

Members

Rep. Matt Pierce, Chairperson
Rep. Linda Lawson
Rep. Ralph Foley
Rep. Wes Culver
Sen. Richard Bray
Sen. Randall Head
Sen. Greg Taylor
Sen. Lindel Hume
Judge John Marnocha
Judge Lance D. Hamner
Professor Craig Bradley
Professor Stephen F. Smith
Attorney General Greg Zoeller
Commissioner Edwin Buss
Steve Johnson
Larry Landis
Chief Justice Randall Shepard



CRIMINAL CODE EVALUATION COMMISSION

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MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: June 28, 2010
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington
St., Room 404
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 1

Members Present: Rep. Matt Pierce, Chairperson; Rep. Linda Lawson; Rep. Ralph Foley; Rep. Wes Culver; Sen. Richard Bray; Sen. Randall Head; Sen. Greg Taylor; Sen. Lindel Hume; Judge John Marnocha; Judge Lance D. Hamner; Professor Craig Bradley; Professor Stephen F. Smith; Attorney General Greg Zoeller; Commissioner Edwin Buss; Steve Johnson; Larry Landis; Chief Justice Randall Shepard.

Members Absent: None.

Representative Pierce called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. Representative Pierce introduced Mr. Geld from the Pew Center to give opening remarks for the Pew Center's presentation.

Mr. Geld told the committee that the Pew Center for the States in conjunction with the Council of State Governments Justice Center would be doing a study of trends in Indiana's justice system

¹ These minutes, exhibits, and other materials referenced in the minutes can be viewed electronically at <http://www.in.gov/legislative> Hard copies can be obtained in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for hard copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for hard copies.

with the hope of making process and policy changes to improve public safety and save money. Mr. Geld introduced Mr. Jerome of the Pew Center to give a presentation.

Mr. Jerome of the Pew Center on the States gave a presentation noting national trends in criminal justice. He noted the increase in prison populations and costs of imprisonment. He said that the goal should be to get better results for this money.

After Mr. Jerome's presentation, the committee discussed recidivism and the effectiveness of programming in prisons. Mr. Jerome noted that low level offenders tend to do better in community corrections, but that some programming is more effective in prisons. The Commission discussed risk assessments that go into determining whether an offender goes into custodial or non-custodial punishment.

Mr. Thompson of the Council of State Governments Justice Center gave a presentation. His presentation covered the work that the Council of State Governments has done with other states, including work in Michigan and Arizona. Mr. Thompson showed some of the tools that allow his group to analyze crime patterns. Mr. Thompson then went over the timeline that the project will work with. The group hopes to have recommendations available for the legislature in time for next session.

Senator Taylor asked Mr. Thompson if there had been any study on the use of expunging criminal records as a way to reduce recidivism. Mr. Thompson noted that there are some places where it has been used and that an inability to find employment is a big contributor to recidivism.

Representative Pierce noted that the Commission has a large task in front of them in the revision of the criminal code. He suggested that the group divide the task into smaller pieces and assign working groups to work on each piece. The Commission suggested that it may be better to have proposals drafted by law students or interns and edit them. This would be a less labor intensive process for the Commission and its staff. It was suggested that members of the Commission with particular interest in an area could volunteer to serve on a particular working group. Working groups would also have the opportunity to reach out to stake holders in the area of their work that may not be on the Commission.

Representative Pierce stated that he will come to the next meeting with a draft of procedures for evaluating the criminal code.

Representative Pierce adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.