

Connecticut Sentencing Task Force
Offense Classification and Sentence Structure Subcommittee
September 10th 2007 at 1:00 pm
Meeting Summary

Attendees: KK Meyer (Public Defender), Brian Coco (CSSD), Thomas Hogan (CSSD), Larry D'Orsi (Jud), Barb Tombs (VERA), Andrew Clark (CCSU), Robert Farr (BOPP), Richard Sparaco (BOPP). John Kissel (State Senate), Merit Lajoie (OVA), Jim Papillo (State Victim Advocate), Brian Austin (OPM), Jerry Stowell (BOPP), Randy Braren (BOPP), Kevin Kane (CSA), David Shepeck (Litchfield J.D), Jon Schoenhorn (CCDLA), Thomas Ullmann (Public Defender)

Meeting Commenced- 1:18

Welcome-Chairman Farr

Member Introductions

August 20th Meeting Summary- Andrew Clark (CCSU)

- Meeting recorded by CTN
- Written summary can be found on the OPM website:

OPM Update on Data Requests

- Preliminary data- may be taken out of context, will wait to share until October.
- Need assessment scores
- Will be prepared to do a presentation to this group on October 2nd

Convictions, Average Sentence (in days) and Maximum Sentence (in days) for Burglary Offenses Statewide, 2001-2006 Presented by Larry D'Orsi (Court Operations)

- Request for maximum sentence served
- Request for number of repeat offenders- OPM is working on this
- Occupied vs. unoccupied dwellings- more difficult to assess
- Highlight what kind of sentences do those convicted of burglary typically receive
- Burglary and larceny's go hand in hand- what would be the lead charge? Depends on which is most severe
- Burglary is defined as a property crime but goes way beyond that when personal safety is compromised
- Three Strikes? Need to look at persistent offender laws and come up with something that both ensures public safety and does not keep certain individuals in prison for longer than necessary.

Habitual Offenders (Bell)

- By statute, In order to propose an enhanced sentence under a persistent offender is decided by the court
- The jury and the court need to make the predicate findings

- A persistent offender statute would create harsher penalties, however we have similar statutes right now and are used sporadically. Felonies are upgraded
- When you look at felony murders where burglary was the predicate offense the numbers are not significant.
- Can we make the changes that result in the improvement of the current statutes?
- Every state is dealing with similar issues regarding persistent offenders
- Statutes that deal with persistent offenders are used so infrequently
- Wait to make recommendations, talk about burglary statutes

Home Invasion Statutes and Burglary definitions and their Statutory Sentence Requirements, Barb Tombs (Vera Institute of Justice)

- Copy can be found on the OPM website

Burglary Statistics, Rick Taft (Office of Legislative Research)

- Will we lose anything by changing the burglary statute?
- There is a new model penal code- members have not received a copy yet
- Should we have a home invasion statute when someone enters a home with the intent to harm?
- How will the legislature want to define home invasion?

Meeting Commenced- 3:40 pm

Next Meeting: Sentencing Structure- October 2nd at 1:00 pm
Offense Classification- October 9th at 1:00 pm