

**Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force  
Sentencing Grid Subgroup  
Meeting Notes: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022  
Meeting via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

- Chief Smith, *Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs - alternate*
- Keri-Anne Jetzer, *Sentencing Guidelines Commission (SGC)*
- Melody Simle, *Families of Incarcerated Persons*
- Nick Straley, *Interests of Incarcerated Persons*
- Jon Tunheim, *WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys*
- Russ Brown, *WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys*
- Senator Chris Gildon, *Washington State Senate (Republicans)*
- Greg Link, *WA Assn. of Criminal Defense Attorneys; WA Defender Assn*
- Judge Wesley Saint Clair, *Sentencing Guidelines Commission*
- Melody Simle, *Families of Incarcerated Persons*
- Clela Steelhammer, *Caseload Forecast Council*

**Research/Technical Support:** Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson, *WA State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP)*

**Facilitation Team:** Amanda Murphy, Chris Page, Maggie Counihan

**Public Guests:** Jim Chambers, Bruce Glant, Joanne Smieja, David Triewailer

**Welcome and Agenda Review**

Amanda welcomed Grid Subgroup members and reviewed the agenda. She explained that starting today and for the next 7-8 weeks the discussions will focus on criminal history score (CHS), the second to last category of topics remaining for the Grid Subgroup to be discussing and proposing potential recommendations for the Task Force's consideration of improvements to the sentencing grid. Amanda reminded the group that this CHS discussion topic list was included in the email that went out to the group. Included in this document is any background info and previously drafted potential recommendations related to the six topics. This document will be what the group will be working from and building upon over the next 7-8 weeks (Attachment A.).

Amanda then reviewed the Task Force workplan: July would have a 1-2 day Grid Group work session (likely a pair of half days) to complete stitching together the package of potential grid recommendations to present to the Task Force. The full Task Force is slated to begin consensus deliberations on September 1-2 over another two-day work session, as currently outlined in its workplan.

A member expressed doubts as to the likelihood of stitching all the elements connected to the grid such that everyone on the Task Force can understand them—and beyond that, the chances that of the Task Force reaching consensus on the whole package of potential recommendations. Another member echoed those concerns. The sooner the Subgroup and Task Force can see the whole picture and begin discussing tradeoffs and options and positions of various members, the better. Members also wondered how long the new Department of Corrections approach to supervision will take to get fully implemented, since the other emerging Task Force grid recommendations hinge on that iCOACH model being functional.

### **Criminal History Score (CHS) Topics**

Amanda reviewed the list of CHS topics and today's meeting will focus on topic #1 and #2.

#### **CHS Discussion Topic #1: CHS Research Timeline—the SAC's research on CHS will not be completed until September 30<sup>th</sup>:**

- a. By this date, the Task Force will have needed to have already gone through at least one round of consensus on the full package of potential recommendations. How would you all like to proceed?*

Amanda informed the Subgroup that the report on research exploring the connections among CHS, recidivism, and disproportionality being conducted by the state's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) would not become available until the end of September—after the Task Force will have held a round of consensus deliberations on its package of potential grid recommendations.

A member suggested inventorying the specific issues that depend on the research, noting the importance of information pertaining to the connection between CHS and recidivism and suggested the Task Force or its co-chairs could request any preliminary findings of the research.

A member asked how PA went to a system that combined CHS levels; rather than having eight, the state opted to group the numbers in its CHS system to result in a rating for each defendant of Low, Medium, or High CHS. The Subgroup and Task Force could discuss the impacts of collapsing/combining CHS levels if it had some SAC findings available. This raises the overall question, "Can the Task Force draw on the work of the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission?"

Members expressed support for the idea of requesting findings as soon as they become available, before the SAC finalizes its report. The Subgroup could potentially generate a list of high-priority topics, the findings on which could benefit the Task Force's consideration of improvements to the sentencing system.

- Correlation with recidivism or lack thereof

- Potential impact of collapsing/combining CHS levels: are recidivism rates similar across CHS levels (are there meaningful differences among the scores)?
- Racial disproportionality in CHS

A member suggested the grid group carve out time after September 30<sup>th</sup> to reconcile full Task Force discussions of (and recommendations on) the grid with the findings of the SAC research. If the research proves wrong some assumptions the Grid Subgroup and Task Force have been using, it could lessen the likelihood of reaching consensus. Another suggested the possibility of attaching an addendum to the Task Force report that addresses the SAC findings in light of the proposed recommendations.

Multiple members of the subgroup expressed support for requesting findings from the SAC before its report is finalized. The facilitation team will work with the co-chairs to draft and send that request to Matt Landon and the director of the SAC.

