

**Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force**  
**Sentencing Effectiveness Work Group**  
**Meeting Summary: January 24, 2020**  
Digital Conferencing Technology

**Attendees:**

- Judge Veronica Alicea-Galván, *Washington State Minority and Justice Commission*
- Representative Roger Goodman, *Washington State House of Representatives, Democratic Caucus*
- Russ Hauge, *Sentencing Guidelines Commission*
- Keri-Anne Jetzer (alt. for Russ Hauge), *Sentencing Guidelines Commission*
- Judge Roger Rogoff, *Superior Court Judges Association*
- Melody Simle (alt. for Suzanne Cook), *Statewide Family Council*
- Nick Straley (alt. for Nick Allen), *Interests of Incarcerated Persons*
- Jon Tunheim, *Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys*

**Guests:**

- Ashley Jackson

**Facilitation Team:** Amanda Murphy and Hannah Kennedy

**WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW**

Amanda Murphy welcomed Sentencing Effectiveness Working Group (SEWG or working group) members to first call and introduced Ruckelshaus Center support staff, Hannah Kennedy. Amanda reviewed the agenda and purpose of the call, noting that this first call would be process focused. Not all members are required to participate in a working group. The facilitation team and co-chairs are looking for a subset of folks to organize and analyze all potential policy recommendations, to determine if and what additional research is needed, and to present their analysis to the wider Task Force for feedback and consideration. The SEWG will focus on potential recommendations related to improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system and sentencing grid.

**DRAFT WORK PLAN**

Amanda walked the group through the Task Force 2020 work plan. Pending approval by entire Task Force, the facilitation team recommends the following schedule:

- February – April: working groups collect, organize, and analyze potential recommendations;
- April – July (mtgs. 4-7): working groups present these potential recommendations and analysis, soliciting feedback from the wider Task Force to incorporate into further analysis and recommendation refinement;
- August (mtg. 8): develop preliminary combined recommendation list of reentry and sentencing effectiveness recommendations; and
- September – November (mtgs. 9-11): refine recommendations and prepare final Task Force report.

## **SUMMARY TABLE FOR TRACKING POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Amanda presented a draft summary table for the working group to use as an organizing tool to track potential recommendations and the working groups analysis and discussion of these potential recommendations.

The Working Group discussed the utility of the summary table and agreed adding additional columns to track potential tradeoffs and key issues associated with each recommendation would be helpful.

*Action item: The Facilitation Team will add additional columns to the summary table and will take a first crack at filling out portions of the table, starting with the recommendations and info provided in the Sentencing Guidelines Commission report.*

The Working Group also discussed the utility of beginning the recommendation analysis work without the wider Task Force first agreeing whether to seek incremental changes or a system-wide overhaul of criminal sentencing. Key topics discussed included:

- Concerns that working group efforts are attempting to *bite something off in the middle* without a collective (i.e., Task Force) understanding of where we are headed.
- Discussion about what level of detail the working group will/should discuss.
- The challenges and opportunities associated with both determinate and indeterminate sentencing systems.
- A desire to ensure consensus on what type of change (i.e., incremental or fundamental) the Task Force is seeking. Some working group members acknowledged the difficult and time-consuming nature of analyzing even just one approach.

Amanda suggested the revised recommendation tracking summary table could be a helpful place to start; SEWG members could capture all the important issues and topics associated with different recommendations on paper. Working group members agreed beginning to fill out the table with the Sentencing Guidelines Commission's two options to reform the sentencing grid could be a good place to start and may help the wider Task Force decide what type of change (i.e., incremental or fundamental) to pursue.

*Action Item: Russ Hauge confirmed as point person for the Sentencing Effectiveness Working Group.*

## **NEXT STEPS & ACTION ITEMS:**

- **The Facilitation Team** will add additional columns to the summary table and will take a first crack at filling out portions of the table, starting with the recommendations and info provided in the Sentencing Guidelines Commission report.