

Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force
Sentencing Grid Subgroup
Meeting Summary: January 19, 2021
Zoom Digital Conferencing Technology

Attendees:

- Keri-Anne Jetzer (alt. for Judge Saint Clair), *Sentencing Guidelines Commission*
- Lauren Knoth (research/data support), *Washington Institute for Public Policy*
- Greg Link, *Washington Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys; Washington Defender Association*
- Ginny Parham (alt. for Waldo Waldron-Ramsey), *Interests of Incarcerated Persons*
- Judge Wesley Saint Clair, *Sentencing Guidelines Commission*
- Melody Simle (alt. for Suzanne Cook), *Statewide Family Council*
- Clela Steelhammer (research/data support), *Caseload Forecast Council*
- Nick Straley (alt. for Nick Allen), *Interests of Incarcerated Persons*
- Jon Tunheim, *Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys*
- Waldo Waldron-Ramsey, *Interests of Incarcerated Persons*

Facilitation Team: Amanda Murphy, Chris Page, Molly Stenovec, Maggie Counihan, and Hannah Kennedy

WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW

Amanda welcomed Sentencing Grid Subgroup (Subgroup) members and reviewed the agenda. Chris and Amanda welcomed new Task Force member Waldo Waldon-Ramsey and his alternate, Ginny Parham, newly appointed to represent the interests of incarcerated individuals. Waldo and Ginny introduced themselves to the Subgroup and Amanda briefly summarized the Subgroup's work to-date.

Action Item: The Subgroup agreed to change its weekly meeting time to Mondays, 9 to 10 am, during the 2021 Legislative Session.

ADDING NEW VOICES TO THE GRID SUBGROUP

The Subgroup discussed adding additional voices. Since the last Subgroup meeting, Amanda and Chris spoke with the Task Force co-chairs about expanding the membership of the 1Subgroup and/or the Sentencing Effectiveness Working Group. The co-chairs cautioned against adding any non-Task Force members or alternates to the Subgroup: it could alienate Task Force members and risk negative perceptions by those not involved. The co-chairs noted that such additions would need to be approved by the full Task Force as well as the Washington state House and Senate, though non-Task Force members are still welcome to observe any Subgroup or other working group meetings.

Members felt that adding Waldo Waldron-Ramsey and Ginny Parham (new Task Force member/alternate) fulfilled the need for Subgroup members with lived experience in the criminal justice system.

GRID RESEARCH UPDATE

Lauren Knoth (Washington Institute for Public Policy, aka WSIPP) and Clela Steelhammer (Caseload Forecast Council, aka CFC) updated the Subgroup on their grid research. Clela compiled data and Lauren is drafting some tables. They could provide the Subgroup with data to review in early February.

The Subgroup also provide feedback on Lauren's draft "Grid 101" PowerPoint presentation for the Task Force meeting on 1/21. Members encouraged Lauren to keep this first presentation at a high level to

provide an overview of Washington’s current felony sentencing system. The Subgroup also suggested compiling a grid “study packet” for all Task Force members, including:

- The Washington State Sentencing Manual;
- A timeline of changes to WA’s sentencing guidelines systems (created by Keri-Anne Jetzer and available on the Sentencing Guidelines Commission’s website);
- A “cheat sheet” defining key terms related to the sentencing grid; and
- The current WA felony sentencing grid.

CONCURRENT/CONSECUTIVE SENTENCING

Keri-Anne reviewed her findings on concurrent and consecutive sentencing systems from other states/jurisdictions. In response to the Subgroup’s interest in what other states and countries do with respect to concurrent/consecutive sentencing, Keri-Anne reached out to Sentencing Guideline Commissions across the country. Nine states responded to her request for information and she compiled the information for the Subgroup to review (*see the supporting materials section*).

NEXT STEPS & ACTION ITEMS

- **The Facilitation Team** will update the Subgroup’s recurring calendar file to reflect temporary scheduling changes.
- **The Facilitation Team** will prepare a first draft of a sentencing grid “cheat sheet” for the Subgroup to review.