#### **CHS Discussion Topic #2: Juvenile Adjudications:**

- **Should they ever count? If so, what types and under what conditions (just felonies, or just violent/serious violent)?**
- **Should they have a separate age-based threshold for washout?**
- **What about offenses committed as a juvenile but that were remanded to adult court?**

Dr. Lauren Knoth-Peterson gave an overview of the following juvenile adjudications proposals for discussion.

**Potential Recommendation Option 1:** Policy as proposed in HB 1413: remove juvenile adjudications from CHS calculations. (Note, HB1413 also states: Require courts to grant a resentencing hearing upon the motion of a person whose sentence was increased by the inclusion of prior juvenile dispositions in the person's score calculation).

**Potential Recommendation Option 2:** Revert back to 1986 law, whereby after age 23, Class B/C juvenile adjudications no longer count in CHS. Prior adjudications count only if the offense was committed when the individual was 15 or older.

*Note: some confusion on how this option is stated. First sentence states Class B/C no longer count but the second sentence has prior adjudications only count if the person was 15 or older. One suggestion is to instead restate the law as it was in 1986, as follows:*

(3) Include class A juvenile felonies only if the offender was 15 or older at the time the juvenile offense was committed. Include class B and C juvenile felony convictions only if the offender was 15 or older at the time the juvenile offense was committed and the offender was less than 23 at the time the offense for which he or she is being sentenced was committed.

**Potential Recommendation Option 3:** juvenile adjudications would correspond with the state's JR-25 law. Would not count juvenile adjudications after an individual turns 30 such that in the most extreme case, where an individual is incarcerated for a juvenile offense until age 25, the juvenile adjudications would still count for 5 years post release. After age 30, CHS would be calculated based only on adult convictions regardless of whether they committed additional offenses between age 25 and 30. This means the juvenile washout is not contingent on a "crime-free" period, but purely based on age.

Potential modification: reduce to age 27 – most recidivism occurs within 3 years, so they'd count for age 25, 26, and 27.

**Grid Subgroup Discussion:**

- A member commented that there are significant, serious offenses that perhaps should count longer or still be allowed to be considered. That while these ages seem to align with brain development research, their constituency will likely have concerns about the potential for repeat Class A offenses. Another member replied that the Task Force could address this by creating a carveout for Class A felonies, which would remain as part of the person's CHS instead of washing out.
- Another member commented that the system already accounts for those most serious offenses with the auto-decline law such that those cases would be recorded as adult convictions and not apply to what the group is discussing with these changes.
- A member asked how the group wants to consider recent court cases around brain science, which set age-based thresholds. As of now, juvenile adjudications stay with the person along current washout rules; all three potential recommendations above are based on brain development science.
- A member noted that their constituency see violent and serious violent offenses as different than non-violent offenses. As Option 1 states, to remove Class A offenses from CHS would be a non-starter. However, Option 2 to revert to the law as of 1986 so Class B/C juvenile adjudications no longer count in a person's CHS, could potentially work.

Based on the comments, questions, and ideas brought up during the discussion, a fourth option was developed:

**Potential Recommendation Option 4:** After age 23, non-violent Class B/C juvenile adjudications no longer count in CHS. After age 27, violent class B/C juvenile adjudications and juvenile adjudications for Class A felonies that were not serious violent offenses no longer count in CHS. Juvenile adjudications for serious violent class A felonies follow washout rules according to general adult washout rules. Prior adjudications count only if the offense was committed when the individual was 15 or older.

Grid Subgroup Discussion:

- A member asked why not allow SV felonies to washout if there was presumably a discretionary decline hearing and a judge made the decision that this case should be kept in juvenile court but then that stays with them forever.
- Public safety concern for cases where they are repeating violent behaviors.
- Another commented that the sentencing guidelines were created to address typical crimes and maybe these are atypical situations—can the group suggest a way to deal with atypical offenses on a case-by-case basis?

The Subgroup continued sharing perspectives on the nuances of the potential modifications and hypothetical situations that would fall under those conditions. Amanda encouraged members to continue thinking about the potential recommendations and proposed modifications over the next week, and if they could not live with those modifications, to come to next week's meeting with what their constituency *could* live with around these issues.

### **Next Steps**

Continue discussion on potential recommendations related to juvenile adjudication and ideally move on to the next CHS topic.

### **RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SHARED VIA ZOOM CHAT DURING MEETING**

Auto-decline is now limited to:

- Youth who are 16 or 17 at the time of offense and charged with a “serious violent offense;”
- Youth who are 16 or 17 at the time of offense charged with rape of a child
- Youth who are 16 or 17 at the time of offense charged with a “violent offense” AND who have criminal history including (1) two or more prior violent offenses; OR (2) three or more of any of the following: class A or class B felony, vehicular assault, manslaughter, all committed after age 13 and prosecuted separately.

