



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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SENTENCING GUIDELINES COMMISSION

SRA Planning Workgroup

February 27, 2017 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Pierce County Courthouse

County-City Building

930 Tacoma Ave South, Rainier Room 7th Fl

Tacoma, WA 98402

Meeting Notes

In attendance: Judge Rumbaugh, Russ Hauge, Clela Steelhammer (DOC), Alex MacBain (DOC), Kecia Rongen, Kimberly Gordon, Ned Newlin, Jon Tunheim, Ned Newlin (WASPC), Keri-Anne Jetzer

The meeting started with discussion on the current SRA review bills, SSB 5294 and SHB 1789. The bills differ in the size of the review and who the reviewers would be (task force vs consultants). Both bills have a late 2018 due date and the workgroup members agreed that a September 2018 due date would make the results of the review available to agencies as they create their budgets and submit agency-sponsored legislative bills.

What to preserve?

SRA Purposes – the current seven purposes in RCW 9.94A.010 were determined to still be applicable. Judge Rumbaugh suggested another purpose to refer to uniformity. Kimberly suggested 18 USC 3553 as a model for that uniformity statement.

Grid System – it was decided to stay with a grid system, although there were some comments on parts of it that could be changed, such as incorporating alternatives.

What to change?

Judicial Discretion – there was support to increase judicial discretion. Judge Rumbaugh said that judges have very little information available to them when making decisions. Having information available about the offender and the situation pre-sentence would be of value in handing down a just sentence.

Currency of Accountability – the currency of accountability should be greater than just incarceration.

What to add?

Parole – there was support for creating an offender review process, similar to what occurred under parole. Washington state is one, if not the only, state that allows for community supervision violations to be dealt with outside of the courts so it could be possible to incorporate a review process for the current community supervision types without creating a backlog in the courts.

Workgroup members agreed that starting the review with smaller groups which would then bring their results to the larger group would be the best form of action.

Next Steps:

- Russ will contact DOC to talk about the current SRA review bills.
- The results of this meeting will be presented at the March 10th Commission meeting.
- Keri-Anne will send out a Doodle request for another workgroup meeting for the week of March 20th.