felon).

Before sentencing an offender to prison for a Class 3 or 4 felony, a judge must explain at sentencing why incarceration is an appropriate sentence when:

The offender has no prior probation sentences, or

The offender has no prior violent convictions.

C. Recommendations to Reduce the Length of Prison Stays

Expand eligibility for programming credits.

Use of adult transition centers. Ensure that use of adult transition centers is informed by the risk-and-needs research and evidence, which shows that residential transitional facilities, paired with appropriate programming, should be primarily reserved for high and medium risk offenders to obtain the greatest public safety benefit.

Develop a protocol to provide for the placement to home confinement or a medical facility for terminally ill or severely incapacitated inmates, excluding those sentenced to natural life.

Improve the use of electronic monitoring technology as a correctional tool.

IDOC should increase the use of electronic detention in lieu of imprisonment for both short-term inmates and inmates who are ready to be transitioned out of secure custody.

Allow IDOC to use electronic monitoring for up to 30 days without PRB approval as a graduated sanction for those on MSR.

Ensure that PRB orders requiring electronic monitoring are based on risk assessment.

Encourage and support the use of electronic monitoring within local jurisdictions as an alternative to incarceration and pre-trial detention.

D. Recommendations to Reduce Recidivism By Increasing Chances of Successful Reentry into Society

Enhance rehabilitative programming in IDOC. Implement or expand evidence-based programming that targets criminogenic need, particularly cognitive behavioral therapy and substance abuse treatment. Prioritize access to programming to high-risk offenders. Evaluate those programs identified as promising and eliminate ineffective programs.

Remove unnecessary barriers to those convicted of crimes from obtaining professional licensure. Establish a task force charged with reviewing all licensure restrictions to identify those that continue to be necessary for public safety.

Improve the ability and ease of the sealing of criminal history records.

Require IDOC and the Secretary of State to ensure inmates have a state identification card upon release at no cost to the inmates, when their release plan contemplates Illinois residence.

12:00 – 1:15 **Lunch and Phone/Email Break**

1:15 – 4:30 **Continued Commission Discussion of, and Voting Upon, Reforms**

(continuing on the list set forth above, with those not addressed in the morning session)

4:30 – 5:00 **Public Comment**

Members of the public are asked to keep their comments to three minutes