### **COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY GUEST OBSERVERS VIA ZOOM CHAT and/or EMAIL**

None

**Attachment A.**

Criminal Sentence Task Force: Sentencing Grid Subgroup

Criminal History Score Discussion Topics

DRAFT as of 4.29.22

**1) CHS Research Timeline— the SAC’s research on CHS will not be completed until September 30th?**

- a. By this date, the Task Force will have needed to have already gone through at least one round of consensus on the full package of potential recommendations. How would you all like to proceed?

**2) Juvenile Adjudications**

- a. should they ever count? If so, what/conditions?
  - i. Just felonies? Just violent/serious violent?
- b. should they have a separate age-based threshold for washout?
- c. What about offenses committed as a juvenile but that were remanded to adult court?

*Note: As background, will be helpful to have the history of juvenile scoring. Clela is working on drafting an outline of the changes over time.*

Juvenile adjudications proposal for discussion: juvenile adjudications would correspond with the state’s JR-25 law. Would not count juvenile adjudications after an individual turns 30 such that in the most extreme case, where an individual is incarcerated for a juvenile offense until age 25, the juvenile adjudications would still count for 5 years post release. After age 30, CHS would be calculated based only on adult convictions regardless of whether they committed additional offenses between age 25 and 30. This means the juvenile washout is not contingent on a “crime-free” period, but purely based on age.

Potential modification: reduce to age 27 – most recidivism occurs within 3 years, so they’d count for age 25, 26, and 27.

**Potential Recommendation Option:** Policy as proposed in HB 1413: remove juvenile adjudications from CHS calculations. (Note, HB1413 also states: Require courts to grant a resentencing hearing upon the motion of a person whose sentence was increased by the inclusion of prior juvenile dispositions in the person's score calculation).

**Potential Recommendation Option:** Revert back to 1986 law, whereby after age 23, Class B/C juvenile adjudications no longer count in CHS. Prior adjudications count only if the offense was committed when the individual was 15 or older.

*Note: some confusion on how this option is stated. First sentence states Class B/C no longer count but the second sentence has prior adjudications only count if the person was 15 or older. One suggestion is to instead restate the law as it was in 1986, as follows:*

(3) Include class A juvenile felonies only if the offender was 15 or older at the time the juvenile offense was committed. Include class B and C juvenile felony convictions only if the offender was 15 or older at the time the juvenile offense was committed and the offender was less than 23 at the time the offense for which he or she is being sentenced was committed.

### **3) Revisit Washout Periods Discussions - Last Chance for Potential Recommendations**

- a. Clarify and confirm potential recommendations developed so far **(Appendix A)**
- b. Revisit and last chance to develop potential recommendation: Are the current washout periods appropriate for the different classes? Should Class A offenses ever be eligible for washout? What about some Class A offenses? A1, A2, A3 classification proposal.
- c. Should washout periods be restarted for any offense or only for an offense that is as serious or more serious than the new conviction?
  - E.g., conviction for class C in 2000
  - Conviction for class B in 2004 – class C still counts
  - Conviction for class B in 2006 – class C and Class B priors would count. Should class C count?

### **4) Anticipatory offenses**

- a. Scored as completed offense – should they be treated as completed or have separate washout rule?
- b. Another aspect of anticipatory commission of offenses is that most that are anticipatory drop a Class. This may have implications to the Offense Classification Proposal **(Appendix D)**. Current law does have complexities because there are exceptions to this rule, and the exceptions are not the same for the different types of anticipatory (i.e., solicitation is not treated the same as attempt). How should these be addressed?

### **5) Revisit Multipliers Discussion and Potential Recommendations**

- a. Clarify and confirm that the potential recommendation is to eliminate all offense-specific multipliers and add the repeat violent column - that the repeat violent column was intended to replace all offense-specific multipliers related to serious violent and/or violent offenses. That is, there would be a replacement for the multipliers related to violent and serious violent, but that there would not be alternative policy replacement for the other multipliers (though some would also be addressed by the repeat sv/v column).

- b. Reminder of the potential recommendations for misdemeanor scoring rules (Appendix C)

*Note: To show what would change, see the list of multipliers in Appendix B. Struck out are the scoring rules that would be addressed under the potential recommendations for eliminating multipliers and adding repeat sv/v column. And for misdemeanor scoring rules.*

*Note: under the offense classification proposal 1, could align the repeat SV/V column numbers? – see Appendix D*

- c. Offenses committed while on community custody. Should extra point apply?  
d. Remaining multipliers – any proposed changes? (highlighted in blue in appendix B)

- 6) How many CHS columns overall (PA went from 8 to 3; should WA consider having fewer levels of CHS)?

## APPENDIX A.

### Grid Subgroup Potential Recommendations: Washout Rules

**Potential Recommendation:** Allow sex offenses to washout. Sex offenses would washout consistent with the general washout rules by offense class.

#### Reducing complexity and error

- Proposal eliminates exceptions and complexity that can cause confusion and inaccuracies in the calculation of CHS.

#### Improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system

- There is no evidence that the predictive value of prior sex offenses in determining likelihood of recidivism is any different from the predictive value of other prior offenses.
- Current exception serves as a retributive policy associated with the stigma that surrounds sex offenses.



- Reduces racial disproportionality/disparity. If there is racial bias in charging decisions or the plea bargaining process, this proposal reduces the impact of that disparity by treating sex offenses the same as other offenses for purposes of washout.

#### Promoting and improving public safety

- There is no evidence that the predictive value of prior sex offenses in determining likelihood of recidivism is any different from the predictive value of other prior offenses.

**Potential Recommendation:** Change washout periods to the following:

- Class A washout period of 15 years (*new addition*)
  - Alternative Option: Some class A's washout. Higher OSLs do not washout
  - Alternative Option: Offense Classification Proposal 1 (Appendix D) – creates A1, A2, A3 and assigns different washout periods to each
- Class B washout period of ten years (*current law*)
- Class C washout period of five years (*current law*)

**Potential Recommendation:** Only conviction for a new criminal felony offense should reset washout periods. Confinement for a technical violation or revocation of a sentencing alternative (that is not due to commission of a new crime) will not reset the washout period.

Grid Subgroup Discussion Points:

- Increased surveillance for community custody
- Technical violations are not actually criminal behavior so should not reset crime free period.
- Keeps individuals trapped in the system if washout reset for short-term incarceration from things like “swift and certain”
- Eliminate the ability for misdemeanor offenses to reset the crime-free period
  - Consistent with superior court/SRA jurisdiction over felonies)
- Revocation of a sentencing alternative for reasons other than the commission and conviction of a new felony offense should not reset washout period.

Note: While the Subgroup generally supported having technical violations not reset a person's washout periods, revocation of a sentencing alternative, such as DOSA needs further discussion.

#### Reducing complexity and error

- Under current system – courts must know about all periods of confinement, including short confinement stays associated with swift and certain violations. This information may not always be available especially when swift and certain sanctions are served in a local jail facility and not DOC.

- Current statutory language about “crime free period in the community” is confusing because a technical violation is not a new crime, but it is treated as a violation of the “crime free period.”

#### Improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system

- More effective calculation of CHS ensures more effective and appropriate sentencing.
- Reduces racial disproportionality/disparity. If there is racial disproportionality in the application of swift and certain sanctions, then this proposal eliminates the impact of that disproportionality on future sentences. That is, if people of color are more likely to be incarcerated for a swift and certain violation, that also means they’re less likely to have their criminal history washout. Consequently, if they recidivate in the future, it is more likely they will have a higher CHS and receive a harsher sentence.

#### Promoting and improving public safety

- No impact either way on direct risk to community.
- May lessen collateral consequences of incarceration.

**Proposed Recommendation:** Washout period starts with Judgment & Sentencing Form rather than release to community.

#### Grid Subgroup Discussion Points:

- Research on criminal history and relationship to recidivism is about behavior occurring in the most recent past. If long sentences, requiring an additional long period of crime-free time in the community may not be necessary.

#### Potential Alternative:

Washout periods are X years from the J and S or Y years after release from incarceration, whichever is longer. For example, it could be a 10 year washout period for class B offenses starting from the J and S or 3 years after release from incarceration. If an individual had a 5 year prison sentence, their conviction would washout 5 years after release (10 years after J and S). If an individual was sentenced to 9 years incarceration, their conviction would washout 3 years after release from incarceration (12 years after J and S).

#### Reducing complexity and error

- Under current system – courts must know about all periods of confinement, including short confinement stays associated with swift and certain violations. This information may not always be available especially when swift and certain sanctions are served in a local jail facility and not DOC.

- This proposal establishes consistency in the calculation of CHS regardless of what the sanction was for prior offenses. Allows for determination of whether prior offenses count based solely on the court data rather than jail or DOC data.

#### Improving the effectiveness of the sentencing system

- If washout periods were based on the judgment and sentence date, the state could theoretically create an automated system to calculate criminal history scores for the courts based only on AOC data. Under the status quo, the same type of system would require integration of jail and DOC data which is far more complex.
- May reduce racial disproportionality/disparity. If there is racial disproportionality in length of stay for prison or jail sentences, then people of color may be affected by prior convictions for a longer amount of time than other defendants.

#### Promoting and improving public safety

- The best predictor of future behavior is *recent* past behavior. Studies indicate that the likelihood of recidivism greatly declines as the time from last conviction increases regardless of the time spent in incarceration.

## **APPENDIX B.**

### **Criminal History Scoring**

The general rule for scoring is that prior felony convictions count as:

- Adult offenses count as 1 point
- ~~Juvenile Violent offenses count as 1 point~~
- Juvenile non-violent (NV) offenses count as 1/2 point (rounded down)

Exceptions to “standard” scoring:

#### **1. Burglary 1° (violent offense):**

- ~~a. Adult NV Burglary offenses count as 2 points~~
- ~~b. Juvenile NV Burglary offenses count as 1 point~~
- ~~c. Adult and Juvenile Violent & Serious Violent (SV) offenses count as 2 points~~
- d. Any other felony offenses count standard

2. **Violent** (defined in RCW 9.94A.030) offense (not Sex, SV, Burglary 1°, Felony Traffic, or Homicide/Assault by Watercraft or Manufacture Meth):
  - ~~a. Adult and Juvenile Violent & SV offenses count as 2 points~~
  - b. Any other felony offenses count standard
3. **Serious Violent** (defined in RCW 9.94A.030) offenses:
  - ~~a. Adult and Juvenile Serious Violent (SV) offenses count as 3 points (convictions existing before the date of sentencing. If there are multiple current SV offenses, only the most serious offense is scored – all other SV offenses get a score of 0 and the sentences for each are served consecutively (RCW 9.94A.589(1)(b))~~
  - ~~b. Adult and Juvenile Violent offenses count as 2 points~~
  - c. Any other felony offenses count standard
4. **Felony Traffic** (defined in RCW 9.94A.030) offenses:
  - ~~a. Adult and Juvenile Vehicular Homicide or Vehicular Assault offenses count as 2 points~~
  - ~~b. Certain adult Traffic Misd/Gross Misd offenses (serious traffic offenses) count as 1 point~~
  - ~~c. Certain juvenile Traffic Misd/Gross Misd offenses (serious traffic offenses) count as 1/2 point~~
  - ~~d. Adult convictions of Operation of a Vessel under the Influence offenses count as 1 point and juvenile offenses for Operation of a Vessel offenses under the Influence count as 1/2 point.~~
  - e. Any other felony offenses count standard
5. **Homicide or Assault by Watercraft** offenses:
  - ~~a. Adult and Juvenile Homicide or Assault by Watercraft offenses count as 2 points~~
  - ~~b. Certain adult Traffic Misd/Gross Misd offenses count as 1 point~~
  - ~~c. Certain juvenile Traffic Misd/Gross Misd offenses count as 1/2 point~~
  - d. Any other felony offenses count standard
6. **Manufacture Methamphetamine** offense(NV):
  - ~~a. Adult Manufacture Meth offenses count as 3 points~~
  - ~~b. Juvenile Manufacture Meth offenses count as 2 points~~
  - c. Any other felony offenses count standard
7. **Drug** offense (definition of Drug offense excludes simple possession) with history of a sex or serious violent offense (NV):
  - ~~a. Adult drug offenses count as 3 points~~
  - ~~b. Juvenile drug offenses count as 2 points~~

- ~~e. Any other felony offenses count standard (unless current Drug offense is violent, than prior Adult and Juvenile violent/serious violent offenses count as 2 points)~~
- 8. **Escape from Community Custody** offense (NV):
  - ~~a. Adult Escape offenses count as 1 point~~
  - ~~b. Juvenile Escape offenses count as ½ point~~
  - c. Only offenses meeting the definition of Escape (see RCW 9.94A.030(25)) count in the criminal history score – other felonies are not included in the score.
- 9. **Escape 1° or 2°** offenses (NV):
  - a. Adult offenses count as 1 point
  - b. Juvenile offenses count as ½ point (violent or NV)
- 10. **Burglary 2° or Residential Burglary** offenses (NV):
  - ~~a. Adult and Juvenile Burglary 1° offenses count as 2 points~~
  - ~~b. Adult Burglary 2° or Residential Burglary offenses count as 2 points~~
  - ~~c. Juvenile Burglary 2° or Residential Burglary offenses count as 1 point~~
  - d. Any other felony offenses count standard
- 11. **Sex Offense**, other than Failure to Register as a Sex Offender (defined in RCW 9.94A.030):
  - a. Adult and Juvenile Sex offenses count as 3 points
  - ~~b. If the current is a Violent Sex offense, prior adult & juvenile non Sex Violent offenses score as 2 points.~~
  - ~~c. If the current is a SV Sex offense, prior adult & juvenile non Sex SV offenses score as 3 points (if they are not other current SV offenses).~~
  - d. Any other felony offenses count standard
- 12. **Failure to Register as a Sex Offender** (FTR) offenses (ranked FTR are defined as Sex offenses):
  - ~~a. Adult and Juvenile Sex offenses that **are not** FTR are score as 3 points~~
  - ~~b. Adult and Juvenile Sex offenses that **are** FTR score as 1 point~~
  - c. Any other felony offenses count standard
- 13. **Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, or Taking a Motor Vehicle without the Owner's Permission 1° or 2°**:
  - ~~a. Misdemeanor offense of Vehicular Prowling 2° counts as 1 point~~
  - ~~b. Adult and Juvenile offenses of Theft 1° or 2° of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of Stolen Property 1° or 2° of a Motor Vehicle, Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, or Taking a Motor Vehicle without the Owner's Permission 1° or 2°, count as 3 points~~

- c. Any other felony offenses count standard

14. Felony **Domestic Violence** (defined in 9.94A.030) where DV was pleaded and proven:

- a. Count 2 points for each Adult offense where DV was pleaded/proven after 8/1/2011 for any of the following offenses: Violation of a No Contact or Protection Order, felony Harassment, felony Stalking, Burglary 1°, Kidnapping 1° or 2°, Unlawful Imprisonment, Robbery 1° or 2°, Assault 1°, 2° or 3°, or Arson 1° or 2°.
- b. Count 2 points for each Adult offense where DV was pleaded/proven after 7/23/2017 for any of the following offenses: Assault of a Child 1°, 2° or 3°, or Criminal Mistreatment 1° or 2°.
- c. Count 1 point for each 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent Juvenile offense with DV was pleaded/proven after 8/1/2011 for the list of offenses under (a) above.
- d. Count one point for each adult offense for a repetitive domestic violence offense (misd/GMs), where domestic violence was pleaded/proven after 8/1/2011
- e. Any other felony offenses count standard

15. **Community Custody Point:** If the present offense was committed while the person was under community custody, 1 point is added to the criminal history score.

**Other Scoring Considerations:**

- Only “ranked” offenses (those assigned a seriousness level) receive a score
- If there is more than one current offenses, offenses score against one another (with some exceptions) as though they were criminal history.
- A finding of Sexual Motivation changes the categorization of any felony non-sex offense into a sex offense and as such, the offense is scored as a sex offense
- Class B Violent offenses that are anticipatory are not considered Violent offenses but still score as though it was a Violent offense
- For Class B and Class C offenses in criminal history can “washout” if conditions of crime-free behavior are met (with some exceptions)
- Offenses ruled as same criminal conduct do not score against one another
- Offenses committed prior to 7/1/1986 and served concurrently count as one offense for scoring purposes
- Some offenses in history may not be included in the criminal history score if they also resulted in an enhancement

**Note:** Original SRA had multipliers for the following offense types: Serious Violent, Burglary 1°, Violent, Vehicular Homicide, Escape, Burglary 2, and Drug offenses. Also, Juvenile offenses were only scored if the person was 15 year or older at the time the offense was committed and was less than 23 at sentencing.

## **APPENDIX C.**

### **Grid Subgroup Potential Recommendations:**

#### **Misdemeanor Scoring in Criminal History Score**

##### **Background:**

Prior Misdemeanor convictions count in the criminal history score in four unique situations. These scoring exceptions depend on the type of current offense and the types of prior misdemeanor convictions. As the SRA and Superior Courts primarily handle felony offenses, it may be argued that the criminal history score calculations should be limited to the same jurisdiction – felony offenses. The current misdemeanor scoring exceptions create substantial confusion for courts and other agencies who use the CHS (e.g., Caseload Forecast Council, Department of Corrections).

The Grid subgroup has been discussing the logic behind the four scoring exceptions and exploring ways that the same goals can be achieved through alternative means while increasing transparency, simplifying the CHS calculation process (increasing efficiency), and reducing errors in calculating CHS.

Below are draft potential recommendations discussed by the Grid Subgroup on 1/25/22 and 2.1.22.

##### **Scoring exception 1: Felony Traffic (Felony DUI, veh assault/homicide)**

##### **Status Quo:**

Certain adult Traffic Misd/Gross Misd offenses (serious traffic offenses) count as 1 point

Certain juvenile Traffic Misd/Gross Misd offenses (serious traffic offenses) count as 1/2 point

##### **Potential Recommendation:**

Eliminate the special misdemeanor scoring exceptions for felony traffic and reclassify felony DUI from OSL 4 to OSL 6.

##### **Justification:**

- Prior misdemeanor DUIs are themselves an element of felony DUI. Thus, in the status quo, the prior convictions both increase the seriousness of offense in the court and increase a person's criminal history score. This means that individuals charged with felony DUI should never have a CHS of 0 or 1.
  - Individuals are essentially double punished for their prior record.
- Eliminating the scoring exceptions without changing the offense seriousness level would create a situation where individuals may have a lesser sentence for the felony DUI than the mandatory minimum for a 3<sup>rd</sup> misdemeanor DUI which is 180 days.

- Felony is a class B felony. Reclassifying it as OSL 6 would put it in the middle of the grid where Class B offenses are generally concentrated. For an individual in OSL 6 with a CHS of 0, the recommended sentence range would be highly similar to the recommended sentence range of individuals in OSL 4 with a CHS of 3. Thus, the prosecutors and judges would still be able to seek similar sentences, but without the unnecessary complication in the Criminal History Score.
- Achieves TF goals of reducing complexity and error and increasing efficiency of the sentencing system.
- DUI unique because of the gradual increase in severity that specifically starts with M offenses.

**Scoring exception 2: Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Taking a Motor Vehicle without the Owner's Permission 1<sup>st</sup> degree or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree – Vehicular Prowling Misdemeanor Priors**

Status Quo:

Misdemeanor offense of Vehicular Prowling 2° counts as 1 point

**Potential Recommendation A:**

Eliminate the special misdemeanor scoring exceptions for vehicular prowling and create a new subsection on Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Taking a Motor Vehicle without the Owner's Permission 1st degree or 2nd degree for individuals with two prior misdemeanor convictions of vehicle prowl. Make this new subsection OSL 4.

Justification:

- The idea behind the M scoring is that stealing a car is a continuation of or escalation of previous vehicle prowl behaviors.
- For individuals with their third vehicle prowl conviction, it is a felony offense at OSL 4
- For individuals with their first theft of a motor vehicle, it is a felony offense at OSL 2, but the prior prowls increase criminal history score.
- Not all vehicle prowls are with the intent to steal a car – thus theft of a motor vehicle may not always reflect increasing intensity of behaviors – it may be a change in behavior. However, for those who are prowling with intent to steal a car, it doesn't make sense that the third time they're caught for prowl (i.e., they are stopped before they steal the car) the sentence is greater than the individual who successfully steals the car on the third try.
- Creating a new offense for theft of a MV with two prior vehicle prowls and making that OSL 4 makes it consistent with the third and subsequent vehicle prowl convictions. However, it should be considered whether it makes sense to have these MV theft offense at OSL 4, given the other offense in this OSL.
- Eliminating the special scoring rules increases transparency, increases defense flexibility in plea bargaining process, and significantly reduces complexity and error in the calculation of CHS.



**Potential Recommendation B:**

Eliminate the special exception misdemeanor scoring for vehicle prowling.

- Doesn't make sense to have MV theft offenses at OSL 4 when looking at the other offenses.
- This is the result of the crime-of-the-day logic. Represents an expansion of the authority under the SRA which is otherwise focused on felony offenses.

**Scoring exception 3: Homicide or Assault by Watercraft Offenses**

Status Quo:

Certain adult Traffic Misd/Gross Misd count as 1 point

Certain juvenile Traffic Misd/Gross Misd offenses count as 1/2 point

**Potential Recommendation:**

Mirror the recommendation for felony traffic offenses: Eliminate the special misdemeanor scoring exceptions for homicide or assault by watercraft offenses and reclassify to the same OSL as the felony traffic offense.

Justification:

- These offenses should mirror traffic offenses. Committing the same offense in a boat vs. a car is really about a different affluence of the individual committing the offense.
- Felony traffic offenses for which misdemeanors count should be limited to offenses that can be committed by vehicle and boat.
- Felony traffic does include things that you wouldn't have in a boat, for example, eluding. We apply these priors to a broader classification of traffic offenses as boating.

**Scoring exception 4: Felony Domestic Violence**

Status Quo:

Count one point for each adult offense for a repetitive domestic violence offense (misd/GMs), where domestic violence was pleaded/proven after 8/1/2011

**Potential Recommendation:**

- Eliminate the misdemeanor scoring exception and instead create an aggravated factor or enhancement.
  - Maintain a way for judges to consider prior misdemeanor DV at sentencing.
  - Aggravating factor would then be constrained under the potential recommendation for limiting increases in sentences as a result of aggravating factor.
  - Potentially limited to offenses involving the same victim/same relationship.
  - Potentially an option similar to the repeat violent column approach.

## Justification:

- Prior DV is a high predictor of lethality in DV.
- Doesn't require that the priors be against the same person. But still allowed to be introduced in court.

## Additional Potential Recommendations

## Potential Recommendation:

Include language in the SRA that would define the scope of the CHS as limited to prior felony convictions.

## Justification:

- This would increase the likelihood of lasting change and prevent the slippery slope of continued misdemeanor scoring exceptions.
- SRA was not originally intended to cover M and should not include M except for where there is an explicit step up of the same offense (e.g., DUI).
- Inclusion of M leads to significant complexity and uncertainty. Full discretion of the legislature to decide when they should or should not count.
- Inherent issues with reliability and accuracy of prior M because reliance on municipal court data.
  - Some of the hardest work in prosecutors offices because they have the burden of proof to provide evidence of priors that fit under scoring exceptions.

## APPENDIX D.

Proposal 1													
	In Years												
	Class	Stat Max	Washout#	Vacation##	SO Registration	Attempt/ Solicitation	Conspiracy	Violent Prop 1A	Violent Prop 1B	Most Serious Offense <sup>A</sup>	Mandatory Remand <sup>AA</sup>	Agg Departure Cap	Repeat SV/Violent
18	A1	Life	Life	NA	Life			SV	SV	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot		
17	A2	40	15/SV*	NA	Life	A/B	A/B	SV	SV	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	48 mos	60 mos
16	A2	40	15/SV*	NA	Life	A	B	SV	SV	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	48 mos	48 mos
15	A2	40	15/SV*	NA	Life	A/B	B	SV	SV	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	36 mos	48 mos
14	A2	40	15/SV*	NA	Life	B	B	SV	SV	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	36 mos	36 mos
13	A3	20	10	NA	Life	A/B	B	V	V	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	24 mos	36 mos
12	A3	20	10	NA	Life	A/B	B	V	V	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	24 mos	24 mos
11	A3	20	10	NA	Life	A/B	B	V	V	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	24 mos	24 mos
10	A3	20	10	NA	Life	A/B	B	V	V	Any Class A	Any Class A w/Sex Mot	24 mos	12 mos
9	B	10	8	8	15	C	C	NV	V/NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	12 mos	12 mos
8	B	10	8	8	15	C	C	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	12 mos	12 mos
7	A/B**	10	8	8	Life/15	B/C	B/C	NV	NV	Any Class A/B w/Sex Mot	Any Class A/B w/Sex Mot	12 mos	12 mos
6	B	10	8	8	15	C	C	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	12 mos	12 mos
5	B/C	10/5	8/3	8/3	15/10	C/GM	C/GM	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	6 mos	6 mos
4	B/C	10/5	8/3	8/3	15/10	C/GM	C/GM	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	6 mos	6 mos
3	B/C	10/5	8/3	8/3	15/10	C/GM	C/GM	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	6 mos	6 mos
2	B/C	10/5	8/3	8/3	15/10	C/GM	C/GM	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	6 mos	6 mos
1	B/C	10/5	8/3	8/3	15/10	C/GM	C/GM	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	6 mos	6 mos
Unr	D	3	2	2	***	?	?	NV	NV	Any Class B w/Sex Mot	Any Class B w/Sex Mot		

	9A.28.020-.040	Attempt		Solicitation		Conspiracy		
		Class	SV/V	Class	SV/V	Class	SV/V	
V	Arson 1	A	V	A	V	B	V	
SV	Assault 1	B	SV	B	SV	B	SV	
SV	Assault of a Child 1	B	SV	B	SV	B	SV	
V	Child Mol 1	A	V	A	V	B	V	
SV	Homicide by Abuse	B	SV	B	SV	B	SV	
V	Indecent Lib w/force	A	V	A	V	B	V	
SV	Kidnapping 1	B	SV	B	SV	B	SV	
SV	Manslaughter 1	B	SV	B	SV	B	SV	
SV	Murder 1	A	SV	A	SV	A	SV	
SV	Murder 2	A	SV	A	SV	B	SV	
SV	Rape 1	A	SV	A	SV	B	SV	
V	Rape 2	A	V	A	V	B	V	
V	Rape of a Child 1	A	V	A	V	B	V	
V	Rape of a Child 2	A	V	A	V	B	V	
V	Other Class A	B	V	B	V	B	V	
	Red offenses are SV offenses.							
	Black offenses are offenses specified in RCW 9A.28.020 as remaining class A for attempt/solicitation							