Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force
Sentencing Grid Subgroup
Meeting Summary: June 1, 2021
Zoom Digital Conferencing Technology

Attendees:

- Russ Brown (alt. for Jon Tunheim), *Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys*
- Representative Roger Goodman, *Washington State House Democratic Caucus*
- 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*
- 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*
- Judge Josephine Wiggs-Martin, *Superior Court Judges Association*

Guest: David Trieweiler & Sydney Oliver

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

WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW
Amanda welcomed Sentencing Grid Subgroup (Subgroup) members and reviewed the agenda.

THREE STEP APPROACH TO ADDRESSING CELL RANGES, SENTENCE LENGTHS, & ZONES
After last week's Subgroup meeting the Facilitation Team met with Lauren to discuss potential ways to structure Subgroup discussions of cell ranges, sentencing lengths, and zones. Based on previous Subgroup conversations, it seems unlikely a universal approach (e.g., expand all cell ranges by 20% on both the minimum and maximum ends) will meet the needs of all Task Force constituencies. Instead, Lauren suggested the Subgroup could explore a three-pronged approach to develop recommendations on:

1. What to do with the southwest corner of the grid;
2. How to adapt the grid to ensure sentences within offense seriousness levels do not exceed statutory maximums; and
3. Adjust ranges systematically (e.g., by X%), particularly in the high offense seriousness levels, to reduce excessive incarceration lengths.

Subgroup members discussed this approach and other conversations related to criminal history score that may need to be included. Overall members supported this approach and agreed to begin discussing ways to modify the southwest corner of the grid. The following potential recommendations that emerged:

- Minimum sentences for cells in the southwest corner should be zero.
- If the number of presumptive jail sentences increases, the Legislature should ensure cost savings from reductions in Department of Corrections (DOC) populations and supervision

charges are provided to local jurisdictions to account for increased supervision and/or sentencing alternatives responsibilities.

- The Legislature should consider the potential need for review and oversight of local jail conditions, particularly if recommended changes to the sentencing grid are likely to increase the annual number of jail sentences.

NEXT STEPS & ACTION ITEMS

- **The Subgroup** will update the Task Force on this conversations and progress to-date at the June 3rd meeting.
- **The Subgroup** will continue to discuss cell ranges, sentence lengths, and zones next